

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright: Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

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

H.U.C. I.L.R. CINCINNATI

Vol. LIX - 64th Year

Wednesday, February 25, 1981

MAR 02 1981

No. 38

HAIG: WILL GO TO THE MIDEAST AT A "REASONABLY EARLY" DATE TO CONTINUE PEACE PROCESS MOMENTUM

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Alexander Haig said today that he will go to the Middle East at a "reasonably early" date to follow up on the conversations that Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir concluded today at a half-hour meeting with President Reagan at the White House.

"I clearly am anxious to go" to the area to "continue the momentum on the peace process and conclude the kinds of consultations which started here" last week with Shamir's visit, Haig said. He and Shamir met with the press immediately after the meeting with Reagan.

Discussions on the Middle East will continue at the top level here later this week when Haig meets with French Foreign Minister Jean François Poncet, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington.

Shamir Sees Fruitful Results

Shamir told reporters that in his talk with the President he presented "the most essential and most vital problems" for Israel and its relations with the U.S. and predicted that "the results will be very fruitful."

In addition to Shamir and Haig, the meeting with Reagan was attended by White House Chief of Staff James Baker; Richard Allen, the President's National Security Advisor; the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis; the Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., Ephraim Evron; and Chanan Bar-On, deputy director general for North America in the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

U.S. Aware of Israel's Needs

When Shamir was asked for specific information on U.S. foreign aid for Israel in the coming fiscal year and U.S.-Israeli co-production of manufactures, he replied, "We didn't discuss details of cooperation of the defense establishments of the U.S. and Israel." Shamir observed, however, that "in principle, this cooperation will be very efficient." He said "The U.S. is aware of our needs."

Asked about the Reagan Administration's position in favor of strengthening Saudi Arabia's military capability by providing extra equipment for the 60 F-15 warplanes it has purchased from the U.S., the Israeli Foreign Minister replied, "We oppose the arms race in the Middle East" and "we regard the supply to Saudi Arabia as part of the arms race going on." But, he added that this supply comes from "many sources and many countries. If we cannot stop it we are eager to maintain the qualitative balance of power." (See Related Story P.3)

Asked whether Premier Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat would be coming to Washington before Israel's elections on June 30, Shamir said, "I can't say anything about that." He said "the next contribution" by the U.S. to the peace process will be Haig's visit to the Middle East.

Haig was questioned about the possibility of Jordan joining the peace talks. He replied, "This involves a consultative process with the parties concerned and is not a made-in-America solution. This is a matter for the parties." He said of the Egyptian-Israeli autonomy talks that "We're going to continue in the framework of Camp David and according to Resolutions 242 and 338 to reach a comprehensive settlement and only after careful consultations with the parties."

Haig added, "We know where the obstacles lay with respect to the ongoing autonomy talks with a view to having the talks proceed and succeed. This will be dealt with promptly and early on and I anticipate the process won't be long in resumption." Haig denied that the U.S. emphasis on the Middle East talks had been diminished. He referred to "the strategic realities of the Middle East."

"These," he said, "reinforce the peace process and must always be kept in mind. We must not be exclusively concerned, for example, with oil diplomacy or with Arab-Israeli differences in isolation. They must be viewed against a background of increasing Soviet interventionism in the area and the commonality of concern with respect to all the nations in the region to deal with this danger. These are not mutually exclusive conceptions; they are mutually reinforcing conceptions."

Haig said the conversations with Shamir were "rather detailed on mutual and international concerns." He said his talks with Shamir were "invaluable" to the Reagan Administration to "enable us to assess at first hand" matters of "primary concern to the government of Israel."

U.S. ABSTAINS FROM VOTING IN UN UNIT ON RESOLUTION CONDEMNING TOTALITARIANISM, INCLUDING NAZISM

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- The United States abstained from voting yesterday on a resolution in the United Nations Human Rights Commission condemning racial intolerance, terror and all forms of totalitarianism, including Nazism and apartheid. The American delegate, Richard Shifter, told Commission members that his delegation abstained because the resolution was a "political ploy" and took insufficient notice of anti-Semitism today. It was adopted by a vote of 38-0.

