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## PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH MAJOR EFFORT TO CONVINCE CONGRESS TO REJECT ARMS SALE TO SAUDIS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 23 (JTA) -- The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations declared today that it was ready to launch a major effort to convince Congress to reject the Reagan Administration's proposed multi-billion dollar arms sale to Saudi Arabia.

Howard Squadron, chairman of the Presidents Conference, made the statement after more than 30 Conference members met with Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger at the State Department. Weinberger stayed for only the first 15 minutes of the meeting but Haig remained through the entire 90-minute session.

Describing the meeting as being held in a "friendly atmosphere," Squadron said the two Cabinet members expressed the Administration's determination to go ahead with the sale of five AWACS reconnaissance planes and enhancement equipment for the 62 F-15 planes the Saudis had previously purchased from the United States. But they did not indicate when the Administration would officially notify Congress of the proposed sale, he said.

Squadron said the Jewish leaders expressed "our concern" on the dangers the sale would have for Israel and that the United States was not receiving anything in return from the Saudis to enhance the peace process in the Middle East. He said this included no promises for "a reduction of hostility toward Israel, a lessening of support for the PLO," or a lessening of opposition to the Camp David process.

### Tactical Steps Outlined

Squadron also said that the President Conference has already devised its arguments and allocated assignments among the 34 members in the Presidents Conference and six observer members. Once the Administration officially informs Congress of the sale, the Jewish leaders will begin visiting Senators and members of the House as well as writing letters and making telephone calls, he said.

"We are quite confident that a resolution of disapproval would be adopted if the matter came to a vote today," Squadron declared.

Senate Majority leader Howard Baker (R.Tenn.), after visiting Haig yesterday afternoon and President Reagan this morning, said that the situation in Congress on the proposed arms sale was "still to be won or lost." He said he was inclined to vote for the sale. Baker's advice on timing is believed to be crucial in the Administration's calculations on when to send the proposal to Congress.

### Rationale For Opposing The Sale

Squadron said that the Presidents Conference, which he said represented the broad cross-section of American Jewry, was opposed not only to the sale of the AWACS but to the entire package. He said that, as Americans, the Jewish leaders were opposed to the Reagan Administration going back on the promise that former Secretary of Defense

Harold Brown made to Congress in 1978, that when the 62 F-15s were sold to the Saudis nothing would be done to give the planes offensive capabilities.

Squadron said the fuel tanks and air-to-air missiles now being proposed for the Saudis do give the F-15s offensive capabilities. "The AWACS simply enhance the capability," he said.

The Jewish leader said that it would "make us more comfortable" if the AWACS were kept completely in American hands. He added that it would not be until 1985 that the delivery of the first AWACS will start and Americans will be needed to operate the planes for several years. However, he noted that the Reagan Administration is proposing an "absolute sale" and the planes will eventually be in the hands of the Saudis themselves.

Squadron said that the Administration's position on the sale, as explained by Haig and Weinberger, is that it is part of the global strategy to contain Communism, particularly in the Middle East with its vital oil fields. He said the Cabinet members said the sale would provide greater links between Saudi Arabia and the United States, make the Saudis more secure, and make it possible for Saudi Arabia to resist external threats.

Squadron charged that the sale of the AWACS could result in another situation like in Iran when sophisticated American weapons fell into the hands of a revolutionary regime. He pointed out that among persons attending the meeting today were two members of the Coalition for Reagan-Bush, Max Fisher and Gordon Zacks. He said they completely supported the position of the other Jewish leaders at the meeting. There have been reports of a split over approaches to the Administration between leading Jewish Republicans and the Presidents Conference.

## YAMANI WARNS MIDEAST WILL 'EXPLODE' UNLESS U.S. SHIFTS AWAY FROM SUPPORTING ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 23 (JTA) -- Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of Saudi Arabia, warned today that unless the U.S. changes its Middle East policy and shifts away from its support of Israel, "things will get out of hand and the area will explode. American and Western interests will suffer untold losses as a result."

