

JTA daily news bulletin

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Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. LIX - 64th Year

Wednesday, April 29, 1981

No. 81

HAIG REAFFIRMS ADMINISTRATION'S ARMS PACKAGE DEAL TO SAUDIS AS LIBRARY LEGISLATOR INTRODUCES MEASURE TO THE HOUSE TO REJECT THE SALE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 28 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Alexander Haig reiterated today that the Reagan Administration plans to go ahead with its multi-billion dollar arms package sale to Saudi Arabia but said the Administration cannot submit the proposal to Congress until the "modalities" have been worked out.

Haig maintained the Administration's position in testifying before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, whose chairman, Rep. Clarence Long (D. Md.), introduced a resolution in the House yesterday to reject the proposed sale.

A spokesperson for Long told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the resolution, which already has 26 co-sponsors, from both parties, is the first legislative action against the proposed sale of five AWACS and enhancement equipment for the 62 F-15 jet fighters previously sold to the Saudis. The spokesperson said that Long acted even though a proposal has not been officially submitted to Congress because of the strong opposition to the sale in both houses.

"I want to put the Administration on notice that Congress will not tolerate any arms sale that would jeopardize Israel's security," Long declared after he submitted the resolution.

The Administration is not expected to submit the proposal officially to Congress before the fall. Senate majority leader Howard Baker (R. Tenn.) has persuaded the Administration to delay submission to allow Congress to work out some changes in the proposal that would be more acceptable on Capitol Hill.

Haig's Rationale For The Sale

Haig did not specifically mention the weapons sale to Saudi Arabia in his prepared statement which he read to the subcommittee. But he claimed that by strengthening the defense systems of "friendly states," the United States "strengthened ourself" at a lower cost.

"In practical terms, this means that the air defense system we help a friendly state develop could one day serve as a prepositioned shield under which Western relief forces would move," Haig said.

The Secretary noted that almost 70 percent of the \$6.87 billion in security assistance the Administration is asking for the 1982 fiscal year goes to the Middle East, with Israel and Egypt getting the bulk of the funds. "Adequate defense capability for Israel, Egypt and other responsible Arab states will not only help deal with outside pressures but will support our objective of a lasting Middle East peace," he said. "Individual and regional insecurity undermines every prospect for peace."

Haig stressed that "the security of Israel remains a major U.S. concern and a binding U.S.

commitment. We are determined that Israel retain the military capability to deter threats from hostile forces."

He added that the U.S. recognizes Israel's importance to the U.S. in "developing regional strategy. Israel constitutes an important deterrent in the region and indeed can play a major role in countering the more serious threats involving the Soviet Union."

Haig also praised Egyptian President Anwar Sadat for his decision to turn away from the Soviet Union and become a friend of the United States. "President Sadat has had the vision not only to see and deal with the larger Soviet threat but also to join the peace process with Israel," Haig said. "There is no alternative to a strong, Western-oriented Egypt."

ISRAEL WARNS SYRIA ON LEBANON: DOWNS TWO SYRIAN HELICOPTERS

By Hugh Ortel

TEL AVIV, April 28 (JTA) -- Israel warned Syria today that it "will not acquiesce in the Syrian attempt to take over Lebanon and annihilate the Christians there." The warning, in the form of a Cabinet communique, was issued shortly before Israel disclosed that its aircraft had shot down two Syrian helicopters over central Lebanon, one this afternoon and the other yesterday.

Premier Menachem Begin announced the downing of the second helicopter in the course of a radio interview in which he said Israelis, as Jews, had a moral commitment to prevent the slaughter of a people or religion by another nation and that it was also in Israel's "clear national interest" to prevent the Syrians from gaining control of the central Lebanese mountain range from which they could shell Junia, the only Lebanese port open to Christian forces.

Begin Points Out The Danger

According to Begin, if the Syrians control the mountain range, known as the Sannine, they could move southwards and attack Israel together with Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists. He said the Syrians have not listened to American appeals to halt the fighting in Lebanon and that President Hafez Assad refused to receive the U.S. Ambassador to Damascus.