Shifter, a Jewish lawyer active in human rights, said, "We feel secure in the knowledge that our country was always opposed to Nazism and fascism. We never signed any pact with Adolf Hitler or Herr Von Ribbentrop." He was referring to the Hitler-Stalin pact concluded by Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov and German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop in 1939, several weeks before the outbreak of World War II.

Shifter insisted that "America is opposed to Nazism and Fascism and we do not need to prove our anti-Nazi commitment by going along with a resolution which we consider misleading."

Referring obliquely to anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, he said, "We regret to note that

one of Nazism's most inhuman features, the fomenting of group hatred, has spread to other political movements. The hideous, hateful caricatures which were once published in Julius Streicher's 'Der Sturmer' can now be seen frequently in officially sanctioned publications of a country other than Germany. We believe this aspect should be dealt with in the Commission."

Shifter, 58, was born in Vienna and is a practicing attorney in Maryland where he serves on the State Board of Education and is active in Jewish affairs. He is the alternate U.S. delegate to the UN Human Rights Commission.

JEWISH LEADERS AT A CONFERENCE IN MADRID FIND THEMSELVES IN THE MIDDLE OF AN INSURRECTION

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 24 (JTA) — Half a dozen top Jewish leaders, including Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, and Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the WZO-American Section, found themselves accidentally plunged into the center of the attempted insurrection by Spain's rightist Civil Guards yesterday.

The Jewish leaders, who were in Madrid for a session of the presidium of the Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry, happened to be staying at the Palace Hotel less than 100 yards from the Parliament building taken over by the rebels. Throughout the night the hotel served as the headquarters for the army general and senior civil servants who negotiated the rebels' surrender.

Dulzin and the other Jewish leaders left Madrid today safe and well. Other conference participants, Edgar Bronfman president of the World Jewish Congress and Claude Kelman, vice president of France's Representative Council of Jewish Organizations left Madrid only a few hours before the rebel coup.

Dulzin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here early this morning in a telephone interview that the conference participants were asked to return to their rooms minutes after they concluded a press conference on the plight of Soviet Jewry. Dulzin said "Spanish security agents told us we would be safer in our rooms. It took us a few minutes to find out what had happened."

"From our fourth floor windows we could see the Civil Guard surround the Parliament building. Cars were driving constantly up to the hotel and late at night the national police started moving into the square which separated us from the Parliament. At no moment was there any panic and at 5 p.m. we even all trooped down into the hotel dining room for dinner."

Dulzin and the other Jewish leaders told the JTA they heard no shots and saw no special activity within the hotel once they returned to their rooms at 11 p.m. last night.

Cable To Brezhnev

Yesterday, just before the rebels seized the Parliament building and took 348 members of the Lower House hostage, the presidium cabled Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev asking him "to reaffirm that change of policy which you began" in allowing "Jews applying for permission to emigrate to Israel to do so."

The cable also stated: "We are gratified by the recent release of Josef Mendelevich and it is our expectation that his release will be followed by the release of all those who have been imprisoned or exiled essentially because they insisted on their right

on their right to go to Israel. We hope and urge that Jews will be allowed to emigrate without difficulties and without artificial or arbitrary impediments."

"The teaching of Hebrew, the voluntary study of the Jewish religion, Jewish history and Jewish traditions are not inconsistent with declared Soviet policy and should be allowed as a free expression of the rights of the Jews in the Soviet Union."

The signers of the cable were: Dulzin, chairman of the presidium of the Brussels Conference; Bronfman; Kelman; Jacobson; David Susskind, president, National Committee for Soviet Jewry, Belgium; Eugene Gold, vice president, National Conference on Soviet Jewry, U.S.; Maurice Sabbah, president, Spanish Council on Soviet Jewry; Bennet Janovitz, chairman, National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, U.S.; Avraham Harman, president, Hebrew University, Jerusalem; and Joseph Domberger, president, European B'nai B'rith.

