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U.S. CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO LINK ISRAELI SITUATION IN LEBANON

By Joseph Rolakoff

WASHINGTON, March 18 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration has replied to criticism of its refusal to link Israel with the shelling by Christian forces in south Lebanon Monday that inflicted casualties on United Nations peace-keeping personnel by citing "many terrorist attacks" on Israel and observing that the Middle East situation is "very complicated."

State Department spokesman William Dyess was asked yesterday why the U.S. had condemned the shelling by Maj. Saad Haddad's forces as "outrageous actions" but refused to condemn Israel which allegedly supplied Haddad with weapons.

"The position in the Middle East is very complicated," Dyess said. "Israel has been subject to many, many terrorist attacks and we try to look at the Israeli situation with that very much in mind. I'm not going to spell out to you here our position in this matter. That will be done in the UN Security Council," he said.

The Security Council has been asked by Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to take up the matter of Haddad's shelling which killed two soldiers of the Nigerian contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and wounded 11 other Nigerian troops and nine Lebanese army regulars and civilians.

Discussing another Middle East matter, Dyess confirmed that the U.S. has informed Saudi Arabia of its willingness to supply that country with surveillance aircraft "of a type and number to be determined." He said Saudi Arabia requires the equipment for "protection of its oilfields" but no decision has been made and he does not know when the matter will be reported to Congress.

Dyess said U.S. military personnel are in Saudi Arabia to train the Saudis in the use of equipment purchased from the U.S. Questioned about a report that some 300 Americans are in that country with American AWACS surveillance planes, Dyess said he would check into the report.

FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGES STRIP U.S. CITIZENSHIP FROM TWO MEN ACCUSED OF WAR CRIMES

PHILADELPHIA, March 18 (JTA) -- Federal district court judges in Philadelphia and Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; yesterday stripped U.S. citizenship from two Ukrainian-born men who had lied about their participation in Nazi concentration camps during World War II in order to gain admission into the United States.

In the U.S. District Court here, Judge Louis Bechtle ordered that Wolodymyr Osidach, a 76-year-old retired Philadelphia slaughterhouse worker, be denaturalized. In Fort Lauderdale, Judge Norman Roettger issued a denaturalization order for Fedor Federenko, 73, of Miami, who was accused of concealing his role as a Ukrainian guard in the Treblinka concentration camp.

Roettger yesterday reversed his 1978 ruling in favor of Federenko following a 7-2 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court Jan. 21 that the govern-

ment only had to prove that Federenko had lied about his past when he entered the U.S. in 1949 and did not need to prove that he had participated in the beating and shooting of Jewish prisoners.

In the Philadelphia case, Osidach was tried in a non-jury civil action here last fall. He was accused of concealing his role as an officer in the Ukrainian police force, a force which actively helped the Nazis send Jews to their deaths, in order to enter this country in 1949 and later to obtain citizenship.

Pleased With Decision On Osidach

"We are very, very pleased with the decision," said Neal Sher, deputy director of the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations who prosecuted this case, according to a report by David Gross, news editor of the Philadelphia Jewish Exponent.

Sher noted that the Osidach case was the first such case his department had handled from the very start. "Once Judge Bechtle's opinion is final, once the defense has exhausted its appeals, we will move to have Osidach deported," he said.

Osidach will certainly appeal the decision, defense attorney Louis Konowal indicated. "What the court did was to attempt to justify the government's prosecution and substantial expenditure of money by ordering denaturalization of Mr. Osidach on some vague theory which took the court in excess of 110 pages to bootstrap and justify," Konowal said in a prepared statement. "The court's conclusion is clearly erroneous."

Warns Of Consequences

The defense attorney warned that this decision, along with the Supreme Court decision on Federenko, should serve "notice" on "Jews and gentiles alike, who were in the unfortunate predicament of attempting to survive under Hitler's occupation of their homeland that they are subject to denaturalization and deportation solely because of their either active or passive involvement in any organization, either voluntarily or even as a member of an underground organization."

Osidach, like Federenko, entered this country under the Displaced Persons Act. He swore at the time that he had worked as a dairy technician in the Ukrainian village of Rawa Ruska during World War II. Later he admitted to having been a member of the Ukrainian police. He insisted, however, that his only function had been that of an interpreter.

