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HAIG, IN ISRAEL, OUTLINES AGENDA FOR TALKS WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 5 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who arrived here tonight from Cairo for a 24-hour visit, told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport that the purpose of his trip was to "discuss with our friends how we can meet the threat posed by the Soviet Union and its surrogates in this region."

He also reaffirmed U.S. commitment to Israel's security and said that during his talks with Premier Menachem Begin and other Israeli officials he will discuss the creation of a multi-national peacekeeping force in Sinai and the resumption of the stalled autonomy talks between Egypt and Israel. But these issues may be overshadowed by the American Administration's larger strategic concerns in the region, its anxiety over the tense situation in Poland and the new eruption of fighting in Lebanon where Syrian forces have been battling Christians since last week.

The Israelis are alarmed by the Administration's apparent decision, disclosed last Friday, to sell Saudi Arabia five highly sophisticated surveillance aircraft -- AWACS -- in addition to advanced equipment to improve the combat capability of the 62 F-15 fighter-bombers that the Saudis have purchased from the U.S.

(Reports from Washington over the weekend said Israel is asking the Reagan Administration for an additional 15 F-15s and access to the American spy satellite to offset the advantages accruing to the Saudis. Because of its severe economic burdens, Israel is said to be requesting the planes in the form of a grant rather than in military purchase credits.)

Situation In Lebanon

The Cabinet devoted much of its weekly meeting this morning to the situation in Lebanon. Sitting as a ministerial defense committee, the proceedings of which are secret, the Cabinet heard reports and assessments on the fighting in Lebanon from Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan and chief of military intelligence Gen. Yehoshua Saguy. Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori told reporters after the meeting that Israel was in contact with the U.S. and other Western powers to exert influence on Syria to stop shelling Christian targets.

The fighting is mainly in the Beirut area and northern Lebanon, but shooting between the Christian militia and Palestinian leftists or Lebanese army regulars in south Lebanon spilled over into Israel last night. (See separate story.)

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir was quoted by Israel Radio before today's Cabinet session as saying that Israel "would not sit idly by" if the Christian community in south Lebanon is threatened. But he was less definite about an Israeli commitment to help the larger Christian communities in the north which are under bombardment from the Syrians and leftist elements, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

A tougher stance was taken by Moshe Arens, the hawkish chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, who insisted, in a separate interview, that Israel's commitment covered all Christians in Lebanon, not just those living along Israel's border. According to foreign media reports, Israel has been aiding Christians in the north.

Issues Of Autonomy Talks, Multi-National Force

Israel Radio reported this morning, in what was apparently an inspired leak from official sources, that the government will press Haig to reactivate the autonomy talks. According to the report, Israel will stress Cairo's responsibility for the suspension of the negotiations during the past year. But there is little expectation here that any meaningful progress could be made toward an autonomy agreement before the Knesset elections June 30.

Some progress has been made apparently with respect to the multi-national force to police Sinai after Israel completes its withdrawal in April, 1982. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Michael Sturner, who visited Cairo and Jerusalem last week, is credited here with resolving many of the differences between Israel and Egypt on the issue.

Both sides now, reportedly, agree on a force of several thousand men which would include a major contingent from the U.S. Washington must now pursue its efforts to convince other friendly nations to contribute troops. An American technical due in the area this week to survey Israeli military installations in eastern Sinai with a view to their use by the multinational force.

HEAVY FIGHTING BETWEEN SYRIAN, CHRISTIAN FORCES IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 5 (JTA) -- Several Katyusha rocket shells exploded in Upper Galilee last night sending children in several towns into bomb shelters. But life returned to normal this morning. Residents of Metullah, Israel's northernmost town, insisted that it had never been otherwise. They said they were "used to the noise" from the artillery exchanges between Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian forces in south Lebanon and Palestinian terrorists and other leftist elements.

