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REPORT AUSTRIA WILL SELL ABOUT 100 TANKS TO SAUDI ARABIA

VIENNA, April 27 (JTA) — About 100 Austrian tanks, originally intended to go to Chile, will be sold instead to Saudi Arabia, the West German magazine, Der Spiegel, reported today. The sale to Chile by the tank manufacturer, Steyr-Daimler-Puch, fell through last year after widespread public protests forced the government to deny an export permit to that country, governed by a rightwing military dictatorship.

The manufacturer has since managed to interest the Saudis in buying most of the tanks, Der Spiegel said. Despite opposition in Parliament by members who consider the deal potentially dangerous to Israel, it is apparently supported by Foreign Minister Willibald Pahr. Der Spiegel quoted Pahr as observing that the Arabs are not engaged in a shooting war with Israel. The Foreign Ministry said Pahr made that remark in a general context over a month ago and was not referring to any specific arms deal.

In an unrelated development, the Court of Appeals here ruled Friday that the Communist daily, Volksstimme, was not guilty of libel when it branded as fascist the magazine Bundesturnzeitung, organ of the Oesterreichischer Turnerbund (OETB), a large Austrian sports club. The ruling brought to an end a two-year libel action against the Communist newspaper by the OETB. The OETB was appealing a decision against it by a Vienna press court last December.

DUTCH UNIFIL SOLDIERS INTERCEPT EIGHT TERRORISTS

TEL AVIV, April 27 (JTA) — Soldiers of the Dutch contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) intercepted eight terrorists in their sector last Saturday night and forced them to leave the area after confiscating their weapons, a UNIFIL spokesman said today. He said the terrorists were members of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, an offshoot of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Meanwhile, the UNIFIL command has lodged a complaint with the PLO in Beirut against the firing of 24 missiles from PLO positions toward the UNIFIL-held area. There were no casualties, the UNIFIL spokesman said.

The UN forces in Lebanon have been receiving their food, spare parts and other supplies through the port of Haifa in Israel for the past two weeks because renewed fighting in Beirut has closed the port. The port of Sidon on the south Lebanese coast has also been closed, UN sources said.

STATE DEPARTMENT REFUSES TO CONDEMN SYRIAN ACTION IN LEBANON BUT EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER ITS ARMY CAPTURE OF MT. LEBANON POINTS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 27 (JTA) — The State Department refused today to condemn Syrian action in Lebanon although it expressed "concern" about the Syrian army's capture of two high points on the spine of Mt. Lebanon over the weekend.

State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said Syrian control of those points which overlook the central coastal plain of Lebanon on the West and the Bekaa valley on the east is "a major change in the status quo" because they had been held by Maronite Christian forces since the winter thaw. But Fischer refused to say if the U.S. position has changed toward the Syrian role in Lebanon.

The Syrian army entered Lebanon as part of an all-Arab peacekeeping force in 1976 to end the civil war there. In recent months it has been fighting against Lebanese Christians.

Fischer said the U.S. was "deeply concerned" over the "escalation of violence" in Lebanon over the weekend and "the dimensions of the human tragedy which in (the Christian town) Zahle, Beirut and south Lebanon" has caused death and injuries to many people and forced others to flee their homes.

He noted that information from Lebanon is often "incomplete and sometimes contradictory." He said he had very little information about Israel's air raids in south Lebanon yesterday, nor reports of injuries or a dogfight between Israeli and Syrian planes.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Ambassador, Ephraim Evron, delivered a message to the State Department today on the situation in Lebanon. Evron would not disclose its contents.

FRENCH JEWS SEEM SPLIT IN SUPPORTING GISCARD AND MITTERRAND

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 27 (JTA) — The French Jewish electorate seems split in supporting the two candidates, President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Socialist leader François Mitterrand, who will face each other May 10 in the run-off elections for the French Presidency. The two men emerged from yesterday's preliminary first round as the top vote-getters and are expected to run neck-in-neck in the finals.

The Jewish community as such decided not to participate in the election campaign, but a Jewish splinter group, Jewish Revival, led by a young attorney, Henri Hajdenberg, is calling for a "sanction vote" against Giscard which amounts to a vote in favor of the Socialist leader. Hajdenberg has called on France's Jews to "punish the (incumbent) President for his pro-Arab policy."

