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INCREASED PROSPECTS FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF MISSILE CRISIS SEEN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 20 (JTA) -- The Cabinet met in special session for two hours today to review the latest proposals presented by U.S. special envoy Philip Habib to resolve the missile crisis between Israel and Syria. Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor told reporters afterwards that decisions were taken "which increase the prospects for a peaceful resolution of the crisis." He gave no details.

Premier Menachem Begin was scheduled to meet with Habib later today to inform him of the Cabinet's decision and is expected to make a statement to the press after the meeting. Begin and Habib met late yesterday shortly after the American diplomat returned to Israel from talks in Damascus. He also visited Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, last weekend in an apparent effort to enlist the Saudis to exert their influence on President Hafez Assad of Syria for a peaceful solution.

Deny 'American Plan' On Israeli Flights

The Prime Ministers Office repeated today that there was no "American plan" or any other that calls for a cessation or limitation of Israel Air Force flights over Lebanon. A spokesman insisted that no such idea was even raised in Begin's talks with Habib.

But Israel Radio last night broadcast what it said were "elements" of the proposals Habib has carried in his round of shuttle diplomacy between Jerusalem and Arab capitals. They included cessation by Israel of operational flights over Lebanon as distinguished from high altitude intelligence-gathering flights which would be allowed to continue, according to Israel Radio.

It was intimated that the restriction applied only to eastern and northern Lebanon and that Israel would remain free to continue its operational missions against Palestinian terrorists in south Lebanon.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori said yesterday that he had no information of any offensive deployment of Syrian forces in Lebanon. He told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that the Syrians may want war but at this stage their military build-up was defensive in nature. He said the Syrians have reinforced their anti-aircraft batteries and armored units and were fortifying their positions in the Sannine mountain range. But according to Zipori, the Syrians are no longer using helicopters in offensive operations against Christian forces in the Lebanese mountains.

UNDOF Mandate Extended

Meanwhile, a United Nations source in New York said today that Israel and Syria have agreed to a six-month extension of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force on the Golan Heights. The 1250-man force made up of contingents from Austria, Finland, Canada and Poland has been supervising the disengagement agreements entered into by Syria and Israel in May, 1974.

STATE DEPARTMENT INSISTS THERE IS NO U.S. PLAN TO END MISSILE CRISIS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 20 (JTA) -- The State Department continued to maintain today that there is no American plan for ending the current crisis in Lebanon, despite reports from Jerusalem that the Israeli government is considering proposals made by the United States.

"There is no such thing as an American plan for resolving the crisis or for defusing the tension," State Department spokesman Dean Fischer repeated several times.

Fischer said that special envoy Philip Habib is "traveling from one country to another, working with the parties concerned in an effort to find a way to defuse the tension." But the spokesman added that it served no purpose to talk of "an American plan or an Israeli plan or a Syrian plan or a Lebanese plan." He said that Habib is discussing "ideas that are evolving from the discussions" with the three governments involved.

Fischer said he could not give any date when Habib would return to the United States. "As long as there is hope for a settlement or an agreement, he will stay," he said.

While the Israelis have been talking about an American proposal, Syrian President Hafez Assad has denied that the Americans have made proposals to him. He told American reporters in Damascus today that all Habib has presented him was Israeli demands.

Meanwhile, Fischer noted that the United States considers that Saudi Arabia has "played a very helpful and constructive role" throughout the crisis. Habib was in Saudi Arabia last weekend and President Reagan met secretly on Saturday with Saudi Prince Turki Faisal, described as an adviser to King Khalid, on the situation in Lebanon.

OPPOSITION MOUNTING TO NOMINATION OF LeFEVER TO HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE

WASHINGTON, May 20 (JTA) -- The ordeal of Jacobo Timerman was an eloquent if silent witness this week at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's hearings on President Reagan's controversial nomination of Ernest LeFever to be Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs.

Timerman, former editor and publisher of the Argentine daily La Opinion, was imprisoned for 30 months without charges by the military authorities who govern Argentina. By his own account, he was subjected to harsher treatment than thousands of other political prisoners in Argentina because he is Jewish.

