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GREEK MINISTER VISITING ISRAEL FIRST GREEK OFFICIAL TO DO SO

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 19 (JTA) -- Greek Agriculture Minister Athanasios Canellopoulos, the first Greek minister to visit Israel, is due to meet Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir during his four-day visit. He arrived last night at the invitation of Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon.

Greece does not have full diplomatic relations with Israel and Canellopoulos declined to speculate on the possibility that his visit may lead to such relations. Greece is a competitor for Israeli agricultural exports in Europe, with the competition likely to become more serious for Israel with Greece's recent entry into the European Economic Community (EEC).

Canellopoulos said that his country would like to learn from Israel advanced farming methods. He noted that Greece's EEC membership presented problems for Israel. "It is a challenge for you... You have to organize relations with our country," he said.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT ASSAILED FOR ADMISSION THAT LORD CARRINGTON WILL MEET WITH THE PLO LEADER

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 19 (JTA) -- Conservative Members of Parliament who support Israel last night angrily attacked the government's admission that Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington would probably meet Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat later this year. Members of Parliament shouted "disgraceful" when Sir Ian Gilmour, MP, the government's foreign affairs spokesman, confirmed in the House of Commons that such a meeting might happen when Britain assumed the revolving chairmanship of the European Economic Community (EEC).

Sir Hugh Fraser, chairman of the Conservative Party's pro-Israel lobby in Parliament, challenged Gilmour to declare that the British and European initiative in the Middle East peace process had gone totally into abeyance.

Gilmour refused to do so but, in what appeared to be a sign of discomfort caused by American disapproval of the European initiative, he admitted that the initiative had only come into being when it looked as though the Camp David process had seemed to be in abeyance. He added that he hoped that Camp David was not in abeyance.

Gilmour also came under pressure from Winston Churchill, MP, another Conservative backbencher, who claimed that the PLO was no more representative of the wishes and aspirations of the Palestinian people than the Irish Republican Army (IRA) is of the Irish Catholics in Northern Ireland.

Hotly rejecting this parallel, Gilmour said that the IRA enjoyed virtually no popular support in Ireland but that if Churchill doubted the amount of support for the PLO on the West Bank, refugee camps and elsewhere "he should go there and find out." Answering another question, Gilmour said:

"I do not believe to cut off contact with the PLO is likely to bring about a possible settlement."

The British government's Middle East policy will come under further pressure when U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig visits London April 9 and 10 after his first Middle East tour since taking office.

PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE LEADER URGES REAGAN TO 'RECONSIDER' ARMS SALES TO SAUDIS BUT EXPRESSES RELUCTANCE TO MOUNT A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

LOS ANGELES, March 19 (JTA) -- Howard Squadron, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, called upon President Reagan to "reconsider" the "very questionable decision" to provide extra fuel tanks and Sidewinder missiles for American-made F-15s due for delivery to Saudi Arabia.

At a special meeting yesterday of the President Conference held here at the invitation extended by the Jewish Federation-Council of Greater Los Angeles, Squadron told 350 local representatives of Presidents Conference member organizations in southern California that there was "deep disappointment at the announcement that the Reagan Administration is proposing new arms sales to Saudi Arabia."

At the same time, however, Squadron said, the Presidents Conference would be reluctant to press a national campaign against the arms sale if Israeli representatives made it clear that concessions from the U.S. offsetting the arms sale were acceptable to them.

He said that "on an issue of such vital importance to Israeli security we would have to consider very seriously whether to mount a campaign against the sale, even though we strongly object to the principle that solemn assurances to the Senate made by one President (President Carter) can simply be ignored by the next President less than three years later."

Squadron, who is also the president of the American Jewish Congress, said he had written to Reagan, asserting that such sales were "harmful to American interests, dangerous to the cause of Middle East peace and threatening to our country's friend and fellow democracy, Israel."

Assails The European Initiative

In his address, Squadron also assailed the West European "initiative" for Mideast peace which he said would "undermine the Camp David process and contribute to the delegitimization of Israel." He urged the Reagan Administration to resume the Mideast peace talks by calling Egypt and Israel back to the negotiating table.