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY RETURNS TO LIBYA ITS GIFT OF \$600,000

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (JTA) — Georgetown University yesterday returned to the government of Libya its gift of \$600,000 which that Arab country had contributed over the past four years to endow a professorship at the university's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies.

In disclosing the return of the money plus interest of \$41,721, the Jesuit university said it did not want to have "its name associated" with a country that supports terrorism.

The United States in December, 1979, placed export controls on Libya, Iraq, Syria and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen as states "which had repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism."

These controls were renewed last December for another year under the Export Administration Act. The State Department three weeks ago said the Libyan government was "supporting a wide range of terrorist groups in every area of the globe" and arranged assassinations of dissidents abroad.

University Has Been Criticized

Jewish organizations and individuals have complained to Georgetown University since Libya made its original contribution and also have been critical of Georgetown's acceptance of more than \$3 1/2 million from seven other Arab countries for the center which is considered anti-Israeli.

Only two weeks ago Rabbi Andrew Baker, executive secretary, and Lawrence Goldmuntz, president of the Washington chapter of the American Jewish Committee, protested to Georgetown about the Arab support.

Georgetown's president, Rev. Timothy Healy, personally brought the check for \$641,721 to the Libyan Embassy and gave it to Ali Houderi, the Embassy's head. Healy said "I was under absolutely no heat and no pressure" to return the money "but it worried me. I guess I am just kind of slow to move. But I came to a growing realization that what Libya is up to is incompatible with Georgetown."

The professorship in the Arab program will continue unchanged, the university said. It is held by a Palestinian-born historian Hisham Sharabi. He was quoted as saying that the Libyans were "very decent, very thoughtful, very considerate, very correct" in financing the professorship to the extent of \$715,000 over a five-year period.

Michael Hudson, director of the Arab studies center who reportedly had been instrumental in

having Libya make the gift and had strongly defended it, was quoted here as saying: "We never felt any pressure from the Libyan government" on use of its money. Hudson was among the Americans who attended a seminar in Libya on ways to advance the Arab points of view against Israel and conducted a seminar at Georgetown which he said was modeled on the lines of the Libyan program.

Return Of Gift Unanimously Approved

The Rev. Michael Walsh, chairman of the university's Board of Directors, said the board's 10-member executive committee had unanimously approved return of the money.

Ira Silverman, director of special programs for the AJC Committee, which had strongly denounced Georgetown's acceptance of Arab money for its education programs, said he was "delighted" with Georgetown's decision. "It confirms our faith in the integrity of Georgetown and its president, Father Healy," he said. "To keep this money would be to confer honor on an unworthy donor."

In 1978, Georgetown, which is the oldest Jesuit institution of higher learning in the U.S., had returned to Iraq its check for \$50,000. Beside the seven Arab governments contributing, the center has received gifts from a score of American corporations that do business in the Middle East.

SHAMIR SAYS THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ISRAEL REAGAN ADMINISTRATION ON THE MIDEAST

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel told American Jewish leaders last night that there are two differences between the Reagan Administration and Israel concerning the Mideast. One is the Reagan Administration's intention to postpone the resumption of the peace negotiations on Palestinian autonomy and the other is the different views Israel and the U.S. have on the role of Saudi Arabia in the Mideast, Shamir said.

Addressing a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Shamir, who had just concluded talks with top Administration officials in Washington, including Secretary of State Alexander Haig, warned that any delay in resuming the autonomy talks could endanger the whole peace process.

"There are many factors which are interested in killing the peace process," Shamir said, noting that among them are the Soviet Union, the PLO and the European countries.

"If there is a postponement of the process," he said, "the arena is free for various attempts which could be harmful to the process." Noting that the Reagan Administration wants "to study the situation, the conditions" before it resumes involvement in the autonomy negotiations, Shamir said that for Israel, reviving the talks with Egypt "was the most important and most urgent issue."