In a sharply worded speech to a Foreign Policy Association luncheon at the Plaza Hotel here, the Saudi minister declared:

"To the Saudis, there are only two threats in this world -- international Communism and Israel. The first helps to reinforce our friendship with America while the second is a threat to that friendship. It is difficult to conceive of a compromise in a situation like this: The second (threat) is far more tangible and more evident than the first one and an actual danger is obviously worse than a potential danger."

### Says U.S. Support Of Israel Aids USSR

Contending that the Arab-Israeli problem is the obstacle to a U.S.-Saudi Arabian "perfect model" relationship, Yamani declared: "Israel is the opening through which the Russians slip into the Arab world. That is the Communists' entry visas to our countries. And the more support the U.S. gives

to Israel, the better is the climate for the Russians in the region. This is fully borne out by the pattern of Arab-Russian relations during the last three decades."

He added, "Given this, we in Saudi Arabia find it very strange to hear that the Communist threat is a justification for the special relationship between the U.S. and Israel."

Claiming that Russia is going to benefit from present Israeli policies, he continued: "When the U.S., due to internal political pressure, refrains from performing its duty in bringing peace to the area, it thereby serves the Russians' interests to the detriment of its own interests and perhaps those of Israel itself."

Yamani contended that the Saudis cannot explain why America is turning "a blind eye to Israel's behavior in Jerusalem, Islam's holiest point after Mecca and Medina." He said Jerusalem and Palestine "after all" are not only an Arab cause, "they are primarily an Islamic cause."

Noting that the Saudis are aware of the extent of the power of the "Zionist" lobby and the Jewish community and their influence on American public opinion, Congress and the Administration, he said that it is "strange" that the Jewish community should continue its blind support of Israel at a time that the rare opportunity for peace comes by and the Arabs expressed a real willingness to live with Israel "in a just and lasting peace that would insure for all the parties concerned, independence and security."

#### Urges 'Energetic Contribution' By U.S.

Yamani said there is a unanimous view in Saudi Arabia that peace in the Middle East will not be achieved without "America's energetic contribution" and without the U.S. changing its role "into a much more positive one." He did not elaborate what changes U.S. policy should undergo but contended that the Reagan Administration does not place as much emphasis on the Arab-Israeli issue as the Arabs would like to see.

Yamani did not touch in his speech on the controversy surrounding the Administration's proposed multi-billion dollar weapons sale to this country, including five AWACS surveillance aircraft which is encountering mounting opposition in Congress. But the AWACS issue was raised during the question period that followed the speech.

#### Confident Of AWACS Sale To Saudis

Yamani said that "unfortunately" the AWACS have become "a hot issue" but he was confident that they will be sold to Saudi Arabia with Congress approval. "This is the firm position of the Administration," he said, stressing that Congress will realize that it is in the U.S. interest to sell the AWACS to Saudi Arabia so that it can protect itself from any Communist attempt to seize its oil fields.

He described the AWACS as a "defensive instrument" and charged that the Israelis oppose the sale because they don't want "anybody to monitor them." He accused Israel of raising a storm over the issue in order to "milk more" from the U.S. Yamani stated under questioning that the real test of U.S. friendship is to see to it that the Arab-Israeli conflict is solved. He said the most acute aspect of that conflict is the plight of the Palestinian people who have been denied the basic right of self-determination."

#### ISRAEL SHELLS TERRORIST BASES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 23 (JTA) — Israeli naval vessels shelled the terrorist-held ports of Tyre and Sidon in south Lebanon last night while Israeli frogmen blew up a vessel in Tyre by planting explosives on its underwater hull. According to reports from Beirut, the bombardment lasted a half hour. Israeli forces returned safely to their bases without casualties, a military spokesman said.

Premier Menachem Begin announced, meanwhile, that he and Maj. Saad Haddad have reached a firm agreement that Haddad's Christian forces in south Lebanon will avoid clashes in the future with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and will try not to injure civilians in its attacks on Palestinian terrorists. Haddad, discharged today from a Haifa hospital after treatment for exhaustion, met with Begin at the Defense Ministry here.

The Premier told reporters afterwards, "It was agreed between us -- and I want to stress the words 'agreed between us' -- that there won't be any clashes with UNIFIL and that permanent efforts will be made to avoid any attempts to hurt civilian populations."