There are some 400,000 Jewish voters out of a total of 36.5 million and the Jewish vote might determine the outcome should the election be as close as most political analysts expect. In 1974 Giscard won by only 450,000 votes against Mitterrand. Both candidates have influential Jewish supporters. Giscard can count on European Parliament President Simone Veil, and Mitterrand on former Premier Pierre Mendes-France.

Yesterday's results indicated that the Jews, as far as could be ascertained from a study of voting areas with strong Jewish concentrations, split their vote along the same lines as the general public. Both candidates are preparing to actively woo the Jewish electorate during the next two weeks. The two candidates are expected to discuss the Middle East when they meet face to face in a television debate before the elections.

HISTORIC AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW AND UAHC

NEW YORK, April 27 (JTA) — Long-lost documents and artifacts illuminating 1,000 years of Jewish life in Poland, the cradle of Judaism in Europe, will be available to scholars and researchers for the first time under the terms of an agreement signed today by the University of Warsaw and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC).

Polish diplomatic officials, Jewish scholars and the chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Joseph Duffey, were among some 75 persons who watched as Professor Henryk Samsonowicz, rector of the University of Warsaw, and Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the UAHC, signed the two-page agreement at the House of Living Judaism, headquarters of the Reform Jewish congregational group.

Believed to be the first between a university in Eastern Europe and a Jewish religious body, the agreement will for the first time provide American scholars with access to and the right to copy materials currently in the possession of the Polish government, the Catholic Church in Poland and various Polish universities.

These materials include works of art, literature, history, law, music and philosophy, along with official Jewish community archives, such as the records of the Judenrat of Lublin during the Nazi occupation.

Agreement Calls For Joint Research

The agreement signed today also calls for "joint research" by the University of Warsaw and the UAHC in specified areas of Jewish scholarship, including "historical problems of Judaism."

The agreement was worked out during negotiations in the United States and Poland among Rabbi Philip Hiat, assistant to the president of the UAHC; Philip Miller, librarian at the New York branch of the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion; and Professor Witold Tyloch, chairman of the department of Hebrew studies in the Institute of Oriental Studies at the University of Warsaw. Assisting in the negotiations were representatives of IREX, the International Research and Exchanges Board, and YIVO, the Yiddish Scientific Institute.

Schindler Hails Agreement

Hailing the agreement, Schindler said at a reception following the signing that within a period of 60 months the Nazis put to death three million Jews and destroyed all that had been created over the course of 1000 years. "What the Jewish community left behind will now be studied by scholars who will have immediate access to the relics of a life that is no more -- but that is our sacred duty to preserve," he said.

Schindler displayed fragments of Torah scrolls and Megilloth (Scrolls of Esther, read during the Jewish holiday of Purim) that had survived the Nazi occupation of Poland. He said Polish university officials in Krakow and Warsaw had presented the scrolls as a gift to the UAHC. The fragments will be given, in turn, to a number of Reform synagogues around the country "as a memorial to the vanished communities from which they came," Schindler said.

An exhibition of some 100 different relics of Jewish religious and cultural life in Poland will be displayed at Harvard University's Widener Library in December, during the UAHC's national

biennial convention, Schindler said. Later, the exhibition will be sent to other cities, especially those with sizeable populations of Polish-Americans.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES TO MARK YOM HA'SHOAH, WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 27 (JTA) — Observances paying tribute to Holocaust victims and marking the 38th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising will take place throughout the country Sunday, May 3. The largest, with several thousand people expected to participate, will take place at Temple Emanu-El here.

Benjamin Meed, president of the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization (WACRO) said: "This year, more than ever before, the commemoration will represent the unified expression of the American Jewish community -- both those born in the United States and the survivors who came to these shores after World War II. We will pay tribute to the U.S. and armed forces who liberated us 36 years ago from the Nazi death camps."

Samuel Pisar, international lawyer and author of "Blood and Hope," and himself a survivor of the Bialystoker Ghetto and Auschwitz, will be the guest speaker. Joining Pisar will be Metropolitan Opera tenor Misha Raitzin, chanting memorial prayers and later singing ghetto songs; Israel's U.N. Ambassador Yehuda Blum, and Mayor Edward Koch. Also present will be Secretary of the Army John Marsh, Jr. to receive a certificate of appreciation for the U.S. armed forces' part in the liberation of Jews from the Nazi concentration camps 36 years ago.