Yesterday the State Department expressed "concern" over the Syrian capture of two strong-points in the Lebanese mountain range previously held by Christian forces and described it as "a major change in the status quo." At the same time, however, it refused to condemn the Syrian action (See separate story P.2).

Begin said Israel decided to counter the Syrian thrust when the Syrians began to employ helicopters against the Christians. "We do not want war with Syria," he said, "or a confrontation with the Syrians" but "there are risks ... We cannot just stand aside while the Christians are being slaughtered and the dangers to Israel itself are growing."

Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan confirmed that Syria's use of helicopter gunships and troop carriers could seriously affect the capacity of the Christians

to defend themselves and therefore the Syrian escalation represented a direct threat to Israel's security. Today's warning to Syria was issued following telephone consultations among various ministers on the deteriorating situation in Lebanon.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori later amplified the communique. He said on a radio interview that it signified that Israel would continue to press for international diplomatic support to end the fighting in Lebanon. "I am glad to note that our appeals have had some positive response for the first time from many countries, mainly from the U.S.," he said.

Katyusha rockets were fired into Upper Galilee last night from Palestinian terrorist positions in Lebanon. No casualties or damage were reported but Israelis in border villages were forced to spend the night in bomb shelters. The rocket attack apparently was retaliation for Israel's heavy air strikes yesterday against four Palestine Liberation Organization bases well inside Lebanon. They were the second air raids in two days.

A military spokesman acknowledged, meanwhile, that Israeli fighter planes shot down a Syrian helicopter yesterday near the Lebanese Christian village of Zahle that has been under siege by Syrian forces. No details were given. Zipori said in his radio interview: "The Syrians have recently introduced a new dimension in their fight against the Christians -- a dimension against which they (the Christians) have no defense. That is, various kinds of helicopters which are wreaking havoc among the Christians."

With respect to the downing of the helicopter, Zipori said "the significance is simple. We have announced many times we have an obligation towards the Lebanese Christians and we will not abandon them to be slaughtered." Asked if such Israeli intervention did not create the danger of a Syrian-Israeli confrontation, Zipori replied, "There is always the danger but Israel has warned and warned again that there will be no Syrian air activity in the skies over Lebanon."

Zipori said one of Israel's objectives in Lebanon was to ensure that an entity would develop there which might be prepared to discuss peace with Israel. He said the Syrian attacks on Christian concentrations in the Sannine mountains near Zahle which overlook the Beka valley on the east and the Christian-held coastal region on the west were intended to destroy such an entity.

Pressure On Israel's Government

The escalation of fighting in Lebanon has brought the government under pressure from senior army officers and from settlers in the northern region to step up Israel's involvement. The officers want to impress on Damascus the existence of a "red line" in Lebanon beyond which the Syrians will not be permitted to go. The settlers demand stronger action against terrorists in south Lebanon.

But on the political level, Begin, Zipori and others appear to favor quiet diplomatic efforts such as referred to by Zipori in the radio interview. Accordingly, the government is seeking to persuade the U.S. and the Western European countries to bring their influence to bear on Syria to relent in its attacks on the Lebanese Christians. From Israel's viewpoint, defeat of the Christian forces in central Lebanon would have

dangerous consequences for the Christian enclave along Israel's border and thereby for Israel's own security.

Observers here noted that Israel's pre-emptive air strikes in Lebanon this week indicated an attempt to relieve pressure on Christian forces by broadening the targets. Israeli jets attacked not only rocket-launching sites but concentrations of Palestinian tanks and artillery. The downing of Syrian helicopters was acknowledged for the first time today, although Israel denied Damascus reports that Syrian jets had engaged Israeli aircraft in a dogfight over Lebanon Sunday.

The Syrians are said to be using two types of helicopter in Lebanon -- the French-made Gazelle employed as attack gunships, and the heavier Soviet-made transport types. It was not disclosed which type was shot down by the Israelis.

The PLO, meanwhile, introduced rapid-fire 40-barrel Katyusha rocket launchers mounted on trucks. Those batteries are highly mobile and can discharge 40 rockets within seconds at a range of up to about 12 miles.

