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DEFENSE CHIEF CLAIMS ISRAEL'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES PROMPTED U.S. FRANCE TO INTERVENE IN LEBANON By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 9 (JTA) -- Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori claimed today that Israel's political activities resulted in the United States, and possibly France, finally intervening politically in Lebanon to halt the fighting between Syrian forces and Christian phalangists in Beirut and the Christian village of Zahle.

"It was following Israeli political activities that the U.S. spoke out," Zipori said in the course of a tour of Israeli villages near the Lebanese border. "For the first time in the Lebanon crisis, the American Secretary of State has spoken out openly and clearly, with a clear warning," Zipori said. "France, the traditional patron of Lebanon, which so far remained silent, has also spoken out. There is today a wider backing for the Christians who up till now have only enjoyed Israeli support."

Israel Will Continue Aid To Christians

He added that Israel would continue to help the Christians in Lebanon both physically and politically. The Israeli defense official was apparently referring to Secretary of State Alexander Haig's public condemnation of the "brutal" Syrian shelling of Zahle during his visit to Israel Monday. Haig said the U.S. was active at the highest diplomatic levels to end the bloodshed.

Haig also supported the deployment of Lebanese army regulars in the southern region. But Zipori said he understood that to apply to the region controlled by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), not the Christian and Shi'ite Moslem enclave controlled by Maj. Saad Haddad. According to Zipori, "It is clear to the U.S. and others that Israel supports the status quo in that (Haddad's) region."

But observers here noted that the latest ceasefire in Lebanon was only a temporary truce called to evacuate the wounded from Zahle and that it was far from certain that it would last. It is not known yet whether either the Syrians or the Christians believe they have achieved their objectives.

Syrian Objectives Not Clear

The objectives themselves are unclear. Some observers believe the Syrians may have launched their offensive against the Christians to test Israel's reaction and find out how far they could go in Lebanon without active Israeli intervention.

The Christians, for their part, may have been trying to find out how important to the Syrians was their complete control of the Lebanese valley lying between Beirut and Damascus. According to some foreign press reports, the Syrians reacted after Christians attempted to expand their zone into the region abutting the Syrian border.

But observers here also expressed doubts about the theory advanced by Haig that the Soviet Union persuaded the Syrians to attack the Christians at this time to divert attention from the crisis in Poland. The Russians know from past experience that they cannot always control events in the Middle East

once set in motion, the observers said. They also suggested that recent warnings from Damascus to Israel, that the Soviets would intervene if Israel interfered with the Syrians in Lebanon, was a trial balloon to test reactions in Moscow and in Israel.

MESSAGE FROM JEWISH GROUP IN IRAN

TEL AVIV, April 9 (JTA) -- Radio Teheran today broadcast a message from a group calling itself the "Jewish Union" appealing to Jews in Iran to hold only religious observances on Passover, according to Israel Radio monitors. The group said that Jews throughout Iran should not hold celebrations this Passover, in view of the war between Iran and Iraq. Instead, funds which would have been spent should be donated for the good of war refugees, the broadcast said. Only a small Jewish community is left in Iran, following the emigration of many Jews since the fall of the Shah.

AIRLINE UNIONS STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF JEWISH PILOT SUSPENDED FOR REFUSING TO FLY PLANE TO LIBYA By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 9 (JTA) -- Three airline trade unions representing flight crews, pilots, engineers and cabin attendants began a five-day strike today against a leading French air carrier which punished a Jewish pilot who had refused to fly his Boeing 747 to Libya last December with a cargo of arms, ammunition and spare parts.

The walkout was called in solidarity with Capt. Roger Dieleman who was suspended for 14 days without pay and reprimanded by the management of the Union Des Transports Aeronautique (UTA) which operates scheduled passenger and cargo service between France, Africa and the Pacific region. Dieleman, a veteran pilot, refused to take his plane to Sebba Airport in Libya, claiming that because he is Jewish, flying to Libya would jeopardize his safety because of that country's extreme anti-Jewish policies.

Dieleman argued that according to international conventions, all air crews flying to war zones or other danger zones must be voluntary. He was quoted as saying that his decision "was not political but a personal matter." He said he would continue to refuse to fly war material to Libya if ordered to do so again.