Israel is more concerned with the heavy fighting between Syrians and Christian elements in northern Lebanon. The Christian village of Zahle has come under heavy bombardment as have the Christian quarters in Beirut with loss of lives reported from both places.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that while Israel would not intervene in Lebanon's internal affairs, it might be forced to act if the fighting in the north spread south toward its borders and posed a direct threat to Israel's security. On Friday, the Foreign Ministry condemned the Syrians' apparent all-out attack on Christians in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Christian villagers along Israel's border have reportedly protested against a statement by Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori that stressed Israel's commitment to the south Lebanon

ese led by Haddad but did not sufficiently, in their view, indicate Israel's determination to aid the larger Christian communities in the north.

Israel carried out a series of pre-emptive raids against terrorist targets in south Lebanon last week. They were undertaken apparently to forestall expected terrorist raids on Israel planned for the Passover holidays and Independence Day.

DAYAN: RESOLVING ISRAELI-ARAB DISPUTE, FORMING REGIONAL DEFENSE AGAINST SOVIET INTERVENTIONISM ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE

By William Saphire

NEW YORK, April 5 (JTA) -- Former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said today that he saw no conflict between continuing efforts to resolve the Israeli-Arab dispute and the formation of regional strategic defenses against Soviet interventionism in the Middle East which is the larger American concern.

Dayan, who announced yesterday that he will run in the June 30 Knesset elections at the head of a new political party called Telem (Movement for National Renewal), also stressed that Israel would play its role in regional defense with or without a mutual defense treaty with the U.S.

Appearing live from Tel Aviv on the ABC-TV "Issues and Answers" program, Dayan said in reply to questions that he did not think it would be too complicated to coordinate the different local countries together with Israel to meet the Soviet threat while seeking a solution to Arab-Israeli issues, the largest of which is the Palestinian problem.

"We shall play our role" in the event that the Soviets attempt to expand in the region "by itself or through someone else. Israel will fight for its independence with our forces," he said.

Dayan said, however, that he considered the Reagan Administration's intention to provide sophisticated weaponry to Saudi Arabia to be a "wrong step." "I personally am totally against it," he said. "They (the Saudis) don't need it and can't use it." He said he was concerned that the Saudis might provide the equipment to a third party to attack Israel instead of using it to defend themselves against the Russians. He said the same applied to the supply of sophisticated weapons to Saudi Arabia by West Germany.

Favors U.S. Presence In Mideast

Dayan said he favored an American presence in the Middle East and that any Israeli government would provide facilities. But he was not in a position to say what form the American presence should take because he was "not acquainted" with that aspect.

However, he strongly supported American participation in the multi-national peacekeeping force to police Sinai after Israel withdraws in April, 1982. He also thought the force should have aircraft at its disposal and utilize the Israeli-built air bases at Etzion and Eilat.

"We'd like the air bases used by the Americans. Who else can use them in an efficient way? It is not against Egyptian or Israeli interests," Dayan said. He said Israel favored a multi-national force of about 4000 men, half of which would be supplied by the U.S. and the rest by other countries. He mentioned Canada, Australia and New Zealand in that connection.

He said, in reply to a question, that if agreement is not reached on a multi-national force by next year's deadline, he would recommend that Israel not withdraw from Sinai. "We must have a force to rely on, not just undertakings by Egypt," he said.

Asked if this could precipitate a crisis with Egypt, Dayan said he did not think it would come to that. Because of Israel's position, he predicted that the Egyptians would reach an agreement on the multi-national force even if they were not happy with all of its aspects.

He said that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty had lived up to his expectations, adding that he hadn't "expected too much ... that we'd be kissing each other twice a day." But, he observed, "There is diplomatic relations, free traffic. I don't think even after (Israel's) withdrawal is completed and if (Anwar) Sadat is replaced by another President, I don't think the peace treaty will be shaky. It will hold. It is a firm treaty."

Explains His Party's Positions

Asked why he has returned to politics after saying, when he resigned as Foreign Minister in October, 1979, that he would not seek another term in the Knesset, Dayan said he was motivated mainly by the need to resolve the Palestinian issue.

He said two major planks in his new party's platform were "to implement autonomy for the Arabs without agreement, right away, which the present government won't do, and not to allow the Labor Party to withdraw from some parts of the West Bank without a peace treaty." That would be "a bad mistake," he said.