Israel has undertaken to help Lebanese civilians in the areas of fighting in south Lebanon to build bomb shelters and will also offer to assist them to repair their homes damaged in the recent shelling.

#### PARTIES SELECTING LISTS FOR THE JUNE 30 KNESSET ELECTIONS

By Hugh Orgel and Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, April 23 (JTA) — Political parties of vastly differing ideologies are selecting their lists this week for the June 30 Knesset elections in which a welter of splinter factions will be battling for seats against the major antagonists, Labor and Likud.

The Rafi faction, a breakaway from Likud headed by former Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz, voted last night to join former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's new centrist party, Telem. Hurwitz and Zalman Shoval have been guaranteed safe seats. A dissenting Rafi member, Yitzhak Peretz, refused to go along and said he would consult with colleagues on the possibility of forming a separate Rafi ticket. Others indicated they would prefer to return to Likud.

Telem's chances of becoming a major force in the next Knesset are diminishing rapidly according to public opinion polls. The latest survey gave the party a maximum of 4-5 seats in contrast to the 15 seats predicted by the polls when Dayan announced its formation earlier this month.

#### Tehiya Names Standard Bearer

Meanwhile, the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction named Tel Aviv University physicist Prof. Yuval Ne'eman as its standard-bearer followed on the list by Herut defector Geula Cohen and Hannon Porat, a leader of the Gush Emunim. Silva Zalmanson, a former Soviet prisoner of conscience, was placed 11th on the list and right-wing MK Moshe Shamir volunteered to occupy the 16th and last place. He expressed confidence that Tehiya will win at least 16 mandates.

Tehiya was formed in opposition to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and the Camp David accords. Ne'eman told a party rally on the West Bank yesterday that it "will fight for Jewish sovereignty over Judaea and Samaria as well as the Sinai."

At the other end of the political spectrum, Mapam, a partner in the Labor Alignment, named as candidates for ministerial posts in a Labor-led government two members who stand even further to the left than the party as a whole. They are veteran MK Chaika Grossman, who would like to be Minister of Social Betterment in the next government, and Eliezer Ronnen, chairman of the company for the redevelopment of central Jerusalem. Both had voted in the past for Mapam to break away from its alignment with the Labor Party.

Ronnen's selection by the party's central committee yesterday over Naftali Ben Moshe, the candidate favored by the Mapam leadership, came as a surprise. He is considered a representative of urban interests and is therefore unpopular with the Mapam-affiliated Kibbutz Artzi movement.

#### ADMINISTRATION OFFERS REASONS WHY AWACS WOULD NOT THREATEN ISRAEL WHILE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHIEF WARNS THEY WILL BRING MIDEAST TO WAR

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 23 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration continued today its attempt to convince Israel and its friends in the United States that the sale of AWACS electronic reconnaissance planes would not result in a "realistic threat to Israel." Meanwhile, the proposed sale was strongly attacked today by the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Charles Manatt, who charged it would bring the Mideast "one step closer to war."

The attempted reassurances came in the form of a statement read by State Department spokesman Dean Fischer. He listed the reasons why the AWACS would not threaten Israel as:

"AWACS will be used primarily to protect Saudi oilfields; essentially (it) is a flying radar platform which can detect and follow movement of airborne aircraft; it cannot detect militarily significant ground activity, and it will have no radio monitoring, photo reconnaissance or intelligence gathering capabilities; it could not be used with combat aircraft of other countries without extensive job training and U.S. supplied computer and communications equipment; Saudi AWACS operations will depend on U.S. spare parts, maintenance and support of operations; and an AWACS aircraft flying close enough to Israel to monitor its aircraft would be vulnerable to being shot down by Israeli fighter aircraft."

The statement concluded that "obviously prudent Israeli planners would have to take Saudi AWACS into account in their calculation. But the overwhelming impact of the sale will be to enhance Saudi defensive capabilities -- not to threaten Israel."

#### Urges Sophisticated Diplomacy, No Weaponry

The attack on the proposed sale came during a blast at the Reagan Administration's first 100 days in office by Manatt to the Women's National Democratic Club here.