He added: "Western Europe's effort, led by Britain and France, to insert itself into the Middle East peace process comes as a challenge to American leadership in the Middle East. It is also completely unacceptable to Israel. The European effort to force Israel to return to the 1967 borders, to redvide or internationalize Jerusalem, to make Israeli security dependent on foreign troops or foreign guarantees, and to bring the terrorist Palestine Liberation Organization into the negotiations is an absolute capitulation."

lation to the Arab world." Squadron observed that "appeasement of Hitler did not work in the 1930s, and appeasement of the Arab states will not work today. It is up to the Reagan Administration to express this position as strongly as possible to our West European allies."

FOCUS ON ISSUES JOB SECURITY FOR YORDIM

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 19 (JTA) -- The recent recommendations by the Knesset's Immigration and Absorption Committee -- calling on all Israeli and Zionist bodies abroad to fire yordim and halt any action encouraging yerida -- have put Zionist organizations and Jewish leaders here in an uneasy position.

Zionist leaders here, interviewed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, claimed that the recommendations are unrealistic, unattainable and too severe. All said that they do not intend to fire any Israeli employes they might have, pointing out that such action is not only "unfair" but a violation of American law.

The recommendations by the Knesset committee were issued in Jerusalem three weeks ago. The committee defined yordim as Israelis who have settled overseas permanently or who lived away from Israel for more than five years.

Says Recommendations Are Too Harsh

"The recommendations are much too strong and too harsh and will not solve the problem of yordim," Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, claimed. The committee's recommendations called specifically on the WZO not to employ yordim in its educational institutions.

Mrs. Jacobson said, in that connection, that there aren't any yordim in WZO institutions and that the teachers employed by her organizations are shlichim (emissaries) from Israel.

She pointed out, however, that Jewish communities and Jewish centers across the United States employ Israelis as Hebrew teachers. As to the recommendation to fire yordim, Mrs. Jacobson said that American Jewish organizations are bound by U.S. law that prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race or national origin. "And that means you can't refuse to hire or fire a yored," she said.

"Most of us feel," Mrs. Jacobson stressed, "that instead of talking of yordim we should talk of yerida," and how to prevent it.

UJA Leaders Astounded

In its recommendations, the committee asked the United Jewish Appeal to abolish immediately its "Israeli Department," which the recommendations said, is active among Israelis living in the United States.

"The UJA has no national program or fund-raising among yordim in the U.S.," a spokesman for the UJA said, claiming that leaders of the organization were "astounded" to read that they have an "Israeli Department."

The UJA spokesman also claimed that the organization does not employ yordim. The only Israelis working at the UJA, he said, are security guards who are students at American universities and are employed at the UJA on a temporary basis.

Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the American Zionist Federation, said that he does not believe that any Zionist organization will go

along with the "blanket recommendations" concerning yordim. The issue of yordim "is a complicated one, and the question of firing a yored is not easy," he observed. He said there are no former Israelis employed in his organization but even if there were any, he does not believe they should be fired. Sternstein said, however, the AZF does not intend to hire yordim in the future.

The committee's recommendations were also addressed to Israeli diplomatic missions abroad. Those missions, however, have been practicing for some years a policy barring the employment of yordim.

This policy was reaffirmed by Shmuel Moyal, the spokesman for the Israel Consulate in New York. He said the Consulate here, like other Israel Consulates and Missions in the United States, employs only Israeli students who are in this country for less than five years. He also said that Israeli institutions in the U.S. employ the spouses of official shlichim from Israel.

REPORT PERES MET WITH HASSAN

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 19 (JTA) -- Israel Television disclosed tonight that Labor Party leader Shimon Peres held a lengthy meeting with King Hassan of Morocco in Morocco today. Peres had earlier, on Tuesday, met with a brother of Jordanian King Hussein in London. Peres, who returned to Israel tonight from a five-day visit abroad, declined to comment on this report.