LeFever, an arch-conservative, is a vociferous critic of the stress placed on human rights by the Carter Administration in its dealings with authoritarian regimes friendly to the United States. He said he subscribes to the view that "quiet diplomacy" is more effective than public criticism in ameliorating human rights violations, except in the case of the Soviets and other Marxist governments.

Timerman, who now lives in Israel, was a spectator at the hearings where strong opposition to LeFever's nomination has developed. He declined

to testify. But his recently published book, "Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number," was cited by several foes of LeFever. The nominee was asked by Sen. Claiborne Pell (D. R.I.) if he had read it. LeFever replied he had read reviews but not the book and refused to be drawn into a discussion of Argentina.

Timerman's book is his detailed personal account of his arrest, incarceration, and interrogation, under torture, about his Zionism, his loyalty to Argentina and his political opinions. It is also a powerful indictment of the Argentine military junta's treatment of political dissenters.

Nearly three years after his arrest in April, 1977, the Argentine Supreme Court found no judicial grounds for his confinement. Nevertheless, he was stripped of his citizenship and expelled from the country. His newspaper and other property confiscated at the time of his arrest were not returned.

Rousing Ovation For Timerman

When Foreign Relations Committee chairman Charles Percy (R. Ill.) saw Timerman in the spectators gallery and asked him to stand, the former Argentine journalist received a rousing ovation. Later, he told reporters that the Carter Administration's human rights policy had helped "thousands" of Argentinians faced with repression.

He said the U.S. helped by providing information and legal advice to those in distress and by putting diplomatic pressure on the Argentine rulers. "Silent diplomacy is silence," he told reporters. "Quiet diplomacy is surrender."

AJCongress Opposes Nomination

Meanwhile, the American Jewish Congress, in testimony submitted to the Foreign Relations Committee, said the confirmation of LeFever to the sensitive human rights post would be "a serious error" and urged his rejection.

The statement, signed by Henry Siegman, AJCongress executive director, and Phil Baum, associate executive director, said it would be "singularly wrong" to confirm LeFever "because the strategies he has recommended clearly subordinate human rights goals to many other considerations." According to the AJCongress officials, "Too often the call for quiet diplomacy merely masks an intention to stifle criticism and inhibit significant action."

MENDELEVICH URGES AMERICAN JEWS TO MAKE ALIYA NOW

By Marian Margulies

NEW YORK, May 20 (UJA) -- Former Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Yosef Mendelevich, who was released from a Soviet prison in February after serving 11 years on charges related to an alleged attempt to hijack a Soviet airliner to Israel, is urging American Jews to make aliya now.

In a speech at the Jewish Center in Manhattan, he expressed frustration with American Jewry's indifference to aliya. He told an audience of 500 that he found it hard to understand how six million American Jews could remain in the United States when Soviet Jews are "struggling for years in prisons."

Mendelevich pointed out that only a small number of American Jews decide to make aliya. "I don't believe in words, I believe in action," he said. This meeting was one of many which Mendelevich is appearing at during his three-week tour in the United States which began May 13.

Addressing a large audience at Columbia University, Mendelevich declared: "I am very disappointed to discover that only a small portion of the six million Jews in the United States are participating actively in Jewish concerns. I see this as a tragic crisis in the American Jewish community. Many Jews intermarry, forsake Jewish religious tradition, and attempt to forget their Jewish origins."

He contrasted this situation to that of Jews in the Soviet Union where "Many Jews in Moscow, Leningrad and other Soviet cities are unable to leave for Israel and are being persecuted for observing Jewish religious precepts and for giving their children a Jewish education."

Cites The Role Of Faith

At rallies attended by more than 700 children, sponsored by Project RISE (Russian Immigrant Services and Education) of Agudath Israel of America, Mendelevich said, "Just as emunah (faith) and the observance of mitzvahs sustained me during my eleven year confinement in a Russian prison camp, so can it help you live as truly free Jews in America."

