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HABIB RETURNING TO ISRAEL AFTER SYRIAN MISSILES DOWN ISRAELI DRONE

JERUSALEM, May 14 (JTA) -- U.S. special envoy Philip Habib was due to return to Israel unexpectedly today following the downing of an Israeli pilotless aircraft by a Syrian missile. The craft was on a reconnaissance mission over the Bekaa valley in Lebanon when it was hit. The downing was acknowledged by an Israeli army spokesman.

Habib's return to Israel, which he left yesterday for Damascus and Beirut, was announced by Premier Menachem Begin after a meeting of the Ministerial Defense Committee. Begin said the pilotless aircraft had been hit by a SAM-6 missile, the type that Israel has insisted Syria must remove from Lebanon. Begin described the downing of the plane as "very serious" and that the incident confirmed that the missiles were a threat to Israel's national security.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori said after the committee meeting that he thought "the Syrians are looking for trouble. I hope everything will be settled in a diplomatic way and that's what we are trying to do." Habib, who was due to return to Israel tomorrow, has been conducting shuttle diplomacy between Israel, Lebanon and Syria in an effort to defuse the crisis in Lebanon.

Sadat Urges Palestinian-Israeli Talks

Meanwhile, in another Mideast development, news reports from Cairo today said that President Anwar Sadat called for direct negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel. In a speech observing the 10th anniversary of the May 1971 purge of his political rivals, Sadat urged the Palestinians to form a provisional government and negotiate with Israel, like the Algerians did with France before they gained their independence.

The Egyptian leader offered to host Palestinian-Israeli talks in El Arish in Sinai. He was quoted as saying: "Anyone who has a case with Israel, let him come here and I will bring Israel to him to negotiate. El Arish is open for any negotiations." Sadat defended his peace treaty with Israel, saying that it "is a prelude to a comprehensive Middle East peace."

U.S. CONTINUES TO VIEW LEBANON SITUATION AS SERIOUS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 14 (JTA) -- The State Department confirmed today that U.S. special envoy Philip Habib is returning to Jerusalem today for further meetings with Premier Menachem Begin and other Israeli officials. Habib held a second round of talks with President Elias Sarkis of Lebanon in Beirut yesterday and with President Hafez Assad of Syria in Damascus this morning.

The State Department continued to stress the seriousness with which the U.S. views the situation in Lebanon. But it refused again to make a public assessment as to whether Habib has made any progress toward resolving the crisis over the deployment of Syrian anti-aircraft missiles in that country.

Department spokesman Dean Fischer said the downing of an Israeli drone (pilotless photo reconnaissance plane) by Syrian missiles over Lebanon today "underlines the extreme seriousness of the situation which Ambassador Habib is trying to defuse." He denied reports that Habib, who left Jerusalem only yesterday, had not been scheduled to return there until tomorrow. He said that Habib's schedule has always been "flexible."

Denies U.S. Plan

Fischer continued to deny that there was any American plan on the table for resolving the crisis and preventing an all-out shooting war between Israel and Syria. When President Reagan sent Habib to the Middle East as his personal representative a week ago, his mission was described as that of "listener" to what the leaders of the three governments involved had to say. Fischer refused to say whether Habib was now a "talker." He said the Habib "mission is to try to bring about a reduction of tensions."

Fischer also refused to say whether the U.S. had had any further contacts with the Soviet Union over the situation in Lebanon. He would not comment on a Syrian statement that the Soviet Union was bound to defend them if they are attacked.

JEWISH RELIGIOUS AND LAY LEADERS CONDEMN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON POPE JOHN PAUL II

NEW YORK, May 14 (JTA) -- American Jewish religious and lay leaders spoke with one voice today in condemning the assassination attempt yesterday on Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. In statements released here they deplored violence and terrorism rampant in the world and wished the Pontiff a swift and full recovery from the wounds he suffered.

The would-be killer, who seriously wounded the Pope in St. Peter's Square, was identified as Mehmet Ali Agca, 23, a Turkish national of Armenian descent who is a member of the "Ulkucler" (Gray Wolves), a fanatical rightwing Moslem terrorist group affiliated with the ultra-nationalist National Movement that Interpol has branded "neo-Nazi." He is a self-proclaimed enemy of the U.S., the Soviet Union and Israel.