He said he was aware that the Arabs on the West Bank and Gaza Strip "want much more. They want total withdrawal and a Palestinian state. But not able to achieve this, they would like very much that we let them control their own life in their own villages." He said implementation of autonomy meant withdrawal of the military administration from the territories but not Israeli military forces.

Dayan also insisted that Israel has the right to keep its settlements on the West Bank "for good, forever and ever," to expand existing settlements and build new ones. "I don't think this is a major obstacle or a minor obstacle" to peace with the Arabs. "They realize we have to live together, as in Jerusalem. We are not after replacing them or driving them away," Dayan said.

Issue Of International Terrorism

Dayan said he did not agree with Secretary of State Alexander Haig's position that the Soviet Union is behind all international terrorist movements. "I'm not sure Soviet Russia is directly responsible, though the Palestine Liberation Organization is being trained in Soviet Russia," he said. He said he thought the U.S. should define terrorism and "try to stop it -- not let some get away -- totally forbid it."

In that connection he observed that Lebanon would never resolve its problems as long as armed terrorists are allowed to roam freely there. With respect to Syria's presence, he said "I don't think we should try to take over Lebanon to push Syria back. But as long as Syria is in Lebanon, Lebanon will not have independence."

Asked how he thought the attempted assassination of President Reagan on March 30 could have been prevented, Dayan indicated that the U.S. should have tighter gun laws. "I think you have too many nuts, too much free arms. You allow everybody to have guns, sometimes 5-6 guns, like cow-

boys. You should forbid carrying arms except by special license," Dayan said.

Asked if he was satisfied with the Reagan Administration's relations with Israel, Dayan said it was "too early" to judge but except for the issue of arms to Saudi Arabia "we have no complaint". He added that he did not sense any diminution of support for Israel in the U.S.

Dayan appeared on "Issues and Answers" shortly after Haig's arrival in Jerusalem. He told the interviewer that he had an appointment with the Secretary of State directly after the broadcast but declined to say what issues he might raise with him. "It will be a private and personal conversation," Dayan said.

In another television interview today, Jean Kirkpatrick, the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that U.S. policy in Lebanon is based on "fairness to everybody." She said the U.S. wants to try to bring about an end to the "tragic circle of violence." To do that, the United States will work with other interested parties to "cool it and restore peace to the area," she said.

JEWISH LEADERS WARN OF BITTER FIGHT IF ADMINISTRATION GOES AHEAD WITH ARMS SALES FOR SAUDIS By Ben Gallab

NEW YORK, April 5 (JTA) -- A warning that a "bitter fight is inevitable" if the Reagan Administration implements plans to enlarge its arms package to Saudi Arabia highlighted expressions of deep concern among Jewish leaders about those plans.

The warning came from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in a statement by its chairman, Howard Squadron, which noted "with alarm" reports that the National Security Council had recommended to the President sale to Saudi Arabia of air-to-air re-fueling capacity, Airborne Warning and Command Systems (AWACS), "in addition to Sidewinder missiles and additional fuel tanks for the F-15 airplanes sold to Saudi Arabia" after a sharp Congressional battle in 1978.

Squadron added that "if the report is accurate and the recommendation is acted upon, an even more bitter fight is inevitable. The Jewish community will oppose such a proposal vigorously."

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the (Reform) Union of American Hebrew Congregations, denounced the proposal, charging that a resulting arms race would bring the area closer to war and jeopardize Israel's security.

He said that "all the arms we provide the Saudis will not save Prince Fahd any more than American arms saved" the throne of the Shah of Iran. He said the "real danger" to Saudi Arabia is that providing "the most sophisticated weapons" to a state "so vulnerable to internal subversion" tempts "a takeover by revolutionary groups."

Mideast Peace Prospects Endangered

The American Jewish Committee urged the Reagan Administration to cancel the scheduled sale, on grounds the weapons transfer would "endanger American interests and prospects for peace in the Middle East." Maynard Wishner, AJC committee president, also urged both houses of Congress "to vote resolutions of disapproval" if the Administration went ahead with the sale.

