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HURWITZ RESIGNS; FARI Y ELECTIONS LOOM AS RESIGNATION OF BEGIN'S GOVERNMENT APPEARS INEVITABLE

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11 (JTA) -- Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz submitted his resignation today at the end of a stormy seven-hour Cabinet meeting at which a majority of his colleagues voted in favor of negotiating the pay raise for teachers he adamantly opposed. Under law, Hurwitz's resignation takes effect in 48 hours. He is expected to leave the government Tuesday with his three-man Rafi faction.

The Cabinet will reconvene in special session tomorrow to decide whether Premier Menachem Begin's coalition will try to remain in office under its reduced circumstances or resign and call for early elections. The consensus among Likud ministers and Knesset members is that resignation is almost inevitable.

But Education Minister Ze'ev Hamer, who supported the teachers' raise, insisted that the formula adopted by the Cabinet left room for compromise and said his National Religious Party would not support a move toward early elections. Begin was reportedly negotiating with the three-man Ahva faction to join the government, replacing Hurwitz's group.

Formula On Teachers' Pay

Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor said after the meeting that the formula worked out by the Cabinet and proposed by Begin was approved by 11 ministers. Only two, Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin and Minister of Social Betterment Israel Katz backed Hurwitz.

Under the formula, the government accepted "in principle" the recommendations of the Etzioni Commission to bring teachers' pay in line with that of other professional groups. It authorized the Finance and Education ministers to negotiate with the teachers' unions over the "detailed recommendations, their scope, timing and phases of implementation, taking into consideration existing labor agreements and the national economy."

The latter qualifications were seized upon by Hamer to support his contention that compromise was possible and therefore Hurwitz need not have resigned. But the Finance Minister told reporters after the Cabinet session that the proposed formula was "too watery" because it did not foreclose the possibility of straying beyond the limits of existing labor contracts for fiscal year 1980-81 which cover the entire economy.

Hurwitz said he had demanded language that would have specifically forbidden the ministerial negotiators from offering anything that would exceed the present wage guidelines and that would have made it clear that any benefits for teachers would be paid only after April, 1982.

Hurwitz confirmed to reporters that he expected Rafi to leave the coalition and to run in the next elections as an independent faction. Hurwitz opposed the teachers' raise on grounds that it would trigger new pay demands in other

sectors, precipitating the collapse of his efforts to contain runaway inflation. He expressed hope that his successor would be able to maintain the present wage agreements but admitted that it would be a very difficult job.

An Agonizing Decision

For Begin and his Likud faction, the decision whether to cling to office or risk early elections appears to be an agonizing one. Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon and Absorption Minister David Levy are expected to oppose resignation.

At a meeting of Likud ministers before today's Cabinet session, Sharon argued that the government's task is not completed with respect to settlements on the West Bank and the autonomy negotiations with Egypt. Levy urged Begin to make every effort to bring the Ahva faction, a break-away of the Democratic Movement, into his government.

But Justice Minister Moshe Nissim, a staunch Likud loyalist, said on an Army Radio interview tonight that "it can be assumed" that Begin will call for early elections. Haim Corfu, the coalition Whip, and Haim Kaufman, chairman of the Herut Knesset faction both said tonight that it was possible for the government to remain in office even with the loss of Rafi. But Kaufman seemed to be hinting that this was not likely when he said, "We aren't afraid of new elections. We have lots of successes on our record and we will remind the public of the legacy we inherited from Labor."

Other sources "close to the Prime Minister" told Israel Radio last night that Begin was determined to "go to the President" (resign) if either Hurwitz or Hamer resigned in the teachers pay dispute. The sources said he was not prepared to continue governing on the basis of a Knesset majority that depended on a few independent MKs and splinter factions.

Other Resignations Seen

Moreover, Hurwitz's departure was believed by some observers likely to be followed by the resignations of Yadin and Katz, removing the Democratic Movement from the coalition. Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai, a powerful figure in Likud's Liberal Party wing, urged last week that the government resign because, he claimed, it has lost its decision-making ability. Some circles believe he may follow Hurwitz out of the crumbling coalition.