Speaking first at the Yeshiva Torah Temimah in Flatbush to nearly 300 boys from more than a dozen yeshivos, Mendelevich recounted his experiences in a moving address, specifically emphasizing how he had kept Yiddishkeit while in a Soviet prison.

Two Russian children attending the Be'er Hagolah Institute in Brooklyn moved the former Prisoner of Conscience when they responded to his question of what they'd like to be when they grow up. One said he dreamed of becoming a "talmid chochom," (Jewish scholar) whereas the second said, a "Tzadik" (pious Jew).

Addressing more than 400 girls attending the Bais Yaakov Academy in Boro Park, he told them he was privileged to be in Eretz Yisrael where he can observe all the mitzvahs fully.

Gets Key To The City

Mendelevich was also a special guest at a news conference at City Hall where Mayor Edward Koch presented him with the Key to the City.

The mayor said, "With freedom-loving people everywhere, I rejoice at the news of your release from a Soviet labor camp I would like to welcome you to our city to share your experiences and the joy of your freedom with all of us."

Mendelevich responded by urging all American Jews to persist in their fight for human rights and religious freedom of "those millions of Soviet Jews still yearning to be free."

Mendelevich will be a featured guest at the 10th annual Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry march along 5th Avenue on May 31, sponsored by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Mendelevich's New York City tour is being sponsored by various groups, including the North American Aliya Movement (NAAM), in conjunction with the Israel Aliya Center, Raishit Gaula and Chevrat Aliya Toranit; the National Conference on Soviet Jewry; the New York Conference on Soviet Jewry; Rabbi Steven Riskin, honorary chairman of the New York Conference and chairman of the Or Torah Society; and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.

Mendelevich was also in Washington this week meeting with Congressmen. He was hosted by Rep. Martin Frost (D. Texas).

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated May 25 due to Memorial Day, a postal holiday.

COALITION TO SAVE WEVD ABANDONS LEGAL BATTLE TO PREVENT SALE OF STATION TO EVANGELICAL GROUP

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, May 20 (JTA) -- The Coalition to Save WEVD, a group of Orthodox Jewish organizations, has abandoned an 18-month legal battle to prevent the sale by the Forward Association of the AM band of station WEVD, which has broadcast Jewish programming in the New York area for more than 50 years, to a corporation dedicated to Christian evangelical programming, Howard Zuckerman, president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), disclosed today.

The Forward Association, which publishes the Jewish Daily Forward, the only Yiddish-language daily in the United States, retained control of the station's FM band. The Salem Media Corp. reportedly paid \$1.2 million for the AM band.

Nathan Lewin, a COLPA vice president, and David Butler, a COLPA board member, both of Washington, who had represented the coalition, withdrew an appeal against a unanimous ruling by the Federal Communications Commission approving the sale. COLPA had filed the appeal in the federal Court of Appeals in Washington, which hears appeals from FCC rulings, according to Dennis Rapps, COLPA executive director.

Basis For The Decision

Butler said the decision to give up the legal fight was made because a recent United States Supreme Court decision in a related case had undercut the coalition's legal position and left little basis to continue the struggle in the courts.

Butler stressed there had been no change in the coalition's contention that the sale was not in the public interest, as required by the 1934 Communications Act, on grounds the transfer would have an adverse impact on the availability of Jewish programming in WEVD's broadcast area.

He noted that the federal appeals court here had ruled last year that, in certain circumstances, the FCC must consider a probable change in format as a material fact requiring an FCC hearing. However, he said, the Supreme Court upheld the FCC position and that this effectively foreclosed the possibility of a successful challenge of the sale of the AM band.

The motion opposing the sale was filed by COLPA on Aug. 29, 1979. The coalition had expressed strong doubts about a Forward Association commitment to transfer in toto to the tight schedule of multi-lingual programs on the FM band the four-and-a-half hours of Jewish programs broadcast on the AM band.

The coalition, in submitting about 10,000 signatures of affected Jews and Jewish organizations, contended that many of the regular listeners to Jewish programs on the AM band did not have FM radios and that the AM band signal reached many areas of Jewish concentration around New York city, not served by the FM band, such as the Monticello area.