To help accommodate the expected large turnout, the Parks Department is erecting bleachers across the street from the Temple and police are shutting off side streets and sections of Fifth Avenue, where Temple Emanu-El is located.

3 RECEIVE YAD VASHEM MEDAL

NEW YORK, April 27 (JTA) — Josef and Agata Armatyts and their daughter Wladyslawa (Armatys) Flisak today received the highest citation medal awarded by Yad Vashem Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority to Gentiles who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. The Armatyts family saved the lives of Moses Wurzel, his wife Helena, and their daughter Sally from the Nazis by hiding them in the attic of their house in Poland and elsewhere in the neighborhood for more than a year. The award was presented by Yoseph Kedar, Consul-General of Israel in New York, to Wladyslawa Flisak on her own behalf and that of her late father and her mother who lives in Poland. The ceremony took place at the Consulate General of Israel.

ANNA WILLINGER DEAD AT 101

BUDAPEST, April 27 (JTA) — Anna Willinger, the eldest member of the Hungarian Jewish community, died last week at the age of 101. She was active until recent years in caring for the Jewish senior citizens home here and helped operate the Jewish community's canteen. She was also active in other facets of Jewish communal life. Dozens of members of the community, including the Chief Rabbi of Budapest, attended her funeral last Friday. Most of those who eulogized Mrs. Willinger stressed that her death marked the end of an epoch in the history of Hungarian Jewry.

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR IDA NUDEL

TEL AVIV, April 27 (JTA) — Israel today held a public birthday party to mark the 50th birthday of

Prisoner of Zion Ida Nudel who is now in the third year of her four-year sentence of exile in Siberia for pro-Zionist activities while awaiting permission to emigrate to Israel. The party was held in Kikar Dizengoff, one of Tel Aviv's central squares.

A special assembly will be held here tonight under the auspices of Aliza Begin, wife of Premier Menachem Begin, who is the honorary president of the Ida Nudel Israel Committee. Hundreds of people signed postcards to be mailed to Nudel in her place of exile. In addition, she will be sent, as a birthday gift, a pendant made of 2,000-year old Roman glass.

ISRAEL HITS PLO TARGETS IN LEBANON

TEL AVIV, April 27 (JTA) — Israeli aircraft heavily attacked Palestine Liberation Organization targets in south Lebanon today for the second time. In two days and returned safely to their bases, an army spokesman said. There were no clashes with Syrian aircraft.

The army identified the targets as Mia Zamiya, a mile from Sidon the coast where the Fatah organization has vehicle maintenance workshops; Wadi El-Akhtar, about a mile from Nabatiya in the eastern sector where Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine has rocket launchers and anti-aircraft installations; Hamadiya, about two miles northeast of Tyre on the coast; and the Al Haliliya base attacked yesterday, which has tank and tank transporters parked in its area. The pilots reported accurate hits on all targets.

As in previous ground and air attacks, the raid was officially described as a pre-emptive strike to frustrate terrorist plans to attack Israel.

ISRAEL STANDS PAT ON ITS OPPOSITION TO SALE OF AWACS EVEN IF TECHNICAL CHANGES ARE MADE By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 27 (JTA) — Israel made it clear today that it will continue to object to the U.S. sale to Saudi Arabia of five AWACS surveillance aircraft and enhancement equipment for the 62 F-15s the Saudis have purchased from the U.S. even if the terms of the proposed weapons package are modified to continue American control of the AWACS after the Saudis take possession of them.

Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Evron, leaving the State Department this morning, said Israel opposes the sale even if technical modifications are made. He said that "advice given us" by the State Department that Israeli pilots would be able to shoot down the AWACS — carrying American air crews — "should they pose a threat" is not something that I think will appeal to most people.

Evron visited the State Department to deliver a message related to the current situation in Lebanon. At his meeting with Assistant Secretary of State-designate for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Nicholas Veliotes, the Israeli envoy expressed verbally his government's strong objections to a speech by the Saudi Arabian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, in New York last week that Israel considered "offensive and abusive" and "close to" anti-Semitism.

Yamani, addressing a Foreign Policy Association luncheon, claimed Israel was a greater menace to the security of the Middle East than

the Soviet Union and that Israeli policies opened the way for Soviet influence in the region.