Howard Squadron, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said today that "Every creed and color and country is wounded by the attack on Pope John Paul II for he embodies qualities of gentleness and humanity that have made him a beloved figure around the globe... We share the deep sadness of all men and women who love peace, at the senselessness, violent attack on this man of peace, and we join in prayer that his life will be spared and that he will recover swiftly and fully to resume his noble task."

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, expressed "shock" at the assassination attempt and observed: "This is the latest demonstration of the epidemic of violence and terrorism that has threatened world order. Together with people of all faiths, the American Jewish Committee condemns the religious and ideological fanaticism which has

now sought to destroy the life of one of the great moral and spiritual leaders of this generation."

Nathan Perlmutter, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, called for prayer. "Let us vow that we will give no quarter to terrorism, no matter its source. Failing in either, we are all of us at the mercy of terrorists and of madmen."

Incident Underlines Pervasive Terrorism

Rabbi William Berkowitz, president of the Jewish National Fund, said: "The tragic assassination attempt on the life of Pope John Paul II leaves us all deeply shocked and saddened. . . . What this latest incident points to again is the pervasive presence of terrorism and violence in our world. Citizens the world over must join together in this hour toward a common commitment against those who would use violence to further their ends and causes."

Rabbi Aaron Lelyveld, of Cleveland, president of the Synagogue Council of America, observed: "That one so innocent of personal evil, who symbolizes peace and love for countless millions should be the target of a would-be assassin boggles the mind and makes devastatingly clear the frightening escalation of mindless violence in the world."

Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, declared, in a cable to the Pope: "Our prayers are joined to those of all faiths and peoples who wish you a rapid and complete recovery so that you may pursue your efforts in behalf of peace and good will for all mankind. We are shocked and dismayed at this new dastardly act of terrorism which threatens us all with its power to do evil. Humanity will continue to be at the mercy of this disease unless it unites to eradicate it from the earth."

Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, declared: "We are shocked and outraged by the attack on His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, one of the world's great religious leaders. We pray for his speedy recovery and for the end to the hate and sickness which have, in recent years, increased violence and terrorism in the world."

Nathaniel Saperstein, president of the National Council of Young Israel, said that his organization, its congregations "and the Jewish people join men and women of good will everywhere in deploring the attempt on assassinating Pope John Paul II. We are shocked and saddened that yet another world-renowned leader and man of peace has fallen victim to the organized violence which has attacked civilized societies throughout the world. We urge all nations to band together to ruthlessly stamp out this scourge of terrorism."

'The Black Death Of The 20th Century'

Jack Spitzer, president of B'nai B'rith International, deplored the assassination attempt and called on governments around the world to join "in a determined effort to stamp out terrorism and to delegitimize terrorists and the organizations and governments behind them." Spitzer, who wished the Pope a "swift and full recovery, described terrorism as "The Black Death of the 20th Century" and warned that it would persist until nations "take a resolute and concrete stand against it and until terrorists are treated as terrorists and not as 'national liberators'."

Ivan Novick, president of the Zionist Organization of America, stated: "This despicable act is a clear warning that society cannot condone any element that utilizes violence to accomplish its goals. Any tendency to accept the premise that terrorism can be seen in moderate terms is a basic fallacy and only encourages the practitioners of hatred."

Roselle Silberstein, president of the American Mizrahi Women, said her organization was distressed but not shocked by the assassination attempt because "The international climate today is one that simply accepts further and further acts of terrorism. If we do not forbid and severely punish terrorism at its outset, those dedicated to violence advance to more drastic measures."

Background Of A Killer

According to reports from Rome and Ankara, Agca is a fugitive who escaped from a Turkish prison while serving a sentence for the February, 1979 murder of Abdi Ipekci, editor and chief columnist of the Istanbul liberal newspaper, "Milliyet." He left a note in his jail cell threatening the life of the Pope who was then about to visit Turkey. The note called for revenge against the Moslem extremist attack on the Grand Mosque in Mecca earlier in 1979.