STATE DEPARTMENT VIEWS SYRIA AS 'AN IMPORTANT COUNTRY' FOR SOLVING THE CIVIL WAR IN LEBANON

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 28 (JTA) -- The State Department maintains that it considers Syria "an important country" for solving the civil war in Lebanon. State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said yesterday that the takeover by the Syrian army last weekend of two high mountain points in Lebanon was "a change in the status quo" but he refused to condemn Syria specifically. When asked what the United States position on Syria was, Fischer did not respond at the time.

Later, the Department issued a statement saying: "Syria is obviously an important country in this area of the world and she has a responsibility for helping to return peace to Lebanon." Noting that the U.S. considers the situation in Lebanon "extremely complex," the statement stressed that the U.S. wants "maximum restraint by all the parties in Lebanon, so as to end the violence and further political efforts for a solution."

The statement reiterated that U.S. policy is aimed at strengthening the central government of Elias Sarkis throughout the country and "part of that goal is working towards having the Lebanese armed forces assume security functions throughout the country."

COOL RECEPTION AWAITS DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN HE VISITS ISRAEL NEXT MONTH

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 28 (JTA) -- The Netherlands Foreign Minister Christoph van der Klaauw is expected to receive a cool reception when he visits Israel next month and will hear vehement protests from Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir over his meeting with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat in Beirut 10 days ago.

Van der Klaauw will be in Israel from May 12-14 in his capacity as chairman of the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC). He had met with Arafat and top PLO lieutenants in the same capacity, though he was accompanied by officials of the Dutch Foreign Ministry. His visit here will be his second to the Middle East within the course of a month to report on the current situation and the prospects of the European peace initiative to which

Israel is adamantly opposed. The report van der Klaauw submits to the Council of Ministers is expected to determine the course of the European Initiative in the months ahead. Israel objects to the EEC Initiative on many grounds, particularly its advocacy of PLO "association" in the Mideast peace process. Begin and Shamir are expected to tell the Dutch diplomat that his meeting with Arafat disturbed the political process and reduced the prospects for peace in the region.

Van der Klaauw was in Egypt last weekend for talks with President Anwar Sadat and Foreign Minister Butros Ghali. According to reports from Cairo, he told them that the U.S. is showing more understanding of the European initiative and that the U.S. and Europe are drawing closer on the issue.

UNIFIL SOLDIER KILLED BY PLO

TEL AVIV, April 28 (JTA) — An Irish soldier serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon was shot to death by Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists in south Lebanon yesterday, a spokesman for UNIFIL disclosed today. Another soldier was abducted by the terrorists. Both men had been riding in a jeep on routine patrol near Tibnine, the spokesman said. Israeli sources warned that further terrorist attacks on UNIFIL personnel could be expected as a consequence of the recently improved relations between the UN force and Israel and Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian militia.

NEO-NAZI LEADER QUESTIONED IN CONNECTION WITH DESECRATION OF JEWISH CEMETERY NEAR PARIS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 28 (JTA) — French police have called in neo-Nazi leader Marc Fredriksen for "intensive questioning" in connection with last Sunday's desecration of some 80 gravestones in the Jewish cemetery of Bagneux outside Paris. The leader of the Federation of European Nationalist Action (FANE) had earlier denied any responsibility for the outrage. He claimed it was probably carried out by people "who want us (FANE members) to be further persecuted."

Police today also briefly detained 11 suspects. They were all released after they apparently managed to convince investigators that they were not connected with the Bagneux attack. All 11 belong to various neo-Nazi and neo-fascist organizations.

The gravestones were daubed with red and black paint with inscriptions reading: "Death to Israel," "Death to the Jews," and "Death to acid throwers." The last inscription apparently refers to an attack against a FANE militant who was ambushed near his home and had acid thrown in his face. Police suspect Jewish extremists of having carried out the attack.

The Representative Council of Major Jewish Organizations in France (CRIF) has called on the Jewish community to attend a mass meeting at Bagneux tomorrow afternoon. French Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat will recite Kaddish. Government and opposition leaders representing the two candidates now running for the presidency, President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and Socialist leader Francois Mitterrand, are also expected to attend.

Several organizations have asked the government to adopt additional measures against the neo-Nazis. FANE itself was outlawed last September and several of its members have since been tried on charges of spreading racist propaganda and hate-mongering.

