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HAIG: U.S., ISRAEL HAVE COMMON STRATEGIC AIMS AND MUST WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THEM

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Alexander Haig told Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir here last night that the U.S. and Israel have common strategic aims and that the two countries must work together to achieve them.

Haig made his remarks in delivering a toast to Shamir at a dinner party given in the Israeli diplomat's honor by Ambassador and Mrs. Ephraim Evron at the Israeli envoy's residence. Shamir's visit to Washington marks the first high level meeting between Premier Menachem Begin's government and the Reagan Administration. Shamir will meet with President Reagan at the White House on Tuesday.

In his toast to Haig, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed, Shamir spoke of the "pillars" that support Israeli-American friendship and said that the differences between the two countries can be worked out in a spirit of frankness.

Responding to this, Haig said, "The U.S. benefits from frankness and views (expressed) without equivocation." He added, "We have an underlying commonality of strategic interest. Our relationship will always be viewed by strategic realities that bind Israel and the U.S. and frankness will be the ultimate guide and framework of our relationship." Haig lauded Shamir for the manner in which he conducted his initial conversations with top American officials during his visit.

Leading Government Officials Attend Event

Leading American government officials in foreign affairs attended the dinner. In addition to Haig, they included Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger; U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick; Richard Allen, the President's National Security Advisor; Walter Stoessel, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs; Nicholas Veliotis, who is expected to be named Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East affairs; Gen. Brent Scowcroft, who was chairman of the National Security Council in the Nixon Administration; and the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis.

Others present included Sens. Edward Zorinsky (D. Neb.) and Larry Pressler (R. SD); Rep. Sidney Yates (D. Ill.) dean of the Jewish delegation in Congress; Ivan Novick, president of the Zionist Organization of America; Moshe Zack, editor of Maariv; and former syndicated columnist Joseph Alsop.

\$1 MILLION REWARD OFFERED FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE TRACING AND FREED OF WALLENBERG

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22 (JTA) -- A reward of \$1 million has been announced as awaiting anyone providing information leading to the tracing and freeing of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish

diplomat who rescued Jews from Nazis during World War II and who is now believed to be in a Soviet prison.

A statement by the Free Wallenberg Committee of the United States said that the reward is being offered by the Wallenberg Association of Stockholm and the various Free Wallenberg Committees in a number of other countries, including the United States.

Annette Lantos, co-chairperson of the Free Wallenberg Committee of the United States, said the funds have been pledged by the committees from various countries in gratitude for the "great humanitarian service" which led to Wallenberg's arrest by the Soviets during World War II.

The press statement also said that anyone "having information may write in confidence" to the Free Wallenberg Committee of the United States, POB 1870, Washington, D.C. 20001. Mrs. Lantos, who is one of the thousands of Jews who owe their lives to Wallenberg, is the wife of California Democratic Congressman Thomas Lantos. Wallenberg, while a member of the Swedish Embassy staff in Budapest during World War II, became aware that the Nazis planned to exterminate Hungary's 700,000 Jews and issued "protective" Swedish passports that enabled nearly 30,000 people to flee Hungary.

When the Russians entered Budapest in January 1945 Wallenberg, then 32 years old, was apparently suspected of espionage. He was taken prisoner and sent to the Soviet Union. He has not been heard from since. In Feb. 1957, Andrei Gromyko, then the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, said Wallenberg died of a heart attack in Lubianka Prison in 1947. However, numerous reports indicate Wallenberg might still be a political prisoner in a Soviet labor camp or a mental hospital.

NORMALIZATION BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL IS PROCEEDING, BUT AT A SLOWER PACE THAN ISRAEL HAD HOPED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 22 (JTA) -- Far more Egyptians would like to come to Israel, as tourists out of curiosity or as businessmen to trade, than the Egyptian government is apparently prepared to allow, according to the Israeli Ambassador to Egypt, Eliyahu Ben-Elissar.

Speaking on a radio program marking the first anniversary of the opening of the Israel Embassy in Cairo, the first in any Arab country, he said that slow, step-by-step progress in normalization of relations between the two countries had been made during the past year, but slower than Israel had hoped.

