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ISRAELI MILDLY CRITICAL OF PLANNED U.S. REVIEW OF ITS MIDEAST POLICY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA) — Israel offered a mild official reaction to the Reagan Administration's announcement yesterday that it is reviewing U.S. policy in the Middle East, its characterization of new Israeli settlements on the West Bank as "unhelpful" and the hint of ambiguity in its appraisal of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that it was only natural that the new Administration would take stock of its commitments around the world. He said the remarks by State Department spokesman William Dyess on the settlements, the PLO and other matters seemed to be a continuation of U.S. Mideast policy. But the spokesman differed with the view of the PLO as an "umbrella organization" which implies it contains "moderate" and terrorist elements.

That characterization was attributed by Dyess to Secretary of State Alexander Haig during his confirmation hearings by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed that in Israel's view, the PLO is an extremist terrorist organization and the existence of any moderate elements within it remains to be proven. Even if such elements exist, the question is to what extent do they influence PLO policy, the spokesman said.

He pointed out that the PLO is committed by its Covenant and its very nature to the annihilation of Israel, by any method including terrorism. Israel believes that the U.S. stands by President Reagan's description of the PLO as a terrorist organization, the spokesman said.

Noting the State Department's references to the Islamic summit meeting in Saudi Arabia, the spokesman said that conference was committed to war against Israel and only a few days ago, Saudi Arabia called for "jihad" (holy war) to recover Jerusalem. The spokesman said Israel was deeply disappointed by the presence and participation of UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim at the Islamic summit.

Meanwhile, reports from Taif, Saudi Arabia where Islamic nations are holding their summit meeting, said the countries today endorsed a plan to impose a total economic boycott on Israel because of its proclamation that united Jerusalem is Israel's capital. The plan also reportedly threatens a boycott of any nation that accepts Israel's stance on Jerusalem and promises increased military aid to Palestinian terrorists.

TERRORIST ACTS DOWN BY 50 PERCENT

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA) — A vigilant public and successful preventive measures reduced terrorist acts and sabotage by half last year compared to the previous year, Shaul Givoli, commander of the civil guard, reported at a press conference here today. He said the police recorded 70 cases of sabotage in 1980 as against 136 in 1979. Only one person died as a result of those acts last year compared to 19 fatalities the year before.

Givoli credited the growing awareness by the public of terrorist devices, the success of the security forces in preventing the establishment of terrorist cells in the occupied territories and the growing tension between Jordan and Syria. He said that last year, terrorists did not dare enter Israeli cities. Most explosive devices were planted at roadsides in rural areas, mainly at locations where soldiers wait to hitch rides.

Givoli explained that the civil guard is based almost entirely on a force of some 87,000 volunteers who spend about four hours a month patrolling neighborhoods on the alert for possible terrorist activity.

WALDHEIM DEFENDS ISSUANCE OF PRO-PALESTINIAN STAMPS BY THE UN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 27 (JTA) — Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has defended the issuance by the United Nations Postal Administration beginning this Friday of three stamps bearing the inscription "Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People" in English, French and German. The stamps, authorized by a General Assembly resolution in 1979, drew sharp protests from various groups and individuals.

Waldheim, in a statement read by a UN spokesman yesterday, responded to charges that the stamps may legitimize terrorism. "There was no intention, by implication or otherwise, to legitimize terrorism to which the UN remains strongly opposed, nor to jeopardize the legitimate rights of any of its member states," the statement said. The spokesman noted that the stamps were being issued with the objective "of publicizing the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

He added, "The importance of assuring the rights of the Palestinian people in the process of establishing a permanent peace in the Middle East has been accepted by the vast majority of the world community, including all the parties directly concerned with the question of Palestine." The spokesman noted that profits from the sale of the stamps "as in the case of all UN stamps, will be placed in the UN General Fund which is redistributed to its members."

The stamps are valid only when posted from UN premises. The 15-cent denomination stamp, which bears its inscription in English, is for mailing from UN headquarters here. The UN has two post offices, one in the public area open to visitors and operated by the UN Postal Administration and the other in the Secretariat building which is managed by the U.S. Postal Service.