The television report said that Peres, who arrived in Morocco last night and met with Hassan alone outlined his Labor Party's "Jordanian option." The king inquired about the status of Jerusalem and Peres reportedly told him a Labor government would offer to implement autonomy first in the Gaza Strip, and would be ready to discuss Jerusalem with Saudi Arabia.

Peres is reported to have gained the impression from his talks with Hussein's brother that Jordan did not completely reject the Labor Party's "Jordanian option" but would disclose its attitude only if official talks were held.

ISRAEL, HADDAD ACT TO DEFUSE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 19 (JTA) -- Israel and Maj. Saad Haddad, commander of the Christian militia, acted today to defuse the situation in south Lebanon where quiet prevailed but the atmosphere remained tense. Haddad's gesture was to free a Lebanese army officer his forces had captured earlier in the week but at the same time he warned the Beirut government to keep its army out of the southern region that he controls.

Israel sent notes to the U.S. government and to the various governments contributing soldiers to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) stressing that Israel was not interested in escalating tension in south Lebanon and was trying to restrain Haddad whose artillery inflicted casualties on UNIFIL soldiers Monday.

But the Israelis said they did not have complete control over the Christian commander. Haddad said in a letter to the Lebanese army chief of staff that the army would do better to maintain order in Beirut and replace the Syrian-led Arab peacekeeping force deployed in most of Lebanon than to move into the south. He confirmed to reporters that he received a letter from Premier Menachem Begin urging him to exercise "restraint." But he said the letter was "unclear" and he did not know exactly what Begin wanted of him.

According to Haddad, the Lebanese army units had provoked trouble in the south. He noted that Israel always reacted by military means when terrorists shelled its villages, implying that he had the same right when the Lebanese army interfered with him.

Meanwhile, Gen. William Callaghan, commander of UNIFIL, denied today that he had made any demands at his meeting with the Israeli commander on the northern front, Gen. Avigdor Ben-Gal, yesterday. But an Israeli army communique referred to "demands" and said they were "rejected on the spot."

WASHINGTON MAYOR'S REMARK THAT FEDS WOULD HAVE MOVED QUICKER IF DEAD CHILDREN IN ATLANTA HAD BEEN JEWISH, SPARKS CRITICISM

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 19 (JTA) -- The White House and representatives of Jewish organizations here took strong exception today to Washington Mayor Marion Barry's remark yesterday that if the 21 Black children murdered in Atlanta "had been Jewish, the federal government would have moved much faster" to help solve the crimes.

"If they had been anything except Black they would have moved faster," Barry said at a press conference. He made his statements in response to a reporter's question as to whether he stood by similar views he expressed earlier this month about the Atlanta tragedies.

A White House spokesman, Larry Speakes, responding to an inquiry by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said that President Reagan said several days ago in the course of a conversation about the Atlanta killings, "Let's get one thing straight: This Administration is color blind."

Hyman Bookbinder, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, said that for Barry "to talk about the Jews and imply that we are all safe and protected is an outrage. We are going through a period of serious escalation of vandalism against Jewish places of worship in this country. I regret that he is being this careless in his articulation. It is especially painful to me to hear things like that knowing how silent the world was when six million Jews were killed."

Statement Termed Insensitive

A statement by Amy Goot, community consultant of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith's Washington-Maryland regional office, said that the ADL is "dismayed" by the Mayor's remark and described it as "particularly insensitive and inappropriate" when "overt anti-Semitism is significantly increasing in the Washington area and throughout the country."

The ADL statement said, "The Mayor's subsequent explanation that he had not meant to single out Jews but felt the government would have reacted quicker if the children had been 'anything but Black' is a divisive remark that can only cause racial polarization in our country. We urge the Mayor to exercise the responsibility that is incumbent upon the leader of citizens of the nation's capital."