Interviewed on the same program, the Egyptian Ambassador to Israel, Saad Mortada, expressed satisfaction with the tempo, adding that there were still differences between the two countries, mainly because of the Jerusalem bill declaring Jerusalem to be Israel's capital, West Bank settlements and Israel's treatment of some Arab mayors and Palestinians in the occupied areas.

Prof. Shlomo Shamir, of Tel Aviv university's Shiloah Center for Middle East research, noted both successes and failures due to the differing

importance placed by the two parties on the normalization process. He said that after "normal" peace treaties ending a war, establishment of relations between the former enemies was left to progress at its own pace.

But the Israel-Egypt treaty ended three decades of an Arab attempt not only to gain territory or control, the usual reason for a war, but to annihilate the Israeli entity. While not so important to Egypt, normalization for Israel was a clear indication of Egyptian intentions, Shamir said.

Mortada said he recalled that some years ago the late Golda Meir had said that for her peace or normalization with Egypt would mean that she could go shopping in Cairo. "During the past year my Embassy has issued 50,000 visas to Israelis who have gone shopping in Cairo and been welcomed there," he said.

Notes A Lack Of Symmetry

But Ben-Elissar noted that in that same period the Israeli Embassy in Cairo has been asked for visas by only 1,500 Egyptians, including members of official delegations. He saw a lack of symmetry in the mutual normalization process.

"For the Egyptians, normalization is a means. For Israel it is a means of testing the quality and nature of the peace for which we have given up territory needed for defense ... I remember how we were ready to dance in the streets when the Egyptian flag was raised here for the first time. No Egyptian had every dreamed for the day when the Israeli flag would fly in Cairo," Ben-Elissar said.

"There is therefore a certain asymmetry, but the problems should be seen in their proper perspective. A psychological barrier still exists, not only between Israelis and Egyptians but between the Egyptian man-in-the-street and his government. Far more Egyptians are ready to come to Israel than the Egyptian government is prepared to allow."

Shamir said the greatest achievement of the past year was probably the breaching of the "Arab world's taboo" against any relations with Israel. The failures were in the speed of normalization, arising from serious opposition to the peace treaty on the part of many Egyptian intellectuals. "But the peace treaty has created a new political fact. You have to compare now with the situation before. The Egyptians have advanced light years, even though they have not gone as fast as we would have liked to hope," Shamir said.

VETERAN DIPLOMAT ASSESSES SITUATION IN THE MIDEAST

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 22 (JTA) — A veteran diplomat and former Undersecretary of State told the National Executive Committee of the Zionist Organization of America last night that the Palestinians are as divided as the Arab states and that "there is no Palestinian leader who can speak and act for the broad majority of the Palestinian people and who can make an agreement with Israel and make it stick."

Joseph Sisco, who served in the Nixon and Ford Administrations, told 200 ZOA leaders from throughout the United States gathered here for a two-day meeting that the Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank have not given up hope for a "negotiated solution" with Israel and that they have "no interest in giving up their power to Palestinians who reside outside the West Bank."

At the meeting at the Warwick Hotel here, Sisco, who recently resigned as president of American University, and who recently was in the Mideast, also predicted "serious difficulties" between the United States and Europe over the Arab-Israel dispute. He declared that "Europe has no real clout in the area. When Europe takes the initiative it is to apply pressure on the U.S. to apply pressure on Israel."

Commenting on what he perceived as a policy of the Reagan Administration toward the Mideast, Sisco told the ZOA that the new Administration would consult more with Israel; would commit itself to the security and survival of Israel in a firm and abiding manner; would play a critical role in the diplomacy of the area; and would adhere firmly to a nonrecognition and no-contact with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In his speech, Sisco also said that "the security and survival of Israel was inextricably linked with that of the U.S." He anticipated a strong U.S. military presence in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

JEWISH CONGRESSWOMAN STRICKEN BY MASSIVE HEART ATTACK LAST NOVEMBER WILL NOT RETURN TO OFFICE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22 (JTA) — Rep. Gladys Spellman (D. Md.), who was stricken by a massive heart attack four days before the elections last Nov. 4 and has been hospitalized since then in a semi-conscious state, will not return to Congress. House Speaker Thomas O'Neill (D. Mass.) announced last Friday that he would declare her seat vacant because of her illness, opening the way for what is expected to be a hard fought campaign by Democrats and Republicans to replace her.