Begin was said to prefer to resign honorably rather than be defeated in a Knesset no-confidence motion. The government barely warded off such a defeat in November on the issue of inflation. But he is likely to come under pressure from the NRP to stick it out. The religious party is seen as vulnerable in early elections because of charges pending against two of its ministers. Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzeira has been indicted for bribe-taking and Interior Minister Yosef Burg has been accused of trying to quash a police investigation of alleged financial irregularities within his ministry.

Should Begin resign, the next fight looming in the Knesset will be over the date for new elections.

The Labor Party has already presented a bill for the Knesset debate Wednesday calling for elections to be held at the end of April, the earliest possible time. Under law, elections can be held not less than 100 days after a government resigns.

But Begin is expected to insist on elections not before the end of May or early June. His term of office does not expire until next November. Neither Labor nor Likud are said to want a prolonged transition regime. But Labor is anxious to go to the polls as soon as possible in view of public opinion surveys that show it would win by a landslide.

Likud members were noting today that even if early elections are held, Begin's regime will have been in office for a full four years. Likud defeated Labor in May, 1977. Ironically, if Likud loses the next elections it will be on economic issues, the same that are believed responsible for Labor's downfall. The irony would be compounded by the fact that Begin personally selected Hurwitz to take over the Treasury portfolio from Simcha Ehrlich in November, 1979 in order to wage a more effective war on inflation.

SCANT ATTENTION GIVEN TO ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT DURING HAIG'S CONFIRMATION HEARINGS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11 (JTA) -- Israel-Arab relations have received scant attention in the first two days of the Republican-controlled Senate Foreign Relations committee hearings on the confirmation of Gen. Alexander Haig as Secretary of State, although Haig stressed that the incoming Reagan Administration is "highly supportive" of the Camp David agreements and would pursue the "Jordanian option."

Most of the discussion during the first two days of the hearings Friday and yesterday centered on Haig's view on United States policy toward the Soviet Union and his role in the Nixon Administration, particularly on Vietnam and Watergate.

But as the hearings were scheduled to continue tomorrow, it appeared that the committee would not allow squabbling between the majority Republicans and minority Democrats over efforts to obtain tapes of conversations between Haig and President Nixon in 1973 to prevent Haig from being confirmed by the time Ronald Reagan is inaugurated as President on Jan. 20.

The Arab-Israel conflict also received scant mention in Haig's prepared remarks to the committee Friday. "In the Middle East, an uneasy peace continues to be punctuated by raid and reprisal, with each a sequence threatening renewed and wider conflict," he said.

Later in his statement, when he decried what he called confusion in the Carter Administration's foreign policy, Haig said that "U.S. policy has been most effective -- in Europe and the Middle East for example -- where consistent U.S. interests have been consistently pursued." But when he was asked to list priorities in American foreign policy, he spoke of Poland, Afghanistan, Iran, terrorism and the crises in Latin America, but did not mention the Arab-Israeli situation.

Supportive of Camp David

Haig's statement that both Reagan and he were "highly supportive" of the Camp David agreements was made in response to a question from Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R. Minn.), the new chair-

man of the committee's subcommittee on the Middle East. Haig praised President Carter for his "tremendous diplomatic achievement" in getting agreements on the Camp David accords.

He said that the "Jordanian option" to bring Jordan into talks with Israel and Egypt on the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be acted upon by the new Administration "in direct consultation with the various parties -- Tel Aviv and Cairo." No one challenged his use of Tel Aviv rather than Jerusalem.

Responding to Sen. Claiborne Pell (D. R.I.), the committee's new ranking minority member, Haig said Soviet treatment of its dissidents and Jews "has been always one of the highest priorities" in U.S. Soviet relations. He added that he noted "with some alarm" the "sharp dropoff" in Soviet Jewish emigration after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

A familiar figure at the hearings is former Sen. Jacob Javits (R. NY), who would have been chairman if he had not been defeated for re-election in November. He is serving as special counsel to the committee's Republican majority.

One of the persons sitting with Haig is David Korn, a professor of Russian and Eastern History at Howard University, who is Haig's special assistant. Korn, who has been a leader in the Washington Jewish community's efforts to help Soviet Jewry, has long been a close friend of Haig.