The two other stamps are for use at UN headquarters in Geneva. The one inscribed in French has a denomination of F.s. 0.80 and the one with the German inscription a denomination of S4. The English and French inscribed stamps were printed in quantities of 1.9 million each and the German inscribed stamp 2.1 million. All are printed in four colors and were designed by an American, David Dewhurst. Many stamp dealers said they would not distribute the stamps.

HAIG: U.S. WILL NOT DEAL WITH THE PLO WHILE IT ADVOCATES VIEWS INCOMPATIBLE WITH PEACE PROCESS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27 (JTA) — Secretary of State Alexander Haig was quoted by the State Department today as saying that "so long as the PLO advocates views incompatible with the peace process, the U.S. will not recognize or negotiate with the PLO."

Haig's expression was incorporated in a written statement made by the Department spokesman William Dyess on the question raised yesterday on the characterization of the Palestine Liberation Organization as a terrorist organization. Dyess read the following:

"As the Secretary of State explained in his confirmation hearing, the broad policy with respect to the PLO has been clearly delineated in current American policy and he foresees no fundamental change, namely: 'so long as the PLO advocates views incompatible with the peace process the U.S. will not recognize or negotiate with the PLO.'

"The more specific issue of the precise legal characterization of the PLO is, like most legal issues, a complex one that neither Secretary Haig nor President Reagan has yet had time to review. As I noted yesterday, there is no question that many member organizations of the PLO are terrorist organizations that openly claim responsibility for terrorist acts around the world."

No Reference To Resolutions 242 and 338

The Haig statement and the remarks by Dyess omitted any reference to the PLO's acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and Israel's right to exist — points that characterized the Carter Administration's policy toward the PLO.

Asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to state whether the Reagan Administration's position does include those aspects of the Carter policy, Dyess demurred. He observed that he was providing a response to the questions asked and that the new Administration needs time to formulate its policies.

Haig holds his first news conference as Secretary of State tomorrow afternoon. Questions regarding the U.S. position toward the PLO, Jerusalem, Jewish settlements in the West Bank that have been asked at the State Department since the Reagan Administration took office a week ago are expected to be put to him.

Dyess said, in response to questions, that he would not go beyond the statement when he was asked if Haig considered PLO chief Yasir Arafat a terrorist. He said that the peace process mentioned in the statement was not confined to the Camp David formulas but to the general aspects of peace in the Middle East.

Disclaims Any 'Tricky Language'

Dyess was asked whether the structure of his statement indicated that the Reagan Administration was willing to deal with the PLO apart from negotiating, but on a pattern of former UN Ambassador Andrew Young's informal conversations with the PLO in New York in July, 1979. "No, no," Dyess exclaimed. "There is no tricky language here." He said "there is no hidden meaning here — a loophole to go through — to talk with them."

In another statement touching on this point and with reassurance to Israel, Dyess said the

Administration is conducting a policy review expected of a new Administration and added, "in particular the U.S. commitment to Israel and other friendly states in the area remain very firm and we expect no significant change with any country. One of the many purposes of the review is to determine ways in which we can better support our friends."

BRITISH ACTION SPARKED ISRAEL'S DECISION TO BUILD ITS OWN TANK

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 27 (JTA) — Israel's decision to design and produce its Merkava battle tank was the result of Britain's withdrawal of an agreement to supply Israel with modern Chieftain tanks, according to Maj. Gen. (Res.) Israel Tal, initiator of the Israeli tank, described by military experts as a first-rate weapon which pays more than usual attention to the comfort and safety of its crews.

Tal told a Tel Aviv University forum that the British had agreed in 1966 to supply Israel with a number of Chieftain tanks, then still in the development stage, as well as a number of older Centurions. Two Chieftains were sent to Israel secretly for extensive testing under Middle East terrain conditions.

Agreement was reached on the establishment in Israel of a special factory to produce the new model with locally-suggested improvements. But under Arab pressure and terrorist threats to attack British embassies abroad, the British in December 1969 suddenly withdrew their agreement.