DISPUTE OVER WHETHER A TEEN-AGE GROUP IN BAVARIA IS NEO-NAZI By David Kantor

BONN, April 9 (JTA) -- Officials here and in Munich are in dispute over whether a teen-aged group in Bavaria that conducts para-military exercises is a successor to the outlawed "Wehrsportgruppe Hoffman," an overt neo-Nazi organization that masqueraded as a sports club. The group, which calls itself the "Bundeswehr Fan Club," has been drilling in uniform for several months in the Neuburg area on the Danube River.

It has been labeled neo-Nazi by Alex Wernitz, chairman of the Bundestag's Interior Affairs Committee, and by Karl-Heinz Hiersemann, vice president of the Social Democratic Party (SDP)

faction in the Bavarian state parliament. Observers and officials of various parties have suggested that the "Fan Club" is trying to recruit members and supporters of the Hoffmann group.

But Gerold Tandler, the Bavarian Minister of Interior, insists there is no evidence supporting that claim. "Up to now we have no information that this group is a politically motivated organization nor do we have information on contacts between the group and neo-Nazi activists," Tandler said. Nevertheless, the Bavarian state authorities have promised to keep an eye on Fan Club activities.

| KILLED, | INJURED BY BOMB BLAST

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 9 (JTA) -- A hand grenade thrown into a wedding hall on Mt. Zion last night fatally wounded an Arab waiter and slightly injured an eight-year-old child, Lior Cohen of Kiryat Shmona, who was one of the 200 wedding guests. The youngster was hospitalized but returned to the hall for the marriage ceremony which continued as planned.

The Arab victim was identified as Ali Hassan, 47, of Aroab village near Hebron. He was serving drinks to the guests when the grenade, of Israeli manufacture, exploded near him. He died later in the hospital.

Security forces which rushed to the scene arrested three Arab suspects. Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem also came and remained to congratulate the bride and groom, Niki Kadash, of Kiryat Shmona, and Robi Harris, an American student at the Nave Shechter Yeshiva in Jerusalem. "It is a tragicomic that an Arab gets hurt when terrorists try to disrupt a Jewish wedding," Kollek remarked.

Security sources noted an increase of terrorist activity in the Jerusalem area in recent weeks. They said the terrorists specialize in ambushing buses and throwing grenades. Two terrorists died recently while preparing explosives.

GUSH EMUNIM LEADER SAYS HE FOUND SUPPORT FOR GROUP'S WEST BANK PLANS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 9 (JTA) -- Rabbi Moshe Levinger, leader of the ultra-nationalist Gush Emunim movement in Israel, said here today at the conclusion of his 10-day visit to the United States that he raised "a substantial" amount of money from American Jewish supporters for his movement. He said he found "a great deal of support" for Gush Emunim's plans to increase Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria in general, and in Hebron in particular.

Speaking at a press conference at the Roosevelt Hotel, Levinger, who is also the head of the Kiryat Arba Jewish community in Hebron, said that during his U.S. visit he tried to convince American Jews to buy "land and houses in Hebron and other parts of Judea and Samaria." He said the response was favorable.

Levinger said also that he brought a new message to American Jews concerning aliyah: "American Jews must come on a mass aliyah to Israel. They should move to Israel in large groups, and Jewish communities here should relocate as one group and resettle in Israel."

120,000 PEOPLE AT BLESSING OF THE SUN CEREMONY AT THE WESTERN WALL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 9 (JTA) -- In what many veteran Jerusalemites say was the largest-ever religious gathering this city has seen in modern times, a police-estimated throng of 120,000 people marked the Birkhat Hachamah (The Blessing of the Sun) service at the Western Wall plaza at dawn yesterday.

The service -- comprising the recitation of a blessing and various Psalms -- is held only once every 28 years, on the day when, according to the Jewish calendar, the sun is in the exact same spot in the heavens as it was on the day it was created 5741 years ago.

The Western Wall ceremony was organized by Agudat Israel in Jerusalem, but it took on a national and political aura as thousands of people came up from Tel Aviv, Bnei Brak and other towns to join Jerusalemites converging on the wall before dawn.