Differences On Saudi Arabia

Shamir said that on the issue of Saudi Arabia "there is a difference of opinion" between Washington and Jerusalem. The Reagan Administration considers Saudi Arabia to be "a moderate country," Shamir said. "But it is one of the most extreme Arab countries," the Israeli diplomat charged, pointing out that the Saudis are among the PLO's

staunchest supporters, pressuring many countries in the world to break relations with Israel and recognize the PLO. He said that the recent announcement by Japan that it invited PLO leader Yasser Arafat for a visit was a result of Saudi pressure.

"We cannot regard Saudi Arabia as a moderate country as the U.S. does," Shamir said, predicting that in the future Israel and the U.S. will have "many confrontations" over that issue.

Shamir said that if the U.S. decides to sell the Saudis equipment that would improve the combat capabilities of the Saudis' F-15 warplanes, then Israel feels it is entitled to increased military support from the United States to keep the balance of power in the Mideast on Israel's side.

Cites Mideast Arms Race

The Israeli Foreign Minister also said that in his talks in Washington he raised the issue of "the terrible arms race in the Mideast." Contending that the Arabs' oil revenues enabled them to purchase the most advanced and sophisticated weapons in the world, Shamir said that Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq and Libya have together 10,000 tanks, as much as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries have, and some 2000 warplanes. "And they are getting more and more," Shamir said. He warned that this arms buildup constitutes a danger to world peace.

He said Israel asked the U.S. "to do anything possible" to reduce the arms race and influence other countries to reduce their arms supply to the Arabs. He noted that traditional U.S. policy was to maintain the balance of power in the Mideast in Israel's favor and said that the Reagan Administration is "committed to Israel's security and will do all to maintain the balance of power."

Shamir called on the governments of Syria and the Soviet Union to let the Jews in their countries emigrate. He said that Israel received information recently of renewed persecution of Syrian Jews. He appealed to the USSR "to change its policy regarding Jews."

BEGIN URGES U.S. INITIATIVE TO RESUME STALLED AUTONOMY TALKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 24 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin urged the United States today to "take the initiative" to resume the stalled autonomy talks between Israel and Egypt but observed that if Washington and Cairo were not in a hurry, there was nothing Israel could do. He said he expected Secretary of State Alexander Haig to visit the Middle East this spring but had no plans for himself to visit Washington. "I shan't invite myself," he said.

Begin spoke in response to questions at a Foreign Press Association luncheon here. He dealt with a wide range of subjects but stressed Israel's difference with the Reagan Administration's view that the Arab-Israeli issue is not a top priority matter.

"The Mideast and its periphery is an area of supreme strategic importance" and "it should be the highest interest of the free world ... not to be taken by surprise," Begin said. "But if somebody wants to wait, if anybody thinks they've got time to solve the Israel-Arab conflict, what can Israel do?"

He insisted that the U.S. must implement its commitment to create a multi-national peace-keeping force for Sinai. It is an "integral part of the (Egyptian-Israeli) peace treaty ... It should be carried out of course before we withdraw to the international border," Begin said, referring to Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai due in April, 1982.

NEW TUITION CREDIT BILL HAILED

By Ben Gallab

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (JTA) — Rabbi Moshe Sherer, president of the Agudath Israel of America, hailed the announcement today that a new tuition credit bill was being introduced in the Senate Finance Committee, adding that the Orthodox agency's nationwide campaign to win support for passage of the measure was being accelerated.

The announcement was made this morning at a press conference in Washington in the Senate building at which the co-sponsors of the bill, Senators Patrick Moynihan (D. N.Y.) and Robert Packwood (R. Ore.), explained the bill's purpose. Sen. William Roth (R. Del.) also attended the press conference.

Packwood said at the press conference that he had spoken to President Reagan and members of his administrative staff and that they had indicated to him that they support "this bill."

Rabbi Menachem Lubinsky, Agudath Israel director of government and public affairs, who attended the press conference, said it was also announced that a companion bill, co-sponsored by Representatives Guy Vander Jagt (R. Mich.) and William Cotter (D. Conn.) would be introduced in the House shortly.