"What is needed in the Middle East is not more highly sophisticated weaponry, but more highly sophisticated diplomacy in the tradition of the Camp David accords," he said.

"The Reagan Administration, and the Pentagon, ought not to bow to demands of the Saudis by providing them with offensive arms

which substantially endanger Israeli security as well as American interests."

Manatt charged that it "is not only dangerous, but unnecessary to sell the Saudis such sophisticated equipment," since the U.S. can continue the present system of owning and operating the AWACS. The U.S. has had four AWACS in Saudi Arabia since last September because of the Iranian-Iraqi war. "This serves the best interests of the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Israel without endangering any of them," Manatt said.

He also said that by giving the Saudis the AWACS, it "forever removes the vital element of secrecy so integral to the defensive strategy of Israel and would seriously erode its ability to defend itself against all of its neighbors who remain hostile." He said that the Saudis do not need the weapons since, if their oilfields were "seriously threatened, the Saudis would need outside help to defend them."

Manatt also said that the Democratic Party stands by its 1980 program which "stated our steadfast opposition to the sale of any offensive weapons to any potential or real enemies of Israel."

#### ANTI-ZIONIST CAMPAIGN IN POLAND SEEN AS AIDING SOVIET INTERVENTION

WASHINGTON, April 23 (JTA) -- A lecturer at Warsaw University stated here that the anti-Zionist campaign being conducted in Poland is an attempt "to legitimize Soviet Intervention" in that troubled nation.

Pawel Spiewak, who is also a member of the editorial staff of Wiesz, a prominent Catholic publication in Poland, reminded a B'nai B'rith audience yesterday at the International Conference Center that the Soviets conducted a similar campaign before invading Czechoslovakia in the 1960s.

Spiewak, here on a six-week visit under the sponsorship of the International Communications Agency, said that the anti-Semitic posters placed around Warsaw recently was the work of the secret police. He explained that although there are only about 7000 Jews remaining in Poland, some are members of an influential labor group, Solidarity, which the government seeks to discredit.

"Many people in Poland think that Jews are responsible for the establishment of Communist rule in Poland," Spiewak said. "Many Communists were Jews and many Jews were in the secret police in the Stalinist era. So now (some Polish people) want to say the responsibility for all the crimes of the Stalinist period is with the Jews. They want to say that the Communist Party is not responsible, mainly Jews, by some Jewish plot."

Spiewak, who spoke under the aegis of the International Council of B'nai B'rith, said that until recently there were no recorded accounts of anti-Semitism in Poland and that most Poles did not know that it existed. The Holocaust was written in terms of Poles being killed, he explained. The new wave of anti-Semitism is "especially troublesome because the Jewish community doesn't exist in Poland," he declared.

Spiewak added that the Poles can speak freely today and that "it is very important to discuss" anti-Semitism in terms of understanding and coming to grips with their past and to avoid making Jews the scapegoat again. He said that an effort to thwart that likelihood involves a number of Catholic intellectuals who are writing books and other publications about anti-Semitism in their country. In addition, he said, they are publicizing cultural activities of Polish Jews prior to World War II.

## TWO JURISTS DECRY CAPRICIOUS DECISIONS BY USSR CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF JEWS AND URGE FIRM U.S. ACTION TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION

CHICAGO, April 23 (JTA) -- Two eminent Chicago jurists who recently returned from the Soviet Union decried "capricious decisions" regarding the rights of Jews there and urged firm U.S. action to improve the situation.

U.S. District Court Judge George Leighton and attorney Elmer Gertz formed their opinions after meeting more than 20 leading Soviet Jewish activists and refuseniks during a two-week visit to the USSR made on behalf of the National Lawyers Committee for Soviet Jewry.

The experts in U.S. civil rights law, described several instances of the "random nature of decisions" in the USSR at a press conference at the Jewish Federation building.

### Examples Of Inconsistency

The first occurred on their arrival in Moscow. Gertz was allowed to enter the country carrying documents but copies of these documents were branded "anti-Soviet propaganda" when they were found in Leighton's possession and were summarily confiscated.