Mrs. Spellman, 63, was overwhelmingly re-elected to a fourth term despite her hospitalization. She was among the 33 Jews in the new Congress and one of two Jewish women in the House of Representatives. The other is Bobbi Fiedler (R. Calif.) who was elected to her first term last November.

Mrs. Spellman's husband, Reuben Spellman, announced that he would be a candidate for the seat held by his wife because "I want to carry on her work." Spellman, 71, has been an employee of the Pentagon for 34 years. Mrs. Spellman represented a district in Prince George's County in suburban Washington populated mainly by middle class and lower middle class families. A primary election will be held this spring to be followed by a special election for the vacant seat.

U.S. AND ISRAEL CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS OVER U.S. SALE OF ADVANCED ARMS EQUIPMENT TO SAUDIS By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22 (JTA) — The United States and Israel publicly disclosed differences regarding raising the combat capability of the 60 F-15 warplanes being delivered to Saudi Arabia but Washington and Jerusalem are continuing consultations and a decision has not yet been reached.

This was among the topics Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir told reporters last Friday they had discussed during their three-hour meeting at the State Department.

The issue of improving the F-15s was heightened last Thursday night when eight members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee delivered a message to President Reagan asking him not to make the deliveries of the additional refueling tanks and bomb racks Saudi Arabia has requested for the F-15s. Haig said that this matter was discussed "at length" but

that "no decision has been made on this issue." He added "there is an ongoing dialogue which will continue."

Clearly reluctant to discuss the issue publicly, Shamir was asked two questions before he said "We have explained clearly our position," and that Israel "opposes" the delivery of the F-15 improvements. Haig then followed up by saying that the matter is "in a process of consultation." Clearly there are differences as anticipated and we hope to work them out."

It was understood that the meaning the sale to Saudi Arabia would have on the Mideast balance of power was further discussed during the meeting between Shamir and Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger at the Pentagon Friday.

The Senators' letter to Reagan was initiated by Senators Alan Cranston (D. Cal.) and Joseph Biden (D. Del.). Although the eight signers did not constitute a majority of the 17-member Senate Foreign Relations Committee, at least five other Senators were reported as definitely supportive of the opposition to the sale. Sen. Edward Zorinsky (D. Neb.) refused to sign it because it was not strong enough in its opposition, his office told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The other four felt reportedly that they did not want to reflect to the President their opposition in writing.

Besides Cranston and Biden, Senators signing the letter were Christopher Dodd (D. Conn.), John Glenn (D. Ohio), Paul Sarbanes (D. Md.), Paul Tsongas (D. Mass.), Claiborne Pell (D. R.I.) and Larry Pressler (R. S.D.).

Intimate and Frank Discussions

In his talks with Shamir, Haig told reporters "these discussions, I am happy to report, were intimate and frank and involved far-ranging matters of mutual concern." Shamir, agreeing with Haig's description, said "We analyzed the common issues in the relations between the United States and Israel."

While the U.S. is expected to comply with Saudi Arabia's request for extra equipment for its F-15s, it is also considering Israel's requests for additional military equipment to maintain the Israeli-Arab arms balance, a scaling down of Israel's financial indebtedness to the U.S. and co-production rights for military equipment and other manufactured products to aid Israel's economy.

Haig said "nothing firm" was decided on the resumption of the Egyptian-Israeli talks on the West Bank and Gaza and that the possible visits of Premier Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat to Washington were "in a process of consultation."

Haig also said that he and Shamir included in their discussion "American support for Israel in the economic sector." Haig said "those talks barely got started." This was Haig's response on Israel's financial indebtedness to the United States and possible forgiveness of part of that debt.

It was made known Friday that the foreign aid budget will allocate the same sums for Israel in the coming fiscal year starting next October as for the current year: \$1.4 billion in military aid and \$785 million in economic assistance.

Haig also said that a U.S. official, whom he did not identify, will go to the Middle East this coming week for preliminary discussions with Israel and Egypt on a multi-national force

in the Sinai with regard to return by Israel to Egypt of the last portion of the Sinai in 1982.