By 5 am the entire Wall plaza and its approach road was solidly packed with worshippers. The sun, however, failed to cooperate -- the sky was overcast. Veteran Jerusalem rabbi and retired rabbinical Supreme Court Judge Shlomo Eliashiv requested especially fervent prayers from the crowd -- led by a well-known "Mekubal" (rabbi steeped in Kabbala), Rabbi Yosef Leib Sussman.

This seemed to prove effective, for soon enough a space opened up between the clouds and the sun shone through. The rabbis then led the gathering in an enthusiastic and devout rendition of the blessing.

A Deeply Moving Experience

Many participants said later they were most deeply moved by the sheer vastness of the gathering and the moment of poignant union when everyone joined in the blessing and prayers. For some veterans, the event was reminiscent of the Shavuot service in 1967 -- a few days after the Wall had been liberated by the Israeli army.

Because of the Agudat Israel "tinge," Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren did not attend this ceremony, but held a small separate one outside the Temple Mount. Other services were held at synagogues and on rooftops throughout the country. The radio and newspapers were full of elaborate astronomical and religious commentary on the scientific, symbolic and spiritual significance of this rare ceremony.

ADL REPORTS EGYPTIAN FIRM IS BOYCOTTING ISRAEL IN VIOLATION OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PEACE TREATY

NEW YORK, April 9 (JTA) -- An Egyptian public firm is pursuing the boycott against Israel despite the fact that it was lifted in the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director, said the conditions laid down by the Alexandria Water General Authority in Egypt in soliciting bids from foreign companies for piping were a "disturbing development" and hampered "peaceful relations."

In a letter to Ashraf Ghorbal, Egypt's Ambassador to the United States, Foxman pointed out that the water authority stipulated that any firm which supplies the pipes must not ship them on blacklisted vessels, on Israeli ships or on those vessels which go to Israeli ports or waters.

"This attempt by an Egyptian public company to continue the boycott against Israel, long after the government of Egypt has declared an end to the boycott as part of peace and normalization, surprises and concerns us," Foxman wrote. "It surely conflicts

with the theme of peaceful relations between the states."

Foxman asked Ghorbal to deal with the problem and to advise ADL "as soon as possible as to the rectification of this specific matter and a public enunciation of policy from your government."

HAIG CLAIMS HIS TALKS WITH ARAB, ISRAELI LEADERS HAD STRENGTHENED U.S. TIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 9 (JTA) -- The State Department refused to give any assessment today of Secretary of State Alexander Haig's trip to the Middle East, even though Haig was reported from Rome as saying that his talks with the leaders of Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia had strengthened U.S. ties in the region.

State Department spokesman William Dyess said any assessment will have to "wait until the Secretary's return" to Washington, expected Sunday night. He said there would probably be a press conference at the State Department next week.

Haig ended his Middle East junket in Saudi Arabia yesterday after apparently promising the Saudis that they will receive the five advanced aerial intelligence systems -- AWACS aircraft they have requested from the U.S. At the same time, correspondents travelling with Haig reported that the Secretary had stressed to the Saudis that the U.S. would ensure Israel's qualitative edge over the Arab states militarily.

Opening Gambit For Sale Of AWACS

This was seen as an opening gambit in what is expected to be a strong drive by the Reagan Administration starting next week to persuade Congress to support the sale of the AWACS to Saudi Arabia in addition to extra fuel tanks and air-to-air Sidewinder missiles for the 62 F-15 jet fighters the Saudis have purchased from the U.S.

Opposition is growing in Congress to the sales, particularly of the AWACS, because of fear stemming from the Iranian revolution that a similar upheaval could occur in Saudi Arabia and highly sophisticated American weapons could fall into unfriendly hands.

According to reports from correspondents in Haig's party, the U.S. has agreed to keep the four AWACS that were sent to Saudi Arabia last September, as a result of the Iraqi-Iranian war, along with their American crews and personnel numbering some 400 in Saudi Arabia until their own AWACS are delivered late in 1985. The Saudis reportedly want a lease arrangement by which they would contribute more to the maintenance of the four AWACS to ensure that the U.S. does not remove them from their desert bases should a crisis break out in any other part of the world.