Wishner said the AJC committee favored U.S. strategy to counter the threat of Soviet expansion in the Mideast but, he added, "this

is quite different from selling the Saudis advanced weaponry" which would then be outside U.S. control, or from selling the Saudis special equipment transforming the Saudis' F-15s "into weapons of attack."

The American Jewish Congress said the reported National Security Council recommendation "represents not only a breach of prior assurances that such weapons would not be provided to the Saudis, but constitutes a reckless repudiation of the traditional, long-standing commitment to Israeli security."

In the statement, Henry Siegman, AJC executive director, also asserted that the weapons would give the Saudis "a military potential that goes far beyond anything genuinely related to internal security or defensive purposes." He called the proposal "an irresponsible escalation of the Middle East arms race."

Arms Will Not Deter Soviet Aggression

Ivan Novick, president of the Zionist Organization of America, stressed that no amount of armaments provided to Saudi Arabia would serve "as a deterrent to Soviet aggression in the Middle East." He added that the "stockpiling" of "huge arsenals of destruction" by Saudi Arabia and other Arab states "does constitute a direct threat to Israel and to American Middle East interests." Novick warned that the AWACS would make it possible for Saudi Arabia "to penetrate Israel's security structure, placing America's most dependable ally in a precarious position."

HERMAN YABLOKOFF DEAD AT 77

NEW YORK, April 5 (JTA) -- Herman Yablokoff, the Yiddish actor whose plays and songs delighted generations of audiences in the Yiddish theaters on Second Avenue on the Lower East Side during the 1930s and 1940s, died here last Friday at the age of 77. Yablokoff, who wrote, produced and directed many of the plays in which he appeared, had the gift for being equally at home in drama, comedy, and soap opera, frequently shifting from one to the other in quick succession in the same play.

Sometimes, at the height of a five-hander chief dramatic scene, he would ask the audience for advice on what song he should sing to express the dramatic moment. After listening to numerous suggestions he would ignore them all and break into the song that had, all along, been composed for the occasion.

Born in Grodno, Poland, Yablokoff came to this country in 1924 and settled in New York. Among the extravaganzas he wrote were "Der Payatz" ("The Clown"); "The King of Song"; "Goldela Dem Bakers"; and "Mein Veise Blum." He was in the Yiddish theater for more than 55 years, having begun playing children's roles at the age of 12.

Yablokoff did not limit his activities to the American Yiddish stage. He travelled extensively abroad and during a seven-month tour of 94 refugee camps in Germany, Austria and Italy in 1947 he gave 104 performances for 180,000 Jewish refugees, for which he received the United States Army Certificate of Merit.

Yablokoff was president of the Hebrew Actors Union, a post he held for numerous terms between 1945 and his death. The union, affiliated with the Associated Actors and Artists of America, was founded in 1900. He was also president of the Yiddish Theatrical Alliance. He also wrote and published his two-volume memoirs, "Around the World With Yiddish Theater," which won him the 1970 Zvi Kesel Prize for Yiddish literature.

TWO HISTORIC FESTIVALS IN YIDDISH CULTURE WILL TAKE PLACE ON CAMPUS OF COLLEGE IN SOUTHERN GEORGIA

By Mark Smith

ATLANTA, Ga., April 5 (JTA) — Two historical festivals, "Celebration of Jewish Culture in Georgia and the South" and "Festival of the Yiddish Spirit," featuring many of the world's leading Yiddish-Jewish writers, composers, performers and artists, will take place on the campus of Georgia Southern College in Statesboro May 17-20.

According to Bernard Solomon, associate professor of art at the college, "This is an unprecedented first meeting in modern history for Jewish cultural leaders from around the world at a time when Yiddish culture is in the very beginnings of a renaissance." Only twice before in modern Jewish world history has there been such a gathering, both times in Europe, he noted. The third is to take place in the rural south Georgia college town with fewer than 10 Jewish families.

Major Goal Of The Festivals

The major goal of the festivals, Solomon said, is to cite the impact of Yiddish culture on the arts generally "and to develop a sensitivity to and appreciation of contributions made by a single cultural minority living within the mainstream culture of the South."

The festivals, which will examine Jewish contributions in this region from colonial days to the present, will include readings of poetry and stories, art exhibitions, a theatrical production, a film series and a symphony concert featuring Jewish music. There will also be lectures and panel discussions on the state and the future of the Yiddish arts.