Agca claimed the incident was part of an American or Israeli crusade against Islam and accused the Pope of being "the masked leader of the crusade." Italian police who seized him after he fired shots at the Pope found several handwritten notes in his pocket.

One said he was killing the Pope to "protest against the imperialism of the Soviet Union and the United States and against the genocide that is being carried out in Salvador and Afghanistan." Agca is also known to have threatened the lives of the American, Soviet and Israeli Consuls in Turkey.

CANADA TO PERMIT EL AL GUARDS AT MONTREAL AIRPORT TO CARRY WEAPONS

MONTREAL, May 14 (JTA) -- The Canadian government has allowed a legal but rarely used exception to Canada's strict gun control laws to permit El Al security guards at Montreal's Mirabel Airport to carry weapons. Solicitor General Robert Kaplan explained today that the exception was made because the Israeli air carrier has been singled out as a target for terrorist attack. He denied, however, that the decision was connected with any recent threat against El Al.

Canadian policy prohibits foreign police agents from being armed while in Canada. The government insists in fact that security agents travelling with foreign VIPs deposit their weapons with Canadian authorities on arrival in the country. Their role is limited to liaison with Canadian police.

Kaplan said a "very small" number of El Al guards have been authorized to carry weapons which will be licensed to them by the Quebec police department, but would not say how many. He stressed that the guards, while foreign security agents, are residents of Canada. Kaplan said he plans no new legislation at the present time to lift the ban on foreigners carrying arms.

RCMP Recommended Decision

According to the Solicitor General, the decision in El Al's case was recommended by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) which complained of the ever increasing burden put on its forces to watch over the security of El Al passengers and crews. Kaplan noted that "The Palestine Libera-

tion Organization has identified El Al as a target and proved it all over the world.

RCMP Assistant Commissioner Douglas McGibbon, director of protective policing, said the El Al case is an exception. All other foreign security agents will be required to relinquish their arms. Kaplan said it took "a long time and lot of consideration before this lawful but exceptional treatment was accorded El Al." Spokesmen for El Al could not be reached for comment.

A government security panel decided in January, 1980 that "nothing should be done that could precipitate any form of confrontation" with the Quebec authorities or El Al on the issue, a Federal source said. Shortly before that policy directive was issued, an Israeli security agent guarding Premier Menachem Begin on his visit to Canada in 1979 was forcibly disarmed by RCMP officers after he refused to relinquish his weapon to them. The incident created bad feelings between Israel and Canada.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

BEGIN, HABIB MEET FOR 90 MINUTES

TEL AVIV, May 14 (JTA) -- U.S. special envoy Philip Habib met with Premier Menachem Begin for 90 minutes here this afternoon but gave no indication of what transpired at the meeting or its outcome. Israeli officials would not say whether Habib and Begin would meet again and Habib's immediate plans were not clear. Their latest meeting was held in the aftermath of the downing of a pilotless Israeli photo-reconnaissance plane by Syrian missiles over Lebanon this morning. Begin had said earlier that the incident was further proof that the missiles menaced Israel's security.

FIGHT AGAINST AWACS SALE IS TOP PRIORITY FOR AIPAC

LOS ANGELES, May 14 (JTA) -- The sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia is against the interests of both the United States and Israel, according to Tom Dine, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Speaking to the Middle East Commission of the Jewish Federation Council's Community Relations Committee, Dine said the proposed sale has put the Jewish community in the U.S. in a "showdown" situation over the issue with the new administration.

"We have an administration that seems to be split in its overall view toward Israel," Dine said. "We have the President, Secretary of State (Alexander) Haig and National Security Advisor Richard Allen strongly supportive of Israel while Secretary of Defense (Casper) Weinberger and several others seem to maintain a more 'balanced' view. This will be something to reckon with in the future."

The danger of this proposed sale to the U.S. is clear, Dine said. "This country will be relinquishing its most sophisticated military technology to a country that is only very tenuously in the Western camp," he observed.

"Our NATO allies are only now just receiving this type of equipment and even then, the AWACS, for example, will not be under the control of each individual country but under a unified NATO command control. This would mean that if Saudi Arabia gets the AWACS they would be the only country in the world other than our own to have these planes under their control. This is a situation that I believe poses a serious danger to our own security."