The seven-member Middle East subcommittee will have an unusual feature, since both Sen. Charles Percy (R. Ill.), chairman of the full committee, and Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker (R. Tenn.), will be on it. The other members are Sens. Larry Pressler (D. SD), Paul Sarbanes (D. Md.), John Glenn (D. Ohio) and Alan Cranston (D. Calif.).

HIAS ANNOUNCES NEW PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 11 (JTA) -- New procedures for processing Soviet Jewish emigrants that, if successful, might reduce the number of Soviet Jews who choose to settle in countries other than Israel was announced by HIAS.

Addressing a press conference at HIAS headquarters here last Friday, Gaynor Jacobson, executive vice president of HIAS, said that under the new plan Soviet Jewish emigrants would spend only two days in Vienna, their first stop out of the Soviet Union, instead of eight to 10 days as heretofore.

Those who opt for settling in Israel will fly there from Vienna. The others, according to the new plan, will go to a hotel north of Rome where, during up to a week's stay, they will receive expert "joint counseling" from representatives of HIAS, the Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency. The counseling will consist of providing up-to-date information about life in Israel and the opportunities Israel has to offer to the individual Soviet emigrant.

"Those with close relatives in the U.S. or other countries will be helped to be reunited with their families," Jacobson explained. "For all the other emigrants, a conscientious and sensitive effort will be made to help them choose to go to Israel." But Jacobson said in response to a question from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the new procedures do not indicate a shift in policy on the part of HIAS and that any Soviet Jew who insists on going to the United States will be assisted by HIAS.

Hopes To Reverse Trend

Jacobson said he hoped that under the new procedures, two-thirds of future Soviet Jewish emigrants would choose to settle in Israel and one-third in the U.S., Canada, Australia and other countries. At

present, the figures are exactly the reverse, he said.

He added that he believed the expert counseling to Soviet Jews in Rome, which is to begin in a few weeks, "will help many refugees make better informed choices than in the recent past." Israel, he said, "has a great deal to offer, especially for people in certain professions. Beyond this, Israel possesses a religious and cultural environment that Jews from the Soviet Union have never been permitted to enjoy."

Jacobson also announced that HIAS -- through local Jewish community organizations and Jewish Federations -- was encouraging American Jews (especially recent arrivals) with close relatives in the Soviet Union to send "letters of invitation" to their kin desiring to leave the USSR.

"In recent times, an average of 500 Soviet Jews a year has come to the United States in this manner," Jacobson reported, "and we believe larger numbers will arrive here if there is an increase in invitations from close relatives."

ISRAEL, GREECE MOVE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11 (JTA) -- Israel and Greece have decided on a number of "concrete steps" to improve relations between them, according to Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche, who held high-level talks in Athens at the end of last week.

But these steps will not include -- for the present time, at any rate -- full normalization of the diplomatic ties between the two countries. These will remain at the level of diplomatic representatives; instead of full Ambassador, implying Greece's less-than-full de jure recognition of Israel.

Kimche would not say what "concrete steps" were envisaged, citing Greece's extreme sensitivity in all matters concerning relations with Israel. But he did indicate that there would be more contacts on a high level between the two governments.

His own meetings in Athens with Foreign Minister Constantinos Mitsotakis and with senior officials of his ministry were the first-ever on this level between Greece and Israel. The Greek government announced the meetings officially, noting carefully that Kimche was "passing through Athens."

Kimche said his talks with Greek officials had been "long, profound and fruitful." He predicted that there would be "more openness" in future in relations between the two countries and that Greece would take account more than in the past of Israel's views and positions, even if it would not necessarily agree with them.

The Israeli diplomat acknowledged that Greece feels it has "special relations" with the Arab world. He sought to persuade the Athens policymakers that these relations need not be impaired by improving ties with Israel.