Essence Of Judge's Ruling

In his written opinion, Judge Bechtle said that the evidence presented at the trial proved that Osidach was a police officer who commanded other police officers in the Nazi-led and Nazi-organized Ukrainian police force. "The court finds here that Osidach's role as fulltime, paid and armed interpreter for both the German gendarmes and the Ukrainian police made him a necessary link between the Germans and the objects of their persecutions -- the Jews in the town of Rawa Ruska," Bechtle wrote.

The judge also concluded that Osidach's role "constituted participation in acts of mental persecution against civilians in that town."

During the course of the trial eyewitness testimony, by Holocaust survivors showed that Ukrainian police helped the Nazis guard Jewish slave laborers, round up thousands of Jews from the Rawa Ruska ghetto and march them to the train station where they were sent to the death camp, Belzec, some 20 miles away.

Osidach, during the trial, insisted that the Ukrainian police did no such things. "We had nothing to do with the Jews," he testified. Bechtel, however, decided that Osidach's testimony was "not credible or believable and is totally contrary to substantial and credible eyewitness testimony."

ORTHODOX SYNAGOGUE GUTTED, CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE DAMAGED BY FIRE OF 'SUSPICIOUS' ORIGIN

NEW YORK, March 18 (JTA) -- Rabbi Joseph Polish, of the Astoria Center of Israel, said today that he was "determined to conduct services tomorrow night and uninterrupted throughout the year" in the 300-family Conservative congregation in the Astoria section of Queens despite extensive damage to its main sanctuary last night from a fire that erupted in and destroyed an Orthodox synagogue next door.

The 60-year-old synagogue of Congregation Mishkan Israel of Astoria was gutted by the blaze that Lt. Michael Kimchak of the Fire Department termed of "suspicious" origin. Polish told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that his synagogue sustained damage from flames and smoke that spread from the adjacent building and water sprayed on both buildings by the fire fighters.

Polish said that two 20-foot stained glass windows were destroyed. But he would not "even try to estimate" the damage in terms of dollars at this point and said it was "impossible to predict" when the main sanctuary would be usable. Nevertheless, he said, Purim services will be conducted tomorrow night in other parts of the building such as the library and board room, and services will continue over the Sabbath and regularly thereafter.

Polish said "I have formally invited" the members of Congregation Mishkan Israel "to utilize our facilities in our library" for worship or "to attend our services," but so far he has had no reply. "I will be in touch with them today," he said.

Max Karp, president of the small Orthodox congregation, could not be reached for comment. Polish said the congregation has no rabbi. The fire that destroyed the two-story brick building ruined its six Torah scrolls and silver ornaments. The remains of the scrolls and silver artifacts salvaged from the blaze were taken to the local police station for safekeeping.

Polish declined to comment when asked if he thought the fire was of suspicious nature. "That's an unfair question," he said, adding that it was up to the Fire Department to determine if there was arson. He could recall no recent acts of vandalism or threats against his congregation.

But there reportedly were some incidents of vandalism against the Orthodox synagogue recently and a Greek church nearby was set on fire. Both congregations are located in what Polish described as a "mixed" neighborhood in which Greeks, Italians and Jews are the largest ethnic groups.

ISRAEL REJECTS UNIFIL CHIEF'S DEMAND THAT HADDAD REMOVE HIS FORCES AND THAT ISRAEL SHOULD HALT AID TO CHRISTIAN ENCLAVE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 18 (JTA) -- Northern area commander Maj. Gen. Avigdor Ben-Gal today rejected a series of demands put forward by United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) commander Gen. William Callaghan at a meeting requested by Callaghan which was held in Nazareth.

Callaghan demanded full freedom of action for his multinational force in southern Lebanon, withdrawal of Lebanese Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian militia forces from four posts they occupy athwart a route used by terrorists to move southwards towards the Israeli border, and a halt to Israeli aid to the Christian enclave north of the border.