At its weekly session in Jerusalem yesterday, the Israeli Cabinet recorded a consensus to seek to influence American public opinion against the proposed weapons sale to Saudi Arabia, using particularly the opposition to it in Congress. At the State Department, meanwhile, spokesman Dean Fischer confirmed today that the Reagan Administration will present the package to Congress only after consultations with the leaders of Congress.

Senate majority leader Howard Baker (R. Tenn.) revealed on the CBS-TV "Face the Nation" program yesterday that the Administration had agreed to hold up its presentation of the Saudi package to Congress until probably next fall, so that Congressional leaders can have "input." Baker said the proposals as they now stand would probably be rejected by Congress. He indicated that the input would give the U.S. some type of control over the AWACS after they are delivered to Saudi Arabia, beginning in 1985.

Legislator 'Convinced' Of Danger Of AWACS

Rep. Stephen Solarz (D. NY), who last week inspected AWACS aircraft at the Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma and also viewed a demonstration of the AWACS role in simulated aerial combat, said today that despite the Administration's denial, "I am convinced that the acquisition of AWACS by Saudi Arabia would pose a clear and immediate danger to the State of Israel." Solarz, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, explained:

"Once the Saudis possess AWACS, no Israeli aircraft could take off from any air base in Israel without being monitored by Saudi Arabia. This intelligence information could then be easily and readily transmitted not only to Saudi aircraft but to other Arab air forces as well. The AWACS would therefore rule out the possibility of an Israeli pre-emptive strike against any Arab states, even if such a strike were essential to preclude an anticipated coordinated attack by the Arab confrontation states against Israel."

Solarz also said that AWACS can be used in "coordinated attacks against Israel or even to control Saudi aircraft in combat against Israeli planes." He said that while the Administration has indicated that Israel could easily shoot the planes down, "in fact, Israeli pilots would find the AWACS to be elusive targets."

NOTHING TO CROW ABOUT

TEL AVIV, April 27 (JTA) — Life has been imitating art, at least for Arye Nuriel, a 34-year-old resident of Jaffa, who says he is being persecuted by a crow, or by several of them. Everytime he attempts to leave his house, a bird or birds attack him. By curious coincidence, the Alfred Hitchcock thriller, "The Birds" is having a revival run at a Tel Aviv cinema. The film is about birds who go berserk and attack humans.

The crows perch on a tree outside Nuriel's home, as if waiting. According to Nuriel one of them pursued a police car taking him to safety. The crow attacks no one else and he has never harmed it, he says.

The incident has received wide media coverage here and abroad. This has drawn throngs of the curious to Nuriel's home, apparently to witness bird against man. Police ironically advised the victim to appeal to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. They told him it was "difficult to detain and interrogate a crow." But one feathered assailant was shot by a police sniper. Other advice has poured in from ornithologists and nature lovers, many offering to capture and train the bird.

SOVIET ANTI-SEMITIC BOOK DENOUNCED BY VETERAN ADVOCATE OF THE USSR

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, April 27 (JTA) — No more telling indictment of Soviet anti-Semitism can be found than that written by a life-long advocate of Communism, Joshua Gershman, the veteran left-wing journalist who edited the now defunct publication, *Die Vochenblatt*, in Toronto for many years. His current articles appear in the English-language Vancouver publication, *Canadian Jewish Outlook*.

His latest article, titled "Hitting Rock Bottom," refers to a new Soviet novel, "At the Final Borderline," written by Valentin Pikul. Gershman, who termed the book "anti-Semitic filth," was shocked to find a segment of the book reprinted in the Canadian Russian-language pro-Soviet periodical, *Vestnik*.

The thrust of Pikul's story is that it was the Jews of Czarist Russia, whom he describes as "blackmailers, thieves, perjurers, liars, spies, provocateurs, pimps and quack doctors" and as "rootless cosmopolitans," conspired with the priest Rasputin to corrupt all government circles and to intensify the oppression against the workers and peasants. In fact, Rasputin is not presented as being himself evil but as a "poor and helpless" instrument of the Jews.

Book Repeats Anti-Semitic Slander

Gershman reported that according to Pikul, "the Jews of old Russia controlled most of the newspapers, including the anti-Semitic ones; controlled the high establishments such as the banks, brothels, nightclubs and so on. In step with other Soviet anti-Semitic writers, Pikul repeats the libel of 'Zhidomasonski-Tsenter'. This is the fabrication of the Jewish Masonic Center of Europe with the Rothschilds at the head."