An "urgent appeal" to American Jews to support the legislation was made by Prof. Larry Katz, chairman of the Campaign to Relieve Independent Education (CRIE). Sherer said CRIE is a special project established by Agudath Israel recently to work for passage of the Moynihan-Packwood bill. CRIE consists of a network of state coordinators and committees in 30 states, he said.

Significance Of The Bill

Katz, dean of the Baltimore University Law School, said the Moynihan-Packwood bill would permit parents of children attending non-public schools to claim a tax credit for tuition. He said the credit would be calculated at the rate of 50 percent of the tuition paid by the taxpayer to one or more eligible schools for himself, his spouse or any of his dependents.

Katz said that, under the bill, the credit would amount to \$250 by August, 1982 for full-time undergraduate college, vocational, elementary and secondary students and would be raised to \$500 by August, 1983. The credits would apply for each eligible student.

Noting that the measure was introduced in Congress several times in the past and was voted on most recently in 1978, Katz said the Jewish community should rally behind Congressional approval at this time, more than ever before. He said that the financial plight of the middle class and lower-income parents has become acute, adding that "tuition tax credits would be only a small measure to relieve the enormous burdens particularly peculiar to Orthodox Jews because of skyrocketing costs for such items as kosher foods."

Katz also declared that tuition tax credits was "not only a fundamental issue for America because it involves freedom of choice in education, but for Jews it takes on added importance because this is an opportunity for one Jew to help another."

He added that of the 100,000 children estimated to be attending Jewish day schools nationally, a large number come from large families

which are desperate for any measure of relief from "the ravages of inflation."

Sees A Favorable Climate

Sherer said Agudath Israel has been working closely with the United States Catholic Conference and other pro-tuition organizations in coordinating its campaign. He said Agudath Israel was committing a great deal of its resources because "it is optimistic that tuition tax credits will pass this time around."

He said the organization based its optimism on the "favorable climate" he said had been generated for such legislation following last November's election. He said both President Reagan and Vice President George Bush are in favor of tuition tax credits.

Sherer also referred to encouragement based on the new conservative Congress, noting that of the 62 Senators who voted for tuition tax credits in 1978, 35 voted in favor. He said Agudath Israel was hopeful that many of the new conservative Senators, who supported tuition tax credits during the 1980 election campaign, would provide the added measure of support required for passage.

He said that in the House, of the 235 members who served in 1978, 144 voted for the measure in 1978 and that "the profile" on new Representatives indicated that a large number favor tuition tax credits.

Cites Problem Of Economic Squeeze

In a related development, Rabbi Bernard Goldenberg, chairman of the executive staff of Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools, said he attended a luncheon meeting in Washington on Feb. 19 for which Terrel Bell, the new Secretary of Education, was host. Others attending the luncheon included representatives of major non-public school organizations, representing independent schools, Catholic parochial schools, Lutheran schools and the Council for American Private Education (CAPE). Goldenberg is immediate past president of CAPE.

Goldenberg said the tuition tax credit proposal was one of the topics discussed at the luncheon. He said Bell favors the proposal.

Goldenberg, in reporting on the luncheon meeting said inflation and rising tuition fees were forcing lower-income and middle class parents out of the Hebrew day school system, making "a mockery" of the concept of choice in education. He said "American society cannot allow private education to be a haven only for the rich."

PERU SUGGESTS OIL COOPERATION

JERUSALEM, Feb. 24 (JTA) — The establishment by Israel and Peru of a joint oil producing corporation in Peru was suggested yesterday by Peruvian Vice President Javier Alva Orlandini at a meeting here with Premier Menachem Begin. Begin promised to pass the proposal to Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Orlandini also proposed joint projects in the fishing and agricultural fields. He said Peru was rich in both land and water but lacked the technical know how to produce sufficient food. Orlandini refused to comment on the possible purchase of Israeli fighter planes by Peru. He said the subject was not discussed at his meeting with Begin.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Groups of Israeli and Egyptian teenaged students are to exchange visits during the coming months. The youngsters will be housed by private families during their stay in Israel and Egypt.