A Controversial Aspect

Butler said one of the most controversial aspects of the FCC approval last Jan. 29 was its acceptance of the November 1980 proposal by the Salem Corp. to provide Jewish-oriented programming on the AM band. He said this offer was concededly made to demonstrate that Jewish-oriented programming would not be diminished by the

Salem Corp. takeover. The FCC ruling became effective last Feb. 22 and the Salem Corp. now operates the AM band. Rapps said the Salem Corp. had contracted with a syndicate which provides Jewish radio programming but that no study had been made on the impact of the Salem handling of the AM band content which is now mainly Christian evangelical material.

The coalition included Agudath Israel, National Council of Young Israel, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, United Jewish Council of the Lower East Side and the Jewish Community Councils of Washington Heights in Manhattan, and of Brighton Beach and Crown Heights in Brooklyn, as well as some local institutions which had sponsored Yiddish and English programs on WEVD-AM.

TWO MORE KIEV JEWS ARRESTED

NEW YORK, May 20 (JTA) -- According to reports just received by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), two more Kiev refuseniks have been arrested.

Stanislav Zubko was recently searched and put under arrest. Soviet authorities claim that he had drugs and a weapon in his possession. He is being charged with "having a weapon without permission," under Section 222 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code. The 41-year-old refusenik had spent 25 days in prison last February on alleged charges of "contemptible behavior and using bad language in a public place," and "smoking where smoking is prohibited."

Mikhail Salman, 24, was recently arrested on alleged charges of "parasitism." He was given permission to emigrate a year-and-a-half ago, but did not want to leave without his parents.

Zubko and Salman join two other victims of Soviet oppression presently being held in a Kiev prison. Kim Fridman, also accused of "parasitism," will go on trial on June 9, the NCSJ reported. Activists fear that Fridman will be sentenced to a year's imprisonment.

Meanwhile, no judge has yet been appointed, nor a trial date set for Vladimir Kislik, who awaits trial on trumped-up charges of "malicious hooliganism."

Serious Situation In Kiev

According to the NCSJ, Jewish activists state that the situation in Kiev is the worst it has been for many years. It is believed that among the Jewish population of some 195,000 there are 7,000 refuseniks. Some of them, who have no close relatives in Israel, were just told to "forget about emigration -- the files are no longer active," the NCSJ reported. They were reportedly warned not to complain or remain active in trying to obtain visas.

Others, whose close relatives are dropouts, were told to advise their relatives to emigrate to Israel and provide them with invitations from that country, the NCSJ said.

In another development, Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky has been punished with an additional three months of solitary confinement in the Perm labor camp, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and Union of Councils for Soviet Jews have learned. This means that he will be held until this September in conditions which his wife Avital says has already endangered his life. He is also forbidden visitors until at least September 1982 and possibly 1983.

UJA ANNOUNCES 1982 CAMPAIGN GOAL OF \$660 MILLION; CALLS FOR INTENSIFIED PROJECT RENEWAL DRIVE

WASHINGTON, May 20 (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal has established a national 1982 regular campaign goal of \$660 million -- matching the total raised in the 1974 campaign response to the Yom Kippur War -- and called for simultaneous intensified fundraising and cash collection for Project Renewal.

The goal was announced by UJA national chairman Herschel Blumberg to 650 national, regional and community campaign leaders from throughout the country at the UJA national leadership meeting at the Sheraton-Washington Hotel. The meeting officially inaugurated the 1982 national campaign and initiated Blumberg's second year as national chairman. The projected total for the 1981 campaign, still active and ongoing, is \$550 million.

The meeting's opening plenary was marked by the first public appearance in the U.S. of Yosef Mendelevich since his arrival in Israel after 11 years of imprisonment in the Soviet Union. The former Prisoner of Conscience urged reinforced support by American Jewry of the ongoing struggle of Soviet Jewish dissidents and refuseniks.