Continuing, Dine declared: "We must get the message across to the American people that this country is being held hostage to the whims of the Saudis. We must let our representatives in Washington know that this arms proposal, if approved, would put our best technological achievements in the hands of an unstable government -- one that may very well in the future go the way of Iran. We must make everyone aware that creating an arms race situation in the Middle East will not alleviate tension in the area."

Dine also had some sober warnings about the Soviet Union's future role in the area, predicting that they will become heavily involved in the arms race in the Middle East over the next 10 years. This fact, he warned, will put Israel in the position of being surrounded by a number of hostile nations with very sophisticated arms.

"We believe we now have the votes to block this sale," Dine concluded. "But is a very changeable situation and we know the administration will be hitting hard at some of our supporters trying to get them to change. We must keep the pressure on. I urge every Jew and non-Jew who opposes this sale to write their Senators and Congressmen and let them know their views."

FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL IN NEVADA NAMED AFTER JEWISH PIONEER

LAS VEGAS, May 14 (JTA) -- The naming of a new Las Vegas elementary school in memory of a Las Vegas pioneer, Nate Mack, the first public school in Nevada to be named for a Jew, will be marked in formal ceremonies here tomorrow.

Jerry Mack, the son of Nate, said the Las Vegas Board of School Trustees, an elective body, followed a policy of naming planned schools after Nevada pioneers and that the trustees had named Nate Mack for a planned elementary school in Las Vegas along with several other such school designations. He confirmed this was the first Nevada public school honoring a Jewish family.

The Nate Mack elementary school opened in September, 1980, about two years after the naming procedure by the school trustees according to the son, who is vice chairman of the board of the Valley Bank of Nevada, second largest bank in Nevada, and co-chairman of the Israel Bond campaign in Las Vegas.

Nate Mack, who died in 1963, was a founder of the Bank of Las Vegas and its first chairman, a post he held until his death. The son said that the first services to be held in southern Nevada with the required minyan were held for a time in his father's home, starting in 1930.

Nate Mack also was founder of the Las Vegas Jewish Community Center, which later became the present Conservative Temple Beth Shalom. Nate Mack served the synagogue as its first president for 13 years. The son said his father had been deeply involved in its early years. The son estimated the Las Vegas Jewish population at around 4,500.

TORONTO (JTA) -- The Yiddish weekly in Winnipeg, "Dos Yiddische Wort," which was alternatively known as the "Yiddish Press" and before that as the "Israelite Press," has ceased publication after 70 years. A spokesman for the weekly said that although Winnipeg still has a reputation as a stronghold of Yiddish, the paper had run out of readers, revenue and support. It was losing \$2,000 a month and had only 1,600 subscribers. The spokesman said the only other Yiddish newspaper in Canada, the "Eagle" in Montreal, receives support from the Quebec government.

AJC LEADER URGES U.S. JEWS TO CHANGE SOME OF THEIR ATTITUDES TO MEET AMERICA'S NEW ECONOMIC COURSE

WASHINGTON, May 14 (JTA) — The executive head of the American Jewish Committee urged American Jews "to change some of our attitudes, acquire some new frames of reference, and develop a new vocabulary" in meeting the "new economic course" on which the U.S. is embarked.

Bertram Gold, AJC executive vice president in remarks prepared for his keynote address to the agency's 75th anniversary annual meeting, continuing through Sunday at the Washington Hilton Hotel, he stated:

"It is clear that this country is embarked on a new economic course and that for the present, at least, most Americans support the Administration's program. It is equally clear that as a group, we Jews, who have generally favored the welfare state concept, and the creation of social programs on the national level, are not at all certain how we feel about it.

"We are going to have to learn to work more effectively on a state and local level, and to redouble our efforts to achieve economic expansion in this country. Because there can be no doubt that only with an expanding economy can we ameliorate the plight of the disadvantaged and prevent dangerous intergroup tensions and rivalries."

Need To Adjust to Changing Conditions

But, Gold cautioned, "we must never lose our Jewish passion for compassion" as American Jews shift gears to adjust to changing national conditions and moods.