Another example of inconsistency was the granting of permission to emigrate to one Soviet family despite a member's involvement in the highly classified Soviet space program. The release of the Khess family (after Grigori Khess had been imprisoned without charge for nine months) provided a drastic contrast to the experience of Col. Lev Ovischer, a Soviet World War II hero who for more than 10 years has been denied permission to rejoin his daughter in Israel, although he has not been involved in any classified programs.

Gertz pointed out that while the USSR claims it allows Jews to emigrate for purposes of family reunion, "that rule is always violated." Neither Leighton nor Gertz could explain the reason for such inconsistencies in granting exit visas. However, it was noted that Sen. Charles Percy (R. Ill.) had written to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev on behalf of the Khess family.

Gertz suggested that such apparent policy contradictions were characteristic of an unsettled Soviet attitude toward the U.S. that was based, in part, on an ignorance of world events.

### More Affirmative Action Urged

Both Leighton and Gertz agreed that their visit did much to buoy the spirits of refuseniks. Leighton, however, felt that more should be done. He is drafting a report to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry suggesting that they study ways of exerting affirmative action to secure the release of many refuseniks "deserving of great support."

Leighton noted that letters such as those sent by Percy were appropriate and effective tools. He added that he would advise well-placed political leaders of his findings and urge them to action. Leighton further suggested that the consistent Russian wishes for increased tourism and trade with the U.S. be used as bargaining points in human rights discussions.

Gertz, who visited the USSR 15 years ago, noted a substantial increase in "Jewish commitment." On this trip he said he saw great numbers of people of all ages at synagogue services the gathering outside the synagogue -- even in

cold weather -- of many more Jews who were openly demonstrating that commitment.

## PRESS REPORTS OF TENSIONS BETWEEN JEWS AND ARABS IN HEBRON IS TERMED GROSSLY EXAGGERATED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 23 (JTA) -- The Military Governor of Hebron published a report today claiming that recent press accounts of harassment of local Arabs by Jewish settlers were grossly exaggerated. The report backed up the Jewish Settlers Council and the Kiryat Arba municipal council who contended yesterday that there was no tension between Jews and Arabs in Hebron.

The press reports had prompted Premier Menachem Begin, in his capacity as Defense Minister, to order the Military Government to make sure that the Kiryat Arba settlers no longer harass their Arab neighbors. Earlier this week, Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori asked the Kiryat Arab residents not to walk the streets of Hebron armed or to attempt to restore order. The settlers claimed they carried arms at the instructions of the Military Government and said they would prefer not to as a demonstration of their free presence in the Arab city.

The settlers took umbrage at the press reports. They said an investigation of their conduct would prove the reports false and that parties spreading such rumors should be brought to justice.

The Military Governor met yesterday with a number of Hebron residents who had grievances against the Kiryat Arba Jews. He said he found that in most instances, published accounts of these incidents were much more dramatic than the events themselves. The Military Governor prepared his report on Begin's instructions. Earlier he met with Mustapha Abdul Nabi, acting Mayor of Hebron, and Jamil Dandous, owner of a store whose ceiling was demolished by Jewish settlers.

## AFL-CIO CHIEF SAYS U.S. LABOR OPPOSED TO ARMS SALE TO SAUDIS

TEL AVIV, April 23 (JTA) -- Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO, said here today that the American labor movement is opposed to the sale by the United States of sophisticated weapons to Saudi Arabia. The labor leader, who had a meeting with Histadrut Secretary General Yeruham Meshel, told reporters after their talk:

"As far as we are concerned in the AFL-CIO, we thought the original commitment regarding the F-15 planes made by the previous (Carter) Administration was not wise, and we certainly feel the same way about any further enhancement or elaboration of that original agreement (in 1978). So if we did not support the first move, I see no reason why we should support the second or third elaboration of it."

Kirkland was in Jerusalem yesterday to attend ceremonies dedicating a plaza in a new residential area which will bear the name of the late George Meany who was Kirkland's predecessor as AFL-CIO president.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress has been asked by the government of Morocco to co-sponsor and assist in the organization of an international conference on Maimonides, the 12th Century Jewish sage and philosopher, Henry Siegman, executive director of the Congress announced. The unprecedented joint venture of a major American Jewish organization and an Arab government will take place in Fez, Morocco, next year.