In a letter to Mayor Barry, the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington said that "as all the critics of your previous statements have indicated, your charges are demonstrably false." The letter, signed by Council president Bert Silver, also said that "the Jewish community deeply understands and empathizes with your sense of anguish and outrage at the murders of

young black children in Atlanta." But, the letter, continued, "what is most disappointing and upsetting about your statement is that you have chosen a moment of national anguish and tragedy, one which threatens the very social fabric of society, to further divide our community."

Claims The Mayor Meant Any White Children

Alan Grip, Barry's press secretary, said that Barry "is not trying to say that whites don't care. He is saying that in his guts his perception is that had they been white children, the federal government might have been inclined to provide the help faster than they did. He did not mean to single out Jews. He meant if they had been anybody -- and went on to say if they had been anybody."

Declaring that "clearly this is not a racial issue," a White House source told the JTA. "What we've done is unprecedented. Clearly this (the Atlanta killings) is a local matter. We set a precedent by becoming involved because this is such a tragedy."

The source noted that the Administration a month ago allocated \$1 million through the Health and Human Services Department and another \$1.5 million last week for police and other services in Atlanta. In addition, the FBI assigned a team to co-operate with the Atlanta police and a task force was set up under Vice President, George Bush who went to Atlanta for a first hand assessment for President Reagan, the source said.

Some observers here felt that Barry, who is Black, was voicing a feeling by others in the Black community that the federal government was slow to respond to Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson's request for help because the children were Black and Jackson is Black.

DAYAN READY TO RUN IN THE ELECTIONS

TEL AVIV, March 19 (JTA) -- Former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said today that he has decided to run in the June 30 elections at the head of a new centrist political faction yet to be formed. But he will not make a formal announcement until he returns from a trip to Spain early next month.

Addressing the Foreign Press Association here, Dayan said he needed time to examine the proposed list and the political, economic and social platform which it will present to the electorate. He said of the new faction, "We have been called a center list but we are not bourgeois. We are a labor movement but not a party." According to Dayan, the list will be composed of workers, academicians and "Orientals, not just because they are Oriental but because they are good people."

He did not identify any of the names on the list but said he wanted to make sure they are all compatible with his views and would stand by their decision to join him. He said the new faction would not seek to join a coalition government, whether led by Labor or Likud. "We shall be in opposition and vote for or against either Labor or Likud on the merits of the case," he said.

Dayan's platform is expected to incorporate his plan for Israel's unilateral implementation of autonomy on the West Bank which was rejected by the Likud government while he was still a member of the Cabinet. According to the latest public opinion poll published March 13, a list headed by Dayan would win 19 Knesset seats if elections were held now, mostly at the expense of the Labor Alignment.

VIENNA (JTA) -- Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat will be invited to attend an International Socialist Youth Festival here June 5-9, according to Austrian newspapers.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF AUSTRALIA

By Joseph Polakoff

(Part Five Of A Six-Part Series)

MELBOURNE, March 19 (JTA) -- From 1973 to last October, some 4,300 Jews arrived in Australia from the Soviet Union. Considering the Jewish population of Australia totals only 70,000, the Soviet inflow represents more than five percent of Australia's Jewry. This is a much higher proportion -- perhaps almost four times as many -- than the number of Jews who came to the United States. In the same period, about 90,000 Soviet Jews immigrated to the U.S., or about one-and-one-half percent of America's estimated six million Jews.

What brings the Soviet Jews to Australia? "Favorable climate and economic opportunity," an immigration expert explained to this reporter in the Foreign Ministry in Canberra. Noting that Australia is absorbing "a constant flow" of Soviet Jews, this official said: "we regard their arrival as a humanitarian program and accept them under favorable conditions since they came under strong Jewish community support. If there were no community support, there would be more difficulty in their entry and the number allowed to enter would be much less," he said.

While Australians such as that official appear generally to regard Soviet Jews much like other immigrants, since Australia is rapidly becoming a polyglot nation, too, Jewish communal observers offered a variety of assessments ranging from deep pessimism about their ultimate commitment to Jewry to the outlook that they will fill the gaps in the population caused by assimilation and desertion.