Among the international celebrities whose works will be show-cased are Nobel Prize-winning author Isaac Bashevis Singer; Yuri Sherling, director of the Moscow Yiddish Chamber Music Theater; Szymon Szurmiej, director and chief actor of the Warsaw Yiddish Theater; Cantor Isaac Goodfriend of Congregation Ahavath Achim in Atlanta, the only surviving member of his Polish Hasidic family after he escaped from a concentration camp; composer David Amram; art historian Moshe Davidowitz; scenic designer and theater historian Mordecai Gorelik; poetry columnist and author Rochelle Ratner; and singer-actress-director Naomi Pollack.

One Of The Outgrowths Cited

One of the outgrowths of the festivals, Solomon said, will be a series of videotape programs of various aspects of the event, to be made available to the Georgia Educational Network as well as the Public Broadcasting System. The festivals are funded in part by a \$25,000 grant from the Georgia Committee for the Humanities through the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Georgia Southern College International Cultural Outreach program. Dr. Richard Johnson, associate professor of communication arts at the college is director of the festivals, with assistance from Solomon.

Explaining the college's interest in the festivals, Solomon said: "In the past 10 years, the face of the rural South has changed. Although a wide variety of ethnic and cultural groups have lately settled in this area, the Jewish community of Georgia reflects waves of Jewish migration to

America beginning in the colonial period and continuing through the years to the recent immigrants of the Soviet Union." Among the visual arts on exhibit will be works by contemporary Jewish artists residing in the USSR.

N.Y. STATE URGED TO DENY ARAB CONTROLLED TAKEOVER OF TWO BANKS

NEW YORK, April 5 (JTA) — Manfred Ohrenstein, State Senate Democratic Minority Leader, has urged the State Superintendent of banks to deny the application of an Arab controlled cartel to take over two New York banks.

The banks, the Bank of Commerce in New York City, and the Community State Bank of Albany, are now owned by Financial General Bank Shares. There is currently a tender offer before the Federal Reserve Board by Credit and Commerce American Holdings and Investment, whose major stockholders are the Intelligence Director of Saudi Arabia and the Financial Advisor to the United Arab Emirates, to buy out Financial General.

In a letter to Banking Superintendent Muriel Siebert, Ohrenstein said such a takeover could cause a "non-competitive conduit for substantial deposits of petrol dollars, mostly at the expense of New York banks. While New York welcomes increases in the competitive market place the investors can hardly be said to be engaging in free-market competition, when the buyers are an indirect arm of a consortium of governments, drawing upon resources and laws that take them out of the realm of competition."

The Manhattan Democrat said that even if the Federal Reserve Board were to grant the application, approval would still be needed from the New York Banking Board. He expressed "disappointment" to find that New York had not registered objections to the merger, and said that he would call for a public hearing in the state when the application is made. Ohrenstein said the proposed merger would have a "severe negative impact" on both communities now served by the two banks.

The Democratic leader said that Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries wealth has been increasing rapidly, with assets reported to be almost \$400 billion for 1980 and something near \$70 billion invested in the United States. "With such large resources upon which to draw, the opportunity to manipulate — financial and political — is obvious," Ohrenstein said.

ERSKINE APOLOGIZES TO EITAN

TEL AVIV, April 5 (JTA) — Former United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) commander Gen. Emmanuel Erskine has apologized to Israeli Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan for an accusation by UNIFIL against Israel last December that Israeli soldiers had mutilated the bodies of five terrorists killed in a clash in southern Lebanon.

Erskine, who now serves as UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim's personal representative in Jerusalem and is the officer commanding the UN Truce Supervision Organization, wrote to Eitan last week: "I would like to take this opportunity to express ... my personal sincere regrets for UNIFIL's report of December 25, 1980, which was proved to be inaccurate."

The new UNIFIL commander, William Callaghan, met with Eitan last Friday in what was described as a mutual effort to defuse the tension between UNIFIL and the Israel Army arising out of the movement closer to Israel's border of units of the official Lebanese army.