FUNDS RESTORED TO THE O.S.I.

WASHINGTON, April 28 (JTA) — The House Judiciary Committee has restored the \$118,000 that the Reagan Administration had cut from the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) budget for the 1982 fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. The OSI investigates and prosecutes Nazi war criminals living in the U.S.

The Administration would have reduced the \$2.6 million budget allocated for the OSI this year by \$118,000. A spokesman for Rep. William Lehman (D. Fla.) told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the restoration of that sum means the OSI will not have to drop five of its 50 staff members.

POPE APPOINTS FISHER CONSULTOR TO VATICAN COMMISSION ON JUDAISM

WASHINGTON, April 28 (JTA) — Pope John Paul II has appointed Dr. Eugene Fisher, executive director of the Office of Catholic-Jewish Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), as a consultant to the Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with Judaism.

Fisher, 37, is the first NCCB staff member and the first Catholic layperson from the United States appointed a consultant to the Commission. The only other American among 10 churchmen and theologians from throughout the world who serve the Commission in this capacity is Bishop Bernard Law of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo.

"This appointment by the Pope is a recognition of the creativity and vitality of the Catholic-Jewish dialogue in the United States, which has been enhanced by the scholarship and personal qualities which Dr. Fisher has demonstrated," commented Bishop Thomas Kelly, NCCB General Secretary.

The Vatican Commission for Religious Relations with Judaism was established in 1974 by Pope Paul VI. It is under the jurisdiction of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity headed by Johannes Cardinal Willebrands. Fisher has been an observer at past meetings of the Commission, and was a member of the Catholic delegation to the meeting of the International Liaison Committee between the Roman Catholic Church and Judaism which was held in London early this month.

Fisher, who earned a doctorate in Hebrew culture at New York University, was named to head the office for Catholic-Jewish relations, which is part of the NCCB Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, in 1977. He is the author of "Faith Without Prejudice," 1977, and the co-editor with Rabbi Daniel Polish of "Formation of Social Policy in the Catholic and Jewish Traditions," which was published last year. That book evolved from a meeting held at the University of Notre Dame under the sponsorship of the NCCB Secretariat and the Synagogue Council of America.

NEW YORK (JTA) — "The Return: A Hassidic Experience", a documentary focusing on the growing number of American Jews, who in their search for meaning and identity, have adopted a traditional Hassidic way of life, has been cited as a finalist in the prestigious American Film Festival of 1981. It was announced. Introduced by Nobel Laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer, the program has been broadcast on a number of PBS stations and has been featured at the Jewish Museum in New York City and Museum of Jewish History in Philadelphia. Filmed primarily in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, "The Return" was produced by Yisroel Lifschutz and Barbara Rubin.

ORGANIZATION OF CHILDREN OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS CONDEMNS U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN EL SALVADOR

NEW YORK, April 28 (JTA) -- The Generation After (TGA), an organization of predominantly children of Holocaust survivors, today condemned United States involvement in El Salvador and offered what it saw as the "Jewish stake in the El Salvador question."

Mark Isaacs, TGA spokesman, said he believed his organization is the first to break "the silence in the Jewish community over the question of El Salvador and the first organization in the community to officially oppose U.S. involvement in that tiny Central American country."

A resolution adopted by TGA declared: "The time has come for concerned Jews to express solidarity with the plight of the people of El Salvador. In the name of justice, we call for a cessation of all military and economic aid from the United States to the Duarte junta of El Salvador."

Isaacs cited the domestic plight of El Salvadorians, not Communist infiltration, as the major source of violence: infant mortality rate is the highest in Central America; the top five percent of the population has 38 percent of the income; less than two percent of the people own more than half of the arable land; workers and peasants earn \$90 a year on the average.

"El Salvador," Isaacs said, "is characterized by a particularly savage history of political repression. An oligarchy -- 'The Fourteen Families' -- has owned the land for a century and has used the armed forces to keep the peasant in line."