When a reporter asked about the European initiative toward the Arab-Israeli conflict, which will be on the agenda when British and French officials come here for separate meetings this week, Haig said "we would hope anything our European partners would do on the Middle East would be consistent with and reinforce the ongoing process which is underway."

HAIG GOING TO MIDEAST TO HELP AUTONOMY TALKS PROGRESS; SAYS U.S. WILL SUPPLY SAUDIS WITH SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 22 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Alexander Haig said today he plans to visit the Middle East to help the autonomy talks progress "sooner rather than later." He said no date had yet been fixed.

He told an Israel television correspondent in an interview in Washington that the Middle East still remained "in focus" even though President Reagan was giving first priority to economic matters and second priority to U.S. relations with its immediate neighbors to the north and south.

Haig said that despite economic cutbacks, Israel's interests had been "fenced off and preserved." He indicated that Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel would be told on Tuesday -- apparently at his meeting with President Reagan -- that the U.S. was going ahead with its plans to supply Saudi Arabia with sophisticated weapons, a matter which had been under consideration by the previous Carter Administration, also. Israel would be compensated by the supply of other military hardware, especially in the aviation field, the television correspondent reported.

He said that America was to back-track on a previous policy and would now allow Israel to export locally-made weapons which included American-made components. The U.S. barred the sale of Israeli-made Kfir fighter aircraft to Mexico because it is powered by an American engine.

DAYAN URGES ISRAEL TO PRESSURE U.S. FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE FORCE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA) -- Former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan urged Israel today to intensify its pressure on the United States to create an international peacekeeping force to patrol Sinai after Israel completes its evacuation next year, as called for in the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. Dayan, who submitted an urgent agenda motion to that effect in the Knesset, said on the Army Radio that unless such force is in being at the time, Israel should not make its final withdrawal from the peninsula.

Dayan's motion also insisted that the agreement reached on an international force must be ratified by the Knesset rather than by the Cabinet alone. "The importance of such an agreement is not less than the peace agreement itself because this agreement would in effect be an extract of the peace agreement," Dayan said. "Just as the peace agreement was brought before the Knesset for final approval, so should this agreement be."

WEST POINT, N.Y. (JTA) -- Lyle Jay Kellman was bar mitzvah at the Military Academy here Friday night at the age of 21, the first to ever have a bar mitzvah at the school. Kellman did not have a bar mitzvah at the age of 13 because his parents were in the process of being divorced. At the academy, he was tutored by Rabbi Avraham Soltes, the academy's Jewish chaplain.

MENDELEVICH CRITICIZES ISRAEL FOR PAYING SCANT ATTENTION TO PRISONERS OF ZION WHILE THEY LANGUISH IN SOVIET PRISON CAMPS

By David Landau and Rochelle Saidel-Wolk

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA) -- "We will never forget you -- not even for one day," Premier Menachem Begin told Yosef Mendelevich when they met last Friday at the Premier's office here. Begin recalled that he, too, had spent some time in the Soviet "Gulag" camps.

But Mendelevich, the last of the imprisoned Jewish defendants in the 1970 Leningrad hijack trial to be released, seemed unconvinced. He told television viewers last night that he felt insufficient interest was shown in Prisoners of Zion while they languish in Soviet camps.

"My impression is that Israelis are fantastic in organizing receptions when a Prisoner of Zion arrives here, but they take little interest while the prisoner is still languishing in captivity," Mendelevich, who arrived in Israel last Wednesday, told the TV interviewer in near-faultless Hebrew. He said that he and his fellow-prisoners rarely felt that effective public action was taken on their behalf.

Urges Continued Public Action

He called for public action on behalf of the two non-Jewish participants in the Leningrad escape attempt, Yuri Fedorov and Aleksei Murzhepko, who, he said are still detained "in the most harsh conditions." He also mentioned Ida Nudel, Vladimir Slepak, Isif Begun, Victor Brailovsky and Anatoly Shcharansky.