The meeting between the two generals was described as tense, with Callaghan, of Ireland, adopting what participants described as a "hostile attitude." The meeting was called to discuss the situation in southern Lebanon following clashes between the UN and Lebanese army forces and the militia, in which two Nigerian soldiers were killed and 11 others wounded, as well as nine local residents and Lebanese soldiers.

Ben-Gal told Callaghan the tension in the region had been brought about by the new UNIFIL commander's actions in changing the status quo reached by his predecessor, Gen. Emmanuel Erskine, of Ghana. Lebanese soldiers have recently moved southwards, creating tension between the Syrian-backed and largely Moslem soldiers from Beirut and the mainly Christian militiamen. The UN forces have also brought forward anti-tank guns and mortars in what Haddad has described as an offensive posture.

Tough Talk By Callaghan

Israeli Radio quoted Callaghan as telling Ben-Gal that unlike his predecessor, Erskine, who had not succeeded in his task, he (Callaghan) was a "European General of experience" who would manage to implement the mandate given him by the UN Security Council even if it meant violent clashes with loss of life.

He was quoted as saying he had ordered the Lebanese army to take up positions along the Israeli-Lebanese border. Christian militia sources said that Callaghan had recently been behaving as though he was the owner of southern Lebanon and made no effort to try and talk with the militia forces or reach an understanding with them.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori said he would await a full report on the conversation between the Israeli and UN generals before commenting in detail. But he added that nobody could present Israel with an ultimatum. "We do not want any change in the status quo, and we will not abandon Major Haddad," he said.

Zipori said the UNIFIL had been unable to keep the terrorists out of the south Lebanon region. "We handed over to UNIFIL an area free of terrorists, and there are now hundreds of terrorists in the area held by UNIFIL," he said.

Meanwhile, southern Lebanon was reported quiet but tense today, with the Lebanese soldiers withdrawing westwards for some distance but holding unofficial talks with the militiamen with whom they clashed this week.

PERES FAVORS EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

LONDON, March 18 (JTA) -- Shimon Peres, leader of Israel's Labor Party, last night tried to

ease the growing strains between Israel and Britain by saying he had nothing against a European initiative to promote peace in the Middle East. "Europe and England can play a positive role to bring us together with our neighbors," Peres told the Anglo-Israel Association's annual dinner at the Savoy Hotel, at which the other guest speaker was James Prior, Britain's Employment Secretary.

Peres cautioned, however, that such an initiative had to be "in the right direction" and should aim at bringing Jordan rather than the Palestine Liberation Organization into the peace process. He noted that Europe had recently made the mistake of entering negotiations with "an imaginary PLO of smiles, promises and hopes," while ignoring the "real PLO" which launched terror attacks on women and children and was dedicated to Israel's destruction.

In an indirect reference to reports that Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington will meet PLO leader Yasir Arafat later this year, Peres warned Britain not to pay attention "to the nice lunches that the PLO gives to some European leaders." It should judge the PLO in the way that it judged the Irish Republican Army, he added.

Claiming that the season was right to build "a different infrastructure in the Middle East," Peres said that in the next five or six months there was an opportunity to prepare a Middle East peace policy.

But he was worried about the longer-term dangers presented by the introduction of nuclear weapons into the hands of irresponsible leaders, the Soviet thrust to the Persian Gulf in quest of oil, and the spread of fanatical religious movements. If peace was not achieved in the next 10 years, Peres warned, Europe will find that the Middle East has become "a fire that it cannot put out."

HAIG: U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL MAY HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SINAI PEACEKEEPING FORCE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 18 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Alexander Haig informed Congress today that American military personnel may be required to participate in the international peacekeeping force in Sinai in support of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. He said the U.S. is now consulting with the Egyptian, Israeli and other governments about the composition of the force but he would not "pre-judge" the outcome.

Haig will discuss this problem in Cairo and Jerusalem when he visits the Middle East, beginning April 3. He suggested that Israel's security requirements must be met to fulfill the terms of the Egyptian-Israeli treaty.

Under the Camp David agreements, the U.S. guaranteed that an international military force will be stationed for an indefinite period in Sharm el-Sheikh and in the northern reaches of Sinai when Israel withdraws from those areas in April, 1982. The U.S. agreed, under the Camp David formula, that if the United Nations Security Council does not provide such a force -- now considered a dead letter in view of a certain Soviet veto -- it would arrange for an international force itself.