Statistically, the immigration flow, the distribution of the immigrants in Australia, and the Jewish population as a whole are being studied by Walter Lippmann of Melbourne (no relation to the late American journalist) whose report is awaited with much interest. Lippmann was for 20 years president of Australia's Jewish Welfare and Relief Society.

Situation Of Soviet Jews

In Sydney, where a thousand or more of the emigres live, Soviet Jews are considered "basically Jewish." They have organized a Jewish club and conduct a restaurant. About one in three Soviet children -- below the Australian national Jewish average -- attend Jewish schools from kindergarten through senior high school. Inter-marriage was said to be "fairly rampant." Those who marry in the synagogue belong in the main to Orthodox congregations. As in the general population, divorce is "fairly high." However, young Russian Jews were reported as looking for their roots in Judaism.

In Melbourne, one is informed, are some 2,800 Soviet Jews of whom some have assimilated rapidly into Australian life. They are in the trade and service industries, like restaurants, and some are taxi drivers. "They are not terribly Jewish and only a few are circumcized," one observer noted. "They are Jewish only because their passports say so."

But another pointed out that "most of the Russian Jews" are still coming out of their shells. Jewry to them means persecution. They do not yet feel they are living in a country where that won't happen. A relatively high en-

rollment of the immigrant children in Jewish schools also was noted as a positive sign.

In Sydney, signs are multiplying that Soviet Jews are drawing closer to the established community organizations. While they are forming their own groups -- like the Shalom Club which was described as "very vigorous" with some 200 families associated with it -- they are less prone to shy away from communal contact, although it is still difficult to have them develop the kind of associations community leaders would like.

In the giant Victoria Market in Melbourne, for example, there are Soviet Jewish merchants and other Jewish entrepreneurs. A Polish-born haberdasher, in Australia for 33 years, pointed out Russian Jews in the market but he said he did not know them because they like to be by themselves.

Lubavitcher Working With Soviet Jews

As in other countries, the first concern of Jewish leadership for Soviet Jews after the immediate problems of resettlement is to foster continuing identification with the Jewish community. "Their level of Jewishness -- knowledge of history, culture, and certain articles of religious faith -- is very low among them," an observer said. "This is characteristic of virtually all Soviet Jewish immigrants." Still, "most marriages within the migrant group have been 'in-faith marriages' conducted by rabbis."

The Lubavitcher, who came to Australia about 25 years ago, were said to be actively working with Soviet Jews. In Melbourne, the Lubavitcher conduct two schools with some 800 children. While most of the immigrants are in Sydney and Melbourne, a surprisingly high number -- about 300 -- were reported living in Perth, about 3,000 miles across the Australian continent from Sydney. Adelaide is receiving some families, as is Brisbane. Canberra has one Soviet Jewish family whose breadwinner is a physicist employed by an Australian federal agency.

A summation of Australian observations on Soviet Jewry can be put this way: "Russian Jews are coming to Australia because of easier material conditions for them in Australia than in the United States. After living for 60 years with communism, they are terribly materialistic and very difficult to work with since they were brought up in a system of deceit and lying. But, in the long run, they will probably become much like the rest of us, both as Australians and as Jews."

(Monday: Part Six)

LOEB MAY BE NEXT ENVOY TO DENMARK

WASHINGTON, March 19 (JTA) -- John Loeb, Jr., a New York investment banker and a member of one of America's most prominent Jewish families, has been selected by President Reagan to be his Ambassador to Denmark. White House sources have disclosed. Loeb has been actively associated with prominent Republican candidates over the years and was an advisor to Nelson Rockefeller when Rockefeller was New York's Governor.

The Loeb family traces its American origins to 1680 when Sephardic forebears arrived from the Dutch colony of Curacao. Loeb himself was instrumental in founding the exhibit on the Jewish community in early America that the Daughters of the American Revolution opened in Washington and is now scheduled for exhibition in 12 American cities. Loeb was chairman of the Zeev Jabotinsky Centennial Dinner last November in New York in honor of the Zionist leader. He is a trustee of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and a member of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy's Executive Committee.