Israel is strongly opposed to the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia because it fears they would deprive the Israel Air Force of the element of surprise in any conflict with the Arab states. The opposition in Congress centers on the lack of support by Saudi Arabia for the Camp David peace process.

Haig said throughout his Middle East trip that he has convinced the countries of the region that the common threat to the area comes from the Soviet Union. But the leaders of Jordan and

Saudi Arabia insisted in their talks with Haig that Israel is the chief contributor to instability in the region.

Haig arrived in London tonight for talks with Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher which will include the Middle East situation. British leaders reportedly will try to convince him that the Camp David process has run its course and that new initiatives are now required.

Visiting Other Mideast Countries

Meanwhile, several U.S. officials split off from Haig's party to visit other Middle East countries that were not on the Secretary's agenda to report on his trip. One of those countries, Syria, reportedly refused to receive Haig's emissary, but the report was not immediately confirmed by the State Department.

Iraq, another country on the list to be visited by a member of Haig's party also has no diplomatic relations with the U.S. But the visit there was preceded by the announcement by the State Department last week that the U.S. has approved the Boeing aircraft company's request to sell three 727 and two 747 commercial jets to the Iraqis for civilian use.

Sale Of Commercial Jets To Iraq In The Offing

The sale, too, must be approved by Congress because Iraq is on the American list of six nations that support terrorists. But Dyess, who made the announcement last week, stressed that Iraq has become a signatory to the anti-hijack treaty and refuses to allow aerial hijackers to enter its airspace or land on its territory.

Dyess said that Iraq already has 11 Boeing jets which are employed by Iraqi Airways and that there was no reason to believe that the five additional planes now to be sold would be used for any but civilian purposes.

He stressed that the \$185.6 million deal is an "important commercial transaction" and is needed to improve the U.S. competitive position in the Middle East. Dyess noted in that connection that most commercial aviation sales to that region last year were of the European-made Airbus.

AID CUTOFF TO SYRIA SOUGHT

WASHINGTON, April 9 (JTA) -- The subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, citing Syria's "aggression" in Lebanon, agreed today to cut off \$130.2 million in funds that had been allocated to Syria in previous years.

The subcommittee action, led by Reps. Tom Lantos (D. Cal.) and Millicent Fenwick (R. N.J.), must be approved by the full committee. It involves funds previously allocated through the Agency for International Development (AID) for road and sewer construction and rural electrification but never spent.

Lantos, in urging the action, noted that he agreed with Secretary of State Alexander Haig who, in Jerusalem this week, blamed the Syrians for the hostilities in Lebanon. However, a State Department official, Peter Constable, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East and South Asian Affairs, opposed the cutoff in the funds.

Lantos told the subcommittee that Syria is hostile to U.S. interests in the Middle East and supports organized terrorism. "The Syrian occupation forces make a travesty of international justice with their latest brutal attack on Lebanon's Christian community," he said.

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE URGES REAGAN TO SECURE WALLENBERG'S FREEDOM FROM THE USSR

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 9 (JTA) — A resolution granting Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat credited with saving the lives of 100,000 Jews in Hungary during World War II, honorary U.S. citizenship and calling on President Reagan to secure Wallenberg's freedom from the Soviet Union, was introduced in the Senate yesterday.

The resolution, by Sen. Claiborne Pell (D. RI), the ranking minority member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, co-sponsored by 40 other Senators, is similar to one introduced last month in the House by Rep. Tom Lantos (D. Calif.), which is co-sponsored by 255 House members.

In introducing the resolution, Pell noted that Wallenberg had gone on his mission to Hungary in 1944 at the request of then Secretary of State Cordell Hull. In January, 1945, he was seized by Soviet police in Budapest. The Soviet authorities deny that he is alive.

"For 36 years now, the Soviet Union has refused to account in a credible manner for the whereabouts and fate of Raoul Wallenberg," Pell said. He noted that in 1957 the Soviets finally conceded that he had been taken prisoner but claimed that he died in 1947. "More recent reports from former Soviet prisoners indicate that Wallenberg may still be alive today," Pell said.