Brailovsky, a leading activist of the Soviet Jewish emigration movement and editor of the journal, "Jews in the USSR," had been arrested last November in Moscow, Mendelevich noted. "Did you do anything about it?" he challenged the TV interviewer and the viewers. He said "Nathan" Shcharansky was loved by all his fellow-prisoners for his "tzadik-like" qualities and that this love triggered even greater hostility on the part of the prison authorities. Mendelevich's release, however, has sparked hope in some Soviet aliya circles in Israel that the freeing of Nudel from Siberian exile might also now be close at hand.

A day after his arrival from the USSR, Mendelevich called on "Every Jew in the United States to do whatever is in his power" to help in the campaign to free other Prisoners of Zion.

At a press conference at Allon Shvut, the West Bank home of his sister Rivka Dori, Mendelevich also called on Jews the world over to step up the public struggle. The days of quiet diplomacy were over he said. He recited from the Passover Hagaddah "that God had taken the Jews from Egypt 'with a strong hand and firm arm.'"

Mendelevich said his last hunger strike in the prison camp had lasted 55 days and was triggered by the confiscation of a book from which he was teaching a fellow Jewish prisoner Hebrew and Jewish history. He said he was often punished though not physically beaten, because he insisted on observing the Sabbath and other religious rites. He said that not a single one of the thousands of letters sent him from around the world had been passed on to him in prison.

"Thank God, this is everything we hoped for Yosef, for him to come to Jerusalem," Rivka Dori told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "I want to tell all the people who worked for his release that their efforts succeeded," she said. "I

am sorry that Ida Nudel and Anatoly Shcharansky are not out. Now we have to work for them. I have seen Avital Shcharansky (Anatoly's wife) lately and she is very sad."

Public Rallies Helped Release Mendelevich

Dori stressed her belief that demonstrations of concern and public attention were crucial in securing her brother's release. "In the past few days people throughout the world have pressured the Soviet Union on his behalf," she said. She and her family were particularly concerned because they had been notified last week by the Soviet authorities that he had been moved from his prison camp.

Mendelevich's second sister, Eva Lecizl of Elkana on the West Bank, had told a United Jewish Appeal American Jewish journalists' mission just a few hours before news of his release came through that she had not heard from her brother since November. "I appeal to you to publicize my brother's cry as strongly as you can," she said, "and to ascertain his conditions. Is he still alive?"

Mendelevich told the press last Thursday that his health was not so good but he was confident that doctors in Israel would soon restore him to top condition.

Meanwhile, relatives of Shcharansky today expressed growing concern over his medical condition following more than two months of not hearing from him. His wife called on President Yitzhak Navon to lead a redoubled effort on his behalf. Shcharansky has been reported to be in failing health. His mother, Ida Milgrom, in a telephone call from Moscow, said she had been told by prison authorities that technical problems were delaying letters from him and this, she said, had heightened her concern.

UNMARRIED JEWISH WOMEN IN DAMASCUS BEING FORCED TO CONVERT TO ISLAM

TEL AVIV, Feb. 22 (JTA) -- Some 400 unmarried Jewish women between the ages of 25-35, in the Jewish community in Damascus which numbers a few hundred families, are being forced to convert to Islam to find husbands, according to a woman tourist in Switzerland. Knesset member Yitzhak Yitzhaki, who met the tourist recently, said he planned to ask the Knesset to take action in the matter.

According to the tourist, who declined to be named, the women can find no husbands among the small Jewish community in Syria and are not allowed to leave the country. Intense pressure is being brought to bear on them to adopt the Moslem faith in order to marry and raise families. Several women have given in to the pressure in recent months, the tourist said.

ARYE FELGENBAUM DEAD AT 96

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA) -- One of the grand old men of Israeli medicine, Prof. Arye Feigenbaum, died in Jerusalem this weekend at the age of 96. His body lay in state at the Hadassah Medical School today before burial at the Mount of Olives Cemetery, where Henrietta Szold, the founder of Hadassah, is interred.

Feigenbaum was a pioneer ophthalmologist. He came to Palestine in 1913 to head the eye department at the Strauss Medical Center. When the Center was taken over by the Hadassah organization, Feigenbaum became head of ophthalmology at Hadassah. His life-long work in eye diseases helped to reduce the incidence of trachoma and acute seasonal ophthalmia in Palestine. The author of numerous papers and books on medicine, he wrote "The Eye," the first Hebrew text book on ophthalmology.