POSTMORTEMS CONFIRM THAT BODIES OF TERRORISTS WERE NOT MUTILATED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 11 (JTA) -- Postmortems performed by Israeli pathologists on the bodies of five Palestinian terrorists killed by Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon on Dec. 25 confirmed

Israel's assertions that the bodies had not been mutilated by explosives and burned, as charged by the Dutch contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The results of the autopsies, disclosed over the weekend, coincided with the visit here of The Netherlands Defense Minister Pieter de Geus. He said yesterday that the different versions of the incident would not damage relations between Holland and Israel. De Geus, who spent several days with the Dutch soldiers of UNIFIL before coming here, told reporters that the clash with terrorists on Christmas Day had been an "operational event" and was a matter for the UN, not Holland.

According to UN sources, reportedly based on accounts by Dutch soldiers, the Israelis blew up and burned the bodies after killing the terrorists. The commander of the Israeli patrol involved said the terrorists were killed by hand grenades thrown into a cave where they were hiding.

Gen. Emmanuel Erskine, Commander of UNIFIL, proposed that postmortems be done on the bodies by UN medical personnel. Gen. Avigdor Ben-Gal, commander of Israeli forces in the north, agreed but UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim banned the procedure on grounds that it would breach the UN's neutrality in the dispute between Dutch soldiers and the Israelis.

Premier Menachem Begin, who met with the Dutch Minister Friday, expressed surprise that Holland and the UN had issued their statement alleging mutilation without first checking with Israeli authorities.

GERMANY MOVING ON SAUDI ARMS DEAL

BONN, Jan. 11 (JTA) -- Government officials are believed to be paving the way for the sale of 300 highly sophisticated Leopard-2 tanks to Saudi Arabia and have launched a campaign to prepare public opinion for a possible deviation from the traditional limitations on arms shipments to non-members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In this connection, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has been quoted as saying that Saudi Arabia is not to be considered a "region of tension."

The same view was expressed last week by Hans-Juergen Wischniewski, a top aide to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Schmidt reportedly negotiated a deal last year to provide the Saudis with the most advanced West German tanks. Under current regulations, no West German-made weapons can be exported directly to non-NATO countries located in so-called "areas of tension." But that self-imposed ban can be lifted by removing the country seeking the weapons from the category of a tension area.

The government is said to have taken into account a possible worsening of relations with Israel if the tank sales to Saudi Arabia go through. But officials here said Bonn has decided to follow its own national interests on the question of arms supplies.

Until now, West German policy-makers considered the entire Middle East an area of tension that posed possible "acute dangers" to world peace. Neither Genscher nor Wischniewski have explained the sudden change in this evaluation.

(Israel, meanwhile, is reacting cautiously to the reported arms sale. The Israeli Embassy in Bonn has been instructed to ascertain discreetly -- without making a formal approach to the German government -- whether these reports are in fact true. Until Israel has an accurate reading, neither the Embassy nor the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem will make any official statement.)

BUFALE JEWS URGED TO BOYCOTT NEO-NAZI AND COUNTER-RALLY ON MARTIN LUTHER KING'S BIRTHDAY

JeWS Asked to Attend Commemorative Rallies
By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Jan. 11 (JTA) -- The Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo is asking all Buffalo Jews to boycott both a rally planned by a local neo-Nazi group and a counter-rally by the Martin Luther King Day Coalition in the city's Niagara Square at 10 a.m. Jan. 15, the 52nd birthday of the slain civil rights leader. Federation president Gail Kaplan said last Friday.

At the same time, Buffalo Jews have been asked to participate in a commemorative gathering to honor King in the city's Lafayette Square the same day at 12 noon organized by the city's Black Leadership Forum which, according to Mrs. Kaplan, comprises all of the major Black organizations in the community. The rally in Lafayette Square is being cosponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews and by many other community organizations, including the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo, Mrs. Kaplan said.

She reported on the Niagara Square and the Lafayette Square actions in a telephone interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. She said that a hearing was planned tomorrow in Federal District Court in Buffalo on an injunction to ban the Nazi rally. The New York City office of the American Civil Liberties Union is filing a friend of the court brief on behalf of the neo-Nazi group. Mrs. Kaplan said that planned Jewish participation in other events commemorating King would proceed regardless of the action Federal Judge John Elfein takes on the injunction.