"The U.S. owes a debt of gratitude to Raoul Wallenberg," Pell declared. "Since his humanitarian actions were undertaken at the behest of our government, it is appropriate that we express our appreciation for his unprecedented courage on our behalf by formally awarding him honorary citizenship, the highest honor we can bestow upon him. Certainly, the U.S. has an obligation to Raoul Wallenberg to try to secure for him the same freedom he brought to so many others."

CAREY PROCLAIMS 80 DAYS OF EDUCATION TO COINCIDE WITH 80th YEAR OF THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE

ALBANY, N.Y., April 9 (JTA) — Gov. Hugh Carey proclaimed "80 days of Education," coinciding with the start of the 80th year of Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe. A similar resolution was approved in the State Assembly, sponsored by Assembly Majority Leader Stanley Fink, along with Assembly members Howard Lasher and Helene Weinstein. The resolution was sponsored in the State Senate by Sen. John Marchi.

The period of the proclamation runs from April 15, corresponding to Nissan II, 5741, the Rebbe's 79th birthday, through July 4, the first day of his 80th year. More than 75 members of the Assembly and the Senate attended a special reception in the Legislative office building to mark the announcement of the proclamation. Rabbi David Raskin, chairman of the Lubavitch Youth organization, and Rabbi Shmuel Butman, LYO director, accepted the resolution.

Butman said that on July 4, 80 Lubavitch Mizvah-Mobiles will be in operation throughout New York.

MOYNIHAN MOVES TO PROHIBIT U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO TWO PLO FRONT GROUPS IN THE UN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 9 (JTA) — Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D. NY) announced yesterday that he will introduce an amendment to the State Department Authorization Bill for fiscal year 1982-83 prohibiting U.S. contributions to what he said were two Palestine Liberation Organization front organizations operating within the United Nations.

The two UN groups to which the Moynihan amendment would apply are the Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Special Unit on Palestinian Rights. Moynihan introduced the same amendment two years ago when it was unanimously adopted by both houses of Congress. The U.S. reduced its contributions to the UN by \$190,000 in fiscal 1980 and by \$228,550 in fiscal 1981, amounts equal to 25 percent of the budgets of the two UN units.

Moynihan observed yesterday that "the (Reagan) Administration omitted this restriction from its new budget. I intend to restore it, for the Senate does not want the U.S. to subsidize PLO operations at the UN."

WLADIMIR RABINOVITCH DEAD AT 74

PARIS, April 9 (JTA) — Judge Vladimir Rabinovitch, better known under his pen name of "Rabi", died Monday in a car accident. He was 74 years old. Born in Russia, Rabinovitch came to France as a child and became a judge in 1944. He was a prolific writer and journalist, an ardent Zionist and an energetic defender of Israel.

In 1979 he caused a small scandal when he published a book, "One Nation Too Many," in which he called for the creation of a Palestinian state and for Israel's withdrawal to its 1967 borders. Rabinovitch was a member of the French Magistrates Union and often served as spokesman for the French judiciary in matters relating to human rights which he ardently defended.

PARIS (JTA) — The French Foundation for Jewish Culture Wednesday awarded its first prize to historian Leo Poliakov. The award, a check for 50,000 francs (\$10,000) was presented on behalf of the jury by Nobel Prize winner Andre Lwoff. The prize was established at the initiative of several prominent Jewish personalities. Poliakov was born in Russia in 1910 and is considered a world expert on the history of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israeli exports to the U.S. during 1980 rose by 29.6 percent — a higher rate than its general exports throughout the world — to \$977 million, according to data supplied by the Ministry for Commerce, Industry and Tourism.

General exports rose by 25 percent to about \$5.5 billion. Exports to the U.S. represent 17.5 percent of the total. About half of Israeli exports to the U.S. are of polished diamonds. Exports in 1980 covered 37 percent of imports from the U.S., an increase over the 26.3 percent two years previously.

A four-part series, "The Jews of Hungary," by Rochelle Saidel-Wolk, will begin Sunday, April 12, in the JTA Bulletin.