According to the latest reports, the White House is preparing plans for a force of about 2000 men, half of whom would be Americans. Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Fiji would contribute the remainder. Israel is insisting on

American participation and on a force of about 4000 men. Egypt, on the other hand, is vehemently opposed to a U.S. force in the area, which includes the two Israeli air bases in northern Sinai and wants a force limited to several hundred men.

Appearing before the House Foreign Affairs Committee today in defense of the Reagan Administration's foreign assistance program for the coming fiscal year, Haig was told by Rep. Paul Findley (R. Ill.) that he has "grave concern" about American forces in Sinai. "I see no prospect," Haig told Findley, of a UN peacekeeping effort "being rejuvenated" because the initial effort "fell on the spear of a Soviet veto."

He added, "This is a problem for the parties themselves to determine but I doubt seriously that Israel would ever withdraw from the Sinai without a peacekeeping force from which they could take security comfort."

Haig said that while he shared Findley's concern over Americans stationed there, he believes that "to support the peace process, to be sure Israel will be able from their own perspective to withdraw, to be sure that the concerns of Egypt are met, it may require some American participation in that peacekeeping force. But I don't want to pre-judge it. We have a year in which to work it out and we are working at it now."

Issue Of Arms To Saudis

With respect to the U.S. intention to supply Saudi Arabia with additional equipment for its 62 F-15 planes, Haig said it was "bipartisan" and that he had consulted with former Secretary of State Edmund Muskie and former Defense Secretary Harold Brown on the matter during the Presidential transition period. He said that additional equipment is a "necessary augmentation of Saudi defensive policy" and in support of American policy "because of a long unsettlement in Saudi Arabia with respect to American inconsistency as they viewed it."

In that connection, Haig spoke of "our failure to stand up to Soviet inroads in countries around Saudi Arabia."

BEN-ELISSAR RESIGNS HIS POST

TEL AVIV, March 19 (JTA) -- Elihu Ben-Elissar, Israel's first Ambassador to Egypt, returned home Tuesday night after resigning his post to allow him to run in the election to the Knesset.

Under Israel's election law, would-be candidates serving in civil service, army or police posts must resign at least 100 days before the poll. With elections to take place on June 30, the 100-day countdown begins March 22.

Meanwhile, reports from Cairo today said the Israeli pavilion at the Cairo International Trade Fair continued to be a great attraction. Two symposia held in the pavilion today -- on plant disease and irrigation methods -- drew large crowds of participants. The influential October magazine today published a five-page colored supplement of Israeli advertisements, the first time ever in an Egyptian publication.

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) -- Members of the Security Council have been trying since Monday to reach a consensus statement condemning the killing of two soldiers of the Nigerian contingent of the United Nations Truce Force in Lebanon, but their efforts have failed so far over whether to mention Israel as responsible for the tragedy. According to sources here, the United States, while condemning the attack by Christian forces headed by Maj. Saad Haddad, is unwilling to endorse a statement citing Israel.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF AUSTRALIA

By Joseph Polakoff

(Part Four Of A Six-Part Series)

MELBOURNE, March 18 (JTA) -- Zionism is thriving in Australia despite some internal squabbling. In his 71-page report last May to the Zionist Federation of Australia's 29th biennial conference, the president, Robert Zabłud, observed that the rivalry for position of authority between Sydney and Melbourne has been reduced by establishing Zionism's "seat" in Sydney while the federation's administration remains in Melbourne.

More importantly, Zabłud noted, "during the past two years a number of federations throughout the world received special emissaries from Israel sent to reactivate and revitalize them. There was not even a suggestion that such emissaries should come here. Indeed Australia was held up as an example to others."

Uneasiness And Concerns

"Despite Zionism's strength, the growth of religious feeling and success in the educational processes in the major Australian cities, there is uneasiness and there are concerns. Geoffrey Green, president of the State of Victoria (Melbourne) of the Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society, observed to this reporter that the 1976 national census showed a slight decline in the number of Australians who identified themselves as Jews.