Mayor James Griffin of Buffalo has refused to issue permits for the neo-Nazi and the King Coalition counter-rally in an attempt to prevent violence. The Coalition, however, said it was going ahead with its rally, stating that its members "have no faith in Mayor Griffin's 'efforts' to ban the Nazi rally."

Federation Position Outlined

The positions of the Federation and of the Buffalo Board of Rabbis were stated in two notices mailed last Friday by the Federation to Buffalo's 7000 Jewish families, Mrs. Kaplan said. The statement of the Federation's position was signed by Mrs. Kaplan and Harold Axlerod, chairman of the Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Federation, according to Morris Rambo, the Federation's executive director.

The boycott request was one of a series of statements approved unanimously last Tuesday night at a special meeting of the Federation board called to consider the planned Nazi rally, Rambo told the JTA.

The Federation statement urged Buffalo Jews not to go to the Niagara Square events, "even as observers." The statement said that the Jewish community was participating in a commemorative gathering in honor of King's memory in Buffalo's Lafayette Square on Jan. 15, adding that "we encourage all members of the community to attend this rally and to boycott all activities at Niagara Square."

The Federation statement urged all Buffalo Jews to attend a concert tribute to the memory of the slain Black leader, also on Jan. 15, at the Kleinhous Music Hall. Buffalo Jews also

were asked to attend a meeting on Jan. 18, sponsored by B'nai B'rith at the Jewish Community Center at which the speaker will be Nathan Nagler, a vice chairman of the New York regional board of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and chairman of the Anti-Semitism Task Force of the region.

The Federation statement also asked Buffalo Jews to "wear the brotherhood badges" created by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The JTA was told the badges were created especially for the occasion.

Board of Rabbis' Position

The statement from the Buffalo Board of Rabbis, signed by its president, Rabbi Shalom Stern, declared that "the people who are singling out Blacks today as their targets of hatred will tomorrow attempt to launch their vitriolic hate campaign against Jews."

This was a reference to the fact that a week ago, three Black men were stabbed in Buffalo, one of them fatally, by white attackers. Last fall, six Black men were murdered by white assailants. No arrests have been made in the assaults.

The plaintiffs seeking the injunction against the Nazi rally are the Black Leadership Forum; the Unity Day Steering Committee, and its spokesperson, Sister Joan Malone; the Buffalo Board of Rabbis; Charles Haynie, as a parent; Ronald Fino, Joseph Newton and Thomas Fricano, as taxpayers; and City Councilman David Collins.

Their suit named Karl Hand as a member and officer of the American Nazi Party, as a representative of the National Socialist Party of America and as a representative of the Western New York Information Center in Buffalo, an organization formed by Hand for receiving and distributing literature, and John Doe and Richard Roe, cited as "persons unknown." Judge Elfein ordered Hand to appear in court tomorrow to show cause why the neo-Nazi group should not be prevented from holding a rally on Jan. 15 in Niagara Square.

JEWS TAXI DRIVER FATALLY SHOT IN GAZA STRIP; THREE MEMBERS OF JEWISH FAMILY INJURED IN ATTACK

TEL AVIV, Jan. 11 (JTA) -- A taxi driver from Rehovot was shot and killed when he took his cab for repair in a garage in the Gaza Strip today. Yehezkel Mizrachi, 29, had just entered a repair shop in the Jebaliya refugee camp on the outskirts of Gaza when shots were fired at him from short range, apparently from a pistol, army sources said. He died instantly. The army imposed a curfew on the camp area and searches were carried out.

Israeli drivers frequently use repair shops and garages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where prices are lower than in Israel.

In another incident, three members of the Golan family from a village near Hadera were injured in a grenade attack on their car as it was passing through the Gaza Strip last night. The husband, Asher, was seriously injured. His wife, Zvia and their four-year-old daughter, Limore, were slightly injured.

This attack was the first on Jewish travellers in the area for some months, though about a dozen local Arab residents have been killed in what officials believe was political action against people accused of collaborating with the Israeli authorities or charged by religious extremists with operating bars and trading in drugs.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Jewish leaders from 60 countries will attend the World Jewish Congress assembly here next week.