Continuing, Gershman pointed out: "According to Pikul, the vast majority of Jews lived almost sumptuously. Many of them were exceedingly wealthy. He permits himself to write in this fashion in the face of the well-established fact that almost 95 percent of the Jews in Czarist Russia lived in conditions of intolerable poverty."

Back in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, and even well after the revelations at the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party about the "cult of Stalin," any criticism of writing that originated in the Soviet Union would be denounced by Gershman as "red-baiting" or as "war mongering attacks on the workers' fatherland."

It is a mark of how low the Soviets have fallen that Gershman, who still thinks of himself as a Communist and as pro-Soviet, can in the winter of his life — he is 78 — write with such brutal frankness about its literature.

He acknowledges with some sadness that the truly humanistic forces in the USSR like the poet Yevtushenko and others are "eclipsed," but concludes his article on a hopeful note that "we must not permit ourselves to be thrown into a state of confusion ... we must conduct a ceaseless struggle for the Leninist goals launched ... by the October (1917) revolution."

SPECIAL TO THE JTA PASSOVER IN ALASKA

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, April 27 (JTA) — A recent announcement in *The Tundra Drums*, a weekly published in Bethel, said "Passover Seder:

Members of the Jewish community interested in participating, please call 543-2347." If this announcement appeared in any small town newspaper across the continental United States, it would probably raise a few eyebrows, it was noted by Rabbi Lester Polonsky of Congregation Beth Shalom in Anchorage.

However, when this announcement appeared in the weekly earlier this month, "it was as if the shofar sounded, calling all the Jews of Bethel and surrounding villages to gather together for the Passover seder," he wrote in a report to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Polonsky, whose congregation is affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said that the Jews of Alaska joined their fellow Jews across the world in the celebration of freedom. There were, he said, four known seders and possibly many unknown.

Celebrations Far And Wide

In Fairbanks, the Jewish community assembled at the Air Force base with some 50 members. The traditional four questions were asked by the youngest child and the four cups of wine shared. The afikomen was hidden with an extra special smile because of a near calamity of no matzah. Several members of the Jewish congregation of Fairbanks complained to a local grocer and before they knew it, 30 cases of Passover food arrived at the Fairbanks Airport.

In Juneau, the capital of Alaska, the Jewish community gathered on the second night to celebrate Passover and observe the ritual of the seder. With well over 40 people, the chorus of Dayenu echoed loud and clear from the basement of a local church.

The northern-most seder was celebrated in the village of Kotzebue, located on the Arctic Circle in the northwest corner of Alaska. Twelve Jews sat around the table at the home of Milki and Alan McCurry. These Jews are working with the natives trying to save the native culture.

Among those at the Kotzebue seder were Dr. Larry Kaplan, Professor of Native Languages, University of Alaska at Fairbanks; Marlene Beam and Jeff Schwartz both teachers at the village school in Selawik, 300 miles south east of Kotzebue; Betsy Hart a teacher at the Noorvik High School, about 50 miles east of Kotzebue; Marty Lelony, Assistant Superintendent for the Educational Programs in Kotzebue; and the visiting dignitary, Joanna Malta from San Francisco, a consultant for the Inupiaq Language Studies Conference.

The regional headquarters for the Jewish community in Alaska is located in Anchorage. For the first seder, 300 members of the Anchorage community gathered at the Sheraton Hotel and celebrated the exodus from Egypt.

Under the leadership of Polonsky, the first full-time rabbi in Alaska, the Jews of Anchorage joined their Soviet brothers and sisters in their struggle for freedom. Inspired by a phone conversation with re-fusenik Abe Stolyar last year, many members of the Anchorage Jewish community have been in constant contact with him, helping him and his family leave the Soviet Union.

"The biblical commandment of recalling the exodus from Egypt rings ever clearer in Alaska," Polonsky observed. "Through the experience of the 1964 earthquake which occurred on the evening of the first seder, many Alaskan Jews can truly empathize with the fear and confusion that must have taken place as our people left Egypt."

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The government is acting at the highest level to prevent new bloodshed between the Druze villagers of Julis and the Arab Christians of neighboring Kfar Yasif in Galilee after a soccer game riot two weeks ago in which three persons died.