"Even as we concentrate on the economy as a whole, we must not lose sight of what is happening to the individual," he stated. "Even as we accept and welcome a smaller federal role in our lives, let us remember that this does not imply a total absence of a federal responsibility. Block grants to the states, for example, may reduce red tape and paperwork, may be more efficient and may even be more responsive to people's needs, but federally-established minimum standards will still be necessary to make certain they reach those they are intended to aid."

Gold said that an AJC task force was already at work examining "the implications of the new emphasis on local governments and the private sector, and on how the mediating institutions can help meet this change."

Poses Some Serious Questions

Turning to the foreign scene, Gold asserted that the Reagan Administration's general foreign-policy stance showed "a new strength, a new vibrancy, and a restored sense of confidence." Nonetheless, he declared, "there are some serious questions that must be posed." He said the decision to sell F-15 add-ons and AWACS to Saudi Arabia was not in the American interest. He continued:

"It is not in America's interest to build a U.S.-Saudi relationship based on weakness rather than strength, to supinely bow to Saudi requests without receiving anything in exchange. First it was the F-15s; then it was the add-ons; now it's the AWACS. What will it be tomorrow? The scuttling of the Camp David agreements? Recognition of the PLO?"

Gold asserted that it was not in America's interest to escalate the arms race in the Middle East and increase the danger of a new war; ignore the lessons of Iran, and turn over sophisticated

weapons to an inherently unstable country and run the risk that our secret technology will fall into Soviet or other unfriendly hands; and break our commitments — in this instance, a commitment given both to the United States Senate and to our most dependable ally in the Middle East.

"And so," he declared, "we will continue to oppose these sales to the Saudis, not only because they would hurt Israel, but because they would hurt the United States."

PBS TO COVER CLOSING CEREMONIES IN JERUSALEM OF WORLD GATHERING OF JEWISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

NEW YORK, May 14 (JTA) — In an historic "first," the closing ceremonies of the four-day World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Jerusalem will be transmitted live via satellite Thursday, June 18 (1-2:30 pm, EDT), over the facilities of the Public Broadcasting Service, it was announced here today. It is expected that PBS stations throughout the United States will carry the transmissions at times to be announced locally.

The live transmission is the first ever from the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Premier Menachem Begin will deliver a major address to the some 7,000 people from 22 countries who will be concluding their gathering. Many of them will be joined by their children and grandchildren in Israel on that day.

Daily highlights of the World Gathering on June 15, 16, 17 and 18 also will be transmitted via satellite on PBS facilities, it was announced. These daily segments will last one-half hour and will be hosted by former CBS News correspondent David Schoenbrun and talk-show hostess Laurel Vlack. They will be seen in New York on Channel 13 at 11:30 PM (EDT). The broadcasts are being produced by Joel Levitch of Jason Films, and funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Over 7,000 survivors are expected to attend the tribute to the six-million Jews who perished in the Holocaust and to pass a legacy of commitment to the next generations. The Gathering is being led by Honorary Chairman Elie Wiesel, Simone Veil and Stefan Grayek and Executive Committee Chairman Ernest Michel and Vice Chairman Benjamin Meed.

10 JEWS ELECTED TO SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT, PROVINCIAL COUNCILS

JOHANNESBURG, May 14 (JTA) — Last month's general election in South Africa confirmed that there is no "Jewish vote" in this country. While the 10 successful Jewish candidates for Parliament and the provincial councils are all members of the Progressive Federal Party, the liberal opposition, Jewish candidates ran on other tickets as well.

Of the 20 Jews nominated for office, the governing rightwing National Party headed by Prime Minister P.W. Botha fielded two Jewish candidates and others ran on the even more conservative New Republic Party ticket. The National Party, which has governed South Africa since 1948, won the election.

Except for several ill-chosen remarks by the far right Herstigte Nasionale Party, the campaign was singularly free of Jewish issues or angles. The close and cordial relationship between South Africa and Israel was endorsed by all major factions and was not an issue.

The Jewish candidates elected to Parliament are: Harry Schwartz, Alf Widman, Maj. Reuben Sive and Helen Suzman. Mrs. Suzman was for many years the only Progressive Federal Party member of Parliament.