He pointed out that in the 1971 census, 64,000 Australians said they were Jews. Australians are not obliged to report their religious affiliation. Green thought the census returns indicated that some Jews have ceased to think of themselves as Jewish or have declined such identification for other reasons. A study of the census figures is being undertaken with new statistics emerging from the 1981 count by the community's statistician, Walter Lippmann of Melbourne (no relation to the late American journalist).

At the Foreign Ministry in Canberra, this reporter was told Australia's estimated Jewish population is "well over 100,000." Jewish leaders consider 70,000 as close to the number of committed Jews. They speak of future population growth as uncertain.

Sam Lipski, who is an encyclopedia of information in his capacity as head of Australian Jewish Publications in Melbourne, believes staunch adherence to Judaism will continue strong over the next five or 10 years. "Beyond that, who knows," he said. Observing that "we have zero population growth," Lipski pointed out that Russian immigration and Orthodox Jews with their desire for large families have become important factors towards replacing the losses that the low birth-rate generally is causing.

"The Melbourne community is extremely vigorous," Lipski said. "It has a strong sense of its own identity, strong sympathy for Israel. There is continuing movement of Jews between Israel and Australia and a fine youth exchange program."

A special facet of Melbourne's Jewish life is its Jewish Socialist Bund. The approximately 200 families, mostly of Polish origin, affiliated with the Bund speak and actively promote the use of Yiddish. They are atheistic and non-believers but are vociferously Jewish, support Israel and are intensely active in Jewish communal affairs, Lipski observed.

While Australia's "media have deteriorated alarmingly in the last two years" in their treatment of Israel, anti-Semitism on the campuses -- fed by the infamous United Nations resolution equating Zionism with racism, the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," and the bracketing of Nazism with Zionism -- is being countered with some success.

"Jewish students are appreciating anti-Semitism in a way my generation didn't know," the president of Australia's Jewish Executive Council, Isi Liebler of Melbourne, said. In general, he added, the campus situation in the past year reflected "continued erosion" of the anti-Zionist extreme left. He credited the Jewish student movement as being "largely responsible" for that success.

About a million of Australia's 14 million inhabitants are estimated to be Moslems, mostly of Lebanese origin. The remainder is mostly Syrian or Palestinian. The anti-Israel, pro-Palestinian propaganda is spread by their purveyors whenever they believe they have someone who may be sympathetic to their views.

This was indicated by a taxi driver in Sydney. On a ride to the International airport, he almost immediately launched into a disparagement of Australia's "pro-Israel" policy which he claimed was responsible for unstable economic conditions in the country.

Having said he was from Lebanon, although he indicated his Palestinian origin, his passenger questioned him about events in Lebanon. The driver attributed all of Lebanon's agonies to Israel and Zionist propaganda. Near the journey's end, he became confused on his facts and couldn't explain why Palestinian Arabs were fighting Lebanese, why Syrian troops were in Lebanon, and why Iraq and Iran were at war. As the passenger was paying the cab fare he told the driver, "I'm a Zionist." The driver looked crestfallen. "I should have known you're a Zionist," he said, as he pocketed the money.

(Tomorrow: Part Five)

EGYPT WEEK IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, March 18 (JTA) -- With an array of exhibitions of Egyptian paintings, sculptures, tapestry, dance and films, an exposition of ancient and modern Egyptian culture has been opened in Washington. Mayor Marion Barry has proclaimed this week Egypt Today Week. The celebration was officially opened Monday by Jihan Sadat, wife of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

The program is sponsored and organized by the Middle East Institute, the Smithsonian and Meridian House International. Programs of this kind to help international understanding were begun by the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1977 with a program featuring Canada, Mexico, Japan and Belgium were featured in later years.

VIENNA (JTA) -- An Austrian academician warned here of the "subtle forms of everyday fascism" that he said are "creeping up even within the democratic parties" and urged that they be fought. Prof. Anton Pelinka spoke at a meeting of the Anti-Fascist Committee attended by some 200 persons from all over Austria last weekend. He said it was necessary to differentiate between outright fascist groups such as the Aktion Neue Rechte (ANR) and the National Democratic Party (NDP) and the less overt groups which insinuate themselves into democratic institutions. All political parties must fight these attitudes jointly, he said.