Ambassador Ephraim Evron of Israel, while making a brief, passing reference to differences with the Reagan Administration over specific current issues, affirmed the deep bond between the two countries. Addressing the crisis surrounding developments in Lebanon, he declared that Israel would "exhaust every diplomatic possibility" for a resolution before considering unilateral action.

Claim Wallenberg Is Still Alive

American policy in the Middle East was a major issue of concern at other events throughout the meeting, including briefings at the State Department, an analysis by Rep. Tom Lantos (D. Calif.), and a study session which also considered Reagan administration domestic policy.

Lantos, the only member of Congress who is a Holocaust survivor, revealed that his resolution to confer honorary U.S. citizenship on Raoul Wallenberg has received overwhelming support in both houses and is expected to be passed shortly. One of the 100,000 Hungarian Jews who was saved by Wallenberg's heroic actions in the late stages of World War II, Lantos asserted that "conclusive proof now exists to support the belief that Wallenberg is still alive in the Gulag Archipelago."

Comprehensive Campaign Plan Presented, Studied

A Comprehensive 1982 Campaign plan and calendar of events, presented by UJA national vice chairman Norman Lipoff of Miami, chairman of the National Campaign Planning Committee, was discussed and evaluated throughout the three-day meeting in an intensive series of workshops, seminars and study sessions.

For the second successive year, the new campaign will be supported by a "community capacity" campaign planning process carried out by a joint UJA/CJF Task Force. UJA national vice chairman Robert Loup of Denver, who heads the Task Force, reported that its members will conduct consultations with the leadership of some 80 federations throughout the spring and summer months to help develop campaigns with goals reflecting each community's fundraising

capacity, rather than past performance. In the Task Force's first year of operation, Loup indicated, 48 communities accepted 1981 campaign capacity goals averaging a 21 percent increase over the previous year's total and all are expected to meet them.

Martin Citrin of Detroit, the 1981 Task Force Chairman, called on community leadership to maintain equity in the proportionate allocation of campaign proceeds between UJA-funded overseas agencies and local beneficiaries. In reaction to impending cuts in federal funds for local programs, he emphasized, communities must find ways and means to maintain maximum service without reducing allocations to the United Jewish Appeal.

Need For Intense Campaigns

Akiva Lewinsky, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, and Henry Taub, president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, both said they were encouraged by increased percentage gains in the campaigns of the past two years but indicated that income derived from the campaigns had not kept up with rising costs.

Among the programs that would be most affected by campaign failure to meet the totality of need, Lewinsky asserted, are resettlement centers in the Negev for Sinai families who must be withdrawn behind the new border with Egypt next April. A drastic reduction in the number of teenage youngsters admitted into youth aliya residential training programs is likely, he added, while economic consolidation of agricultural settlements will be halted by diversion of funds to keep the pre-settlement plan in the Galilee alive.

Taub pointed to JDC's successful open re-entry into Hungary and the recent reopening of contact with the Jews of Czechoslovakia as heartening gains, but pointed out that food and clothing distribution in other areas of Eastern Europe will have to be decreased unless there is a significant rise in campaign-generated income this year.

Fisher Receives First Pincus Award

The UJA conferred its first Louis Pincus Jewish Statesmanship Award, established in memory of the former chairman of the Jewish Agency, on Max Fisher, chairman of the Agency's Board of Governors for the past decade. Fisher, the only American Jewish leader to have served as the volunteer head of both the UJA and the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF), was co-creator with Pincus of the 1971 Agency reconstitution which augmented the role of diaspora campaign leadership in its operation.

Also, the UJA National Women's Division conferred its second Adele Rosenwald Levy Award on Mathilda Brailove of Central New Jersey, one of the division's founders and a past chairman and president.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Israel Wednesday vigorously denied a Syrian claim to have shot down an Israeli pilotless aircraft over Lebanon Tuesday. An army spokesman said there was absolutely no truth in the report.

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SANTIAGO (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Angel Kreiman of Chile has been re-elected for another two year term to the post he has held for the past nine years. Kreiman, 36, serves not only as spiritual leader of Chile's 30,000 Jews but is their ecclesiastical representative in relations with the government and the church.