Under Tal's insistence, Israel therefore undertook intensive research on its own to produce an entirely new tank, using local battle experience. Tal said the nine years this research took was a record for such a project, which cost some \$65 million — also a relatively small sum. Tal said that if a war were to break out in the Middle East now, some 13,000 tanks would probably be deployed in the arena.

BRAZILIAN RABBI PRESENTS THE POPE WITH A MEZUZAH

ROME, Jan. 27 (JTA) — Rabbi Henry Sobel, a leading Rabbi of Sao Paulo in Brazil, presented Pope John Paul II with a mezuzah made of Jerusalem stone during a 30-minute audience with the Pontiff at the Vatican Saturday. He said he told the Pope that it was a symbol of "the fraternity of the human race united under God," and also an affirmation of "the indivisibility of Jerusalem and the Jewish people."

The Pope replied that Jerusalem is "the city of peace for all religions," Sobel reported. He said their discussion was an inter-religious dialogue "which did not exclude our differences." He added, however, that it was also a sign of the Vatican's commitment "to develop friendship in a spirit of mutual respect and beneficial coexistence."

Sobel said the Pope told him that "together we are looking for a new dimension of relationship," and that the world must learn from the Holocaust that there must be no more victims of persecution, prejudice and hate, Jews and all minorities in general.

The rabbi said he observed to the Pope at that point that while anti-Semitism begins by attacking Jews, it ends by destroying the basis of society as a whole. He said the high point of their meeting was a ecumenical prayer of thanks for the release of the 52 American hostages from Iran. "We asked God that these acts of barbarism, terror and fanaticism will never be repeated anywhere in the world," he said.

3000 AT RALLY AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM AND BIGOTRY

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 27 (JTA) — More than 3,000 people gathered at the Simon Wiesenthal Cen-

ter for Holocaust Studies at Yeshiva University of Los Angeles for a rally last Sunday against anti-Semitism and bigotry. Wiesenthal flew from his home in Vienna to be the featured speaker at the rally. The program also included civic, religious and community leaders who participated in a cleansing ceremony of the desecration that occurred at the Center earlier this month.

Messages in German and English that were spray painted on the Center's walls, -- "Simon is a murderer," "Death to all Jews," and "Beware Jews, the SS is coming" -- as well as swastikas and a skull and cross-bones death symbol, were painted over in the cleansing ceremony that focused on "Remembering" -- In the words of Wiesenthal, "that freedom is not a gift from the heavens, we must fight for it day by day."

Los Angeles City Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky, who chaired the rally, said, "even though we are painting over the desecration, we cannot cleanse our minds and our hearts of anti-Semitic attacks." Other public officials participating in the rally announced legislation on the local, state and federal level that will be introduced, making it a felony to desecrate institutions such as the Wiesenthal Center.

"We applaud these actions and hope that they will bolster existing legal statutes as well as encourage investigations of additional legislation to deal with the growing wave of anti-Semitism and bigotry in the United States," said Rabbi Marvin Hler, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. When Los Angeles Board of Education member Rita Walters said she would make sure school children in the district would be taught about the Holocaust, the crowd responded enthusiastically.

Says There Aren't Enough Anti-Nazis

During the program, Wiesenthal focused his remarks on the Torrance, California based "Institute for Historical Review." In an effort to give itself an aura of scholarship, the institute publishes a quarterly journal that contains articles by academicians and lecturers and lists an Editorial Review Board of several American professors who use their academic titles to lend credence to the insidious campaign to deny the Holocaust and the suffering of its victims.

Condemning the "Institute for Hysterical Review," Wiesenthal said that such groups are "whitewashing a criminal regime" and "we must protect young people against this poison." He noted that "the problem in dealing with anti-Semitism in the United States is not that there are too many Nazis, but that there are not enough anti-Nazis."

"Wiesenthal also said he would like to see the United States prohibit the printing and distribution of Nazi literature, acts which are illegal in Europe. "I know the First Amendment guarantees the right to free speech," he said, "but surely not the right to provocation."