Shirley Ranz, a member of TGA, said she has evidence that members of El Salvador's National Guard "study training manuals originally used to drill the Nazi Wehrmacht" to perpetrate atrocities daily against its citizens. "Why hasn't a meeting of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council been convened to condemn the U.S.-backed genocide in El Salvador?" she asked. "This, along with its silence on Nazi war criminals, makes me feel, as a daughter of Holocaust survivors, embarrassed by and angry at the Council."

The Jewish Stake In The Issue

Isaacs and Ranz outlined what TGA saw as the "Jewish stake in the El Salvador Question":

"A major lesson of the Holocaust is that Jews must actively oppose fascism and totalitarianism everywhere if they are to be safe anywhere; the Reagan Administration is sending millions of U.S. citizens' tax dollars to the junta which practices genocide against its people, while enacting budget cuts that are hurting the Jewish poor and elderly, among others, in the U.S., and proposing to sell AWACS to Saudi Arabia; by sanctioning the Reagan Administration's policy, Jews can not expect anyone to take seriously their own demands to stop the persecution of Jews in Ethiopia, Argentina, Russia, and elsewhere; by getting involved early in the growing activist movement against U.S. involvement in El Salvador as an audible Jewish voice, Jewish organizations can prevent pro-PLO groups (should they exist in the movement) from turning that movement into an anti-Israel circus."

N.Y. STATE OFFICIALS URGED TO FUND COURSE ON THE HOLOCAUST

NEW YORK, April 28 (JTA) -- On the eve

of the week ushering in the observance of the Holocaust, Frieda Lewis, president of Hadassah, urged Governor Hugh Carey "to approve an appropriation of \$125,000 in the State Department of Education budget for the first of two years for the development of resource materials and a teacher-training course."

At the same time, Mrs. Lewis also wrote to the State Education Commissioner Gordon Ambach suggesting that such a course should "be taught as a watershed event of human history and that it shall not be lumped as one other example of human rights violations. Indeed, we believe that from this horrendous event, the particular experience will translate for the students into an unforgettable universal lesson."

In a letter to State Senate majority leader and Assembly majority leader Stanley Fink, Mrs. Lewis said "we believe that our officials have been remiss until now in not memorializing and passing on to future generations of our citizens the lessons of the Holocaust. We look forward to your leadership in guiding this item through the budget approval process."

PLO-YUGOSLAVS IN JOINT FILM VENTURE

By Rochelle Sidel-Wolk

ALBANY, N.Y., April 28 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization and Yugoslav film-makers are jointly producing an Arab-financed motion picture that portrays Palestinian Arabs as aiding the partisans in Yugoslavia during the Nazi occupation of that country in World War II, Abraham Foxman, national associate director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said here last night.

Speaking at a community-wide Yom Ha-Shoah observance marking the 38th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, Foxman said the \$8 million film, titled "Death in Flames," will have its premier at the Conference of Non-Aligned Nations in Baghdad in 1982 and will be serialized for television.

He described it as "twisting of history" and "a desecration to the memory of those who fought for freedom in Yugoslavia." According to Foxman, "the only Palestinian who came to Yugoslavia in 1943 was Haj Amin el-Husseini, the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. And he came from Berlin in Nazi uniform to bless the newly formed SS Banjar Division which fought against the partisans."

Foxman said "the only Palestinians who aided the partisans were in fact Jewish Palestinians from pre-Israel Palestine." He was referring to Hannah Senesh and others who parachuted into Yugoslavia in 1943 and joined the partisans. Senesh, on a mission to rescue Hungarian Jews, was captured by the Nazis and executed.

Foxman said that he spoke with a representative of the Yugoslav government in New York after the ADL received information on the film. He said that in response to his protest, the Yugoslav official asked him, "How do you know that two Palestinian Arabs did not come to the aid of the Yugoslav partisans?"

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Film Censorship Board has decided to permit the continued screening of a controversial Israel-made film about alleged commercial exploitation of memorials to fallen soldiers but agreed to some minor cuts. Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori had asked the Board to reconsider its license to the film, said to be based on a true incident. Titled, "The Vulture", the film deals with a memorial volume published on behalf of the bereaved family of a fallen soldier. The poems and articles contained in the volume turn out not to have been written by the dead youth though the publisher claimed they were. Families of dead soldiers protested when the film opened at a local cinema.