PROCESS OF CONVERTING SOLAR ENERGY INTO ELECTRIC POWER BEGUN BY ISRAELI SCIENTISTS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- A team of scientists at Ben Gurion University in Beersheba headed by Prof. Yirmiyahu Branover, an immigrant from the Soviet Union, is preparing to start construction of a commercial model of a new machine for the conversion of solar energy into electric

power through the use of liquid metals. A demonstration model has been successfully tested and work on the commercial equipment, due to start within two months, should be completed within about two years.

Branover started his research into magnetohydrodynamics -- the science of the motion of fluids through magnetic fields -- in Riga in the 1960s, continuing it when he came to Israel about 10 years ago.

His system uses a liquid metal such as a sodium potassium alloy which circulates through a solar collector and heats up rapidly. It is then mixed with droplets of a volatile liquid which vaporizes and expands, driving the liquid metal through the magnetic field. The current is picked up by electrodes. The vapor and the metal are then separated, with the metal being re-cycled through the solar collector and the vapor condensed in a tank to produce hot water as a by-product for use in the home or factory.

According to Branover, the new system requires only low heat sources to heat it and geothermal water or waste industrial heat can replace the solar collectors. It is also flexible in its applications.

"It can be used as an autonomous system to supply electricity and heat the water of an apartment block, or the power it generates can be fed directly into the grid," he says.

High Energy Efficiency

The Branover system has an overall energy efficiency of 12-15 percent, a third higher than any other system, with very little heat lost from the liquid metal. It is the first time that metal rather than oil or water has been used in a solar collector.

Branover estimates that once the system is mass-produced the cost of a 10 kilowatt unit will be about \$10,000 and a 100-kilowatt unit \$70,000 with a life of about 30 years, requiring virtually no repair or maintenance. Electricity can be sold for about five-and-a-half cents per kilowatt-hour, about half of the present cost in Israel.

Production costs for the first industrial model, about \$2.5 million, are being provided by the Dutch-based Solmeis Investment Company which has been active in other Israeli energy projects.

KNESSET UNIT APPROVES PURCHASE OF SIX JUMBO JETS FOR \$260 MILLION

TEL AVIV, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- The Knesset Finance Committee has approved the government's purchase of six new Boeing jumbo jets for \$260 million which includes four spare Pratt-Whitney engines. The aircraft--four 767s and two 737s--were originally ordered by El Al but the government refused to provide the financing until the carrier overcame the financial and personnel problems that brought it to the brink of closure this month.

The six planes, scheduled for delivery in 1982, will be retained by the government until El Al can restore its solvency. Should the airline be unable to meet the government's conditions, the fuel efficient planes would command a good price on the world market where they are in great demand.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The number of eligible voters in Israel has grown by some 300,000 since the last elections were held in May, 1977 as a result of young people reaching the voting age of 18 and immigration. The electorate now stands at 2,438,886 and is expected to increase by 70-80,000 by the time Israelis go to the polls again this spring.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS****UNITE AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM**

By Lisa Palmieri-Billing

ROME, Jan. 27 (JTA) — Four supplementary hours a month of voluntary lessons in the history of anti-Semitism with particular reference to World War II have been approved by a student assembly in a Rome high school as a direct reply to an anti-Semitic incident that took place on school grounds several days earlier.

Paola Caviglia, a 14-year-old Jewish high school girl had been pushed down a flight of stairs by a group of neo-fascist students who came from behind her muttering, "Get out of the way, dirty Jews." But the student body at the Virgilio school just across the Tiber from the Rome Jewish elementary, middle and high schools, were united in strong emotional and intellectual support of Paola.

"I am proud of the Virgilio lyceum," she said, addressing an assembly hall packed with over 1000 students and parents, including groups from neighboring schools — both Catholic and Jewish — plus representatives from Rome's Jewish community.

Paola thanked the assembly for "the solidarity you have shown." She said she was unable to identify the assailants because she transferred to the school from the Jewish school system only a few months earlier. "Whoever they are, they will have realized that they have no hope here because you are all on my side," Paola said.

A Measure Of Public Sensitivity

A measure of Italian public opinion's sensitivity toward the resurgence of anti-Semitism is the publicity the media gave the incident. Front page headlines referred to this "offense" to a Jewish girl. A poignant comment made by Paola immediately after the incident was extensively quoted: "My mother," she said, "often told me that there always comes a day when we are confronted with our identity as Jews."

Now the school's student body, of its own free will, plans to start filling the information gap which they consider a partial cause of this incident. Lessons in history, ranging from anti-Semitism, Nazism, Fascism and inevitably leading up to more controversial issues regarding the foundation of Israel and the present-day situation in the Middle East, will soon be initiated, subject to the final approval of the school authorities and parent-teacher group representatives.

Paola is a budding actress. She and her brother, Giacomo, founded a semi-professional Jewish theater group that debuted in 1977 with "The Diary of Ann Frank" under the direction of the well-known Jewish actor-director, Cesare Polacco. It is currently presenting Bassani's "The Garden of the Finzi-Contini."

UNIVERSITY ASSURES A COMMITTEE**ON EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH SAUDIS**

NEW YORK, Jan. 27 (JTA) — The American Jewish Committee has been assured by University of Washington officials that their recently authorized exchange program with Saudi Arabia's King Abdulaziz University includes a viable, non-discriminatory clause that, if not adhered to, would nullify the agreement between the two universities.

According to Arthur Abramson, AJ Committee Seattle Area director, "In discussions with University of Washington officials, a clause was in-

cluded that prohibits the Saudis from discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, religion, and/or national origin. An 'oversight committee' has been set up to insure that all clauses of the contract are adhered to, although we would have preferred that individuals from outside the University's medical school structure were included as members of this committee."

The university's Board of Regents, which recently approved the affiliation between the two universities to develop a sizable medical facility in Saudi Arabia, noted that should the Saudis violate or not approve the anti-discrimination clause, the contract would be terminated.

Terms of the \$3.6 million contract, due to expire June 30, 1981, but which could be the beginning of a 10-year affiliation between the two schools, will allow the universities to develop pilot programs in faculty development, medical education, and medical research.

The text of the non-discriminatory clause in the agreement reads: "The University of Washington subscribes to a policy of equal opportunity and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, ethnicity, religion or national origin. In carrying out the provisions of this Agreement, both parties agree to comply with this policy, and neither institution shall impose criteria for exchange of scholars, administrators, or students which would violate these principles of non-discrimination."

THIRD BRUSSELS CONFERENCE**ON SOVIET JEWRY IS DUE SOON**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA) — A 10-member committee will meet in Madrid Feb. 23 to set a date for the third Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry, it was announced here today. The proposal to hold a third international gathering was made at a meeting of the Brussels Conference Presidium held within the context of the World Jewish Congress assembly here last week.

The deteriorating situation of Soviet Jews and the drastic cuts in the number of exit visas granted were cited as reasons for reconvening the Brussels Conference. The committee, headed by Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization chairman Leon Dulzin, selected the Feb. 23 date for its meeting in Madrid because it coincides with the opening of the Communist Party convention in Moscow and the resumption of the Madrid conference on compliance with the Helsinki human rights accords.

RAGER IS NEW HEAD OF ISRAEL BONDS

NEW YORK, Jan. 27 (JTA) — Yitzhak Rager has been elected president of the Israel Bond Organization by the Board of Directors. The announcement was made by Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Bond Organization. Rager has been serving as vice president since January, 1980. Before joining Israel Bonds, he served as General Counsel to the chairman of the Jewish Agency with the rank of Deputy Minister. He was born in Cairo of Russian-Jewish parents and educated in Jerusalem.

A noted journalist, Rager was the editor of the national Hebrew daily "Hayom," Secretary General of the Israel Broadcasting Authority and news editor of "Kol Israel" (The Voice of Israel). As a member of the diplomatic service, he served as a Consul in New York as well as a Consul at the Israel Embassy in London. Rager has fought in all of the wars of Israel. During the Six-Day War, he commanded the battalion which liberated Gush Etzion and Beit Lechem, including the site of Rachel's Tomb, and remains a Colonel in the Israel Army Reserves.

His wife, Dr. Bracha Rager, is a visiting scientist with the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City.