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ISRAEL PLANNING PROTEST TO U.S. OVER 'HASTY' CHARGE OVER RAID ON IRAQ A-PLANT

Arabs Organize Call For
Security Council Session
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 9 (JTA) -- Israel will protest to the United States over what it considers to be Washington's hasty condemnation of Sunday's air attack that destroyed a nuclear facility under construction in Iraq which Israel claims would soon have had the capability to produce atomic bombs. Premier Menachem Begin told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee during a three hour briefing today that the protest would focus on the fact that the U.S. State Department issued its condemnation without waiting for Israel to provide it with all the relevant data and explanations surrounding the operation.

The State Department said yesterday in a prepared statement that "the unprecedented character" of the attack "cannot but seriously add to the already tense situation in the area" and said it was possible Israel had violated the agreement under which it purchased the American F-4 and F-15 jet fighter-bombers used in the attack. The statement was the sharpest rebuke Israel has yet received from the Reagan Administration.

The attack on Iraq's Osiriak nuclear facility being built by French technicians near Baghdad was announced in a government communique released late yesterday afternoon. The communique said the attack was based on positive knowledge from unimpeachable sources that the Iraqi reactor would be operational between early July and early September and could produce nuclear weapons intended for use against Israel.

Begin amplified on the communique in a radio address last night. He said it was virtually "now or never" to knock out Iraq's potential nuclear capability in order to save Israel from destruction. Iraq's "cruel" ruler Haddam Hussein, who had "butchered his own close colleagues" would have had "no hesitation" to drop "three or four or five" nuclear bombs on Israel, Begin said.

Begin Defiant To World Reaction

Begin was defiant in response to world reactions which have been largely critical. He said Israel would "stand firm" in the face of criticism from whatever quarter because the operation had been required "to ensure the existence of the Jewish people in its homeland." He said he had sent a letter to President Reagan, through the Israeli Ambassador in Washington, Ephraim Evron, explaining the operation. He confirmed that the U.S. had no prior knowledge of the Israeli attack and also that he had given no hint of it to President Anwar Sadat of Egypt when they met at Ophira in Sinai last Thursday.

Begin strenuously denied allegations from opposition sources that Israel's elections at the end of this month had anything to do with the decision to knock out Iraq's nuclear facility. He said the decision was taken by the Cabinet "many months ago" but there had been "delays and difficulties." He

injected a partisan note however, saying he had informed Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres about the government's intention some months ago. According to Begin, Peres said nothing at the time but "three or four weeks ago" he wrote to Begin advising against the operation.

Peres said today that he had not objected to the air attack in principle but had opposed plans to carry it out on May 10, the day of the French Presidential elections.

New York Republicans Support Raid

The Israeli raid was strongly backed by two New York Republicans, Rep. Jack Kemp who is presently visiting Israel and Sen. Alphonse D'Amato. Kemp agreed with Begin today that the American condemnation was hasty. He said the Reagan Administration should have waited to receive Israel's full explanation and its information regarding the Iraqi nuclear reactor before formulating its statement. D'Amato, in a statement released by his office in Washington, praised the Israeli attack as "courageous." He said that "If Israel felt this was what they had to do to ensure their security then we are in no position to second guess them. We cannot fault Israel, given the attitude of Iraq toward the survival of the Jewish state. They would destroy Israel if they had the opportunity," D'Amato said.

But in Washington today, Rep. Clement Zablocki (D. Wisc.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, called the Israeli raid "a highly irresponsible action" that could destroy the Camp David peace process. On the other hand, Sen. Alan Cranston (D. Calif) said the "pre-emptive strike is defensive" in view of his information that Iraq "could have" an atomic weapon by Oct. 1 "and if not then, certainly by the end of the year."

According to reports here, the Israeli Cabinet was initially divided over the wisdom of the air strike. It was said to have been opposed by Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, Interior Minister Yosef Burg and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer. On the other hand, Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, the government's most outspoken hawk, threatened to resign when the decision was delayed, newspapers here said today.

Most Israeli newspapers backed the raid today but expressed caution about the international repercussions. Several papers suggested that the attack, while necessary, was motivated to some extent by the approaching elections.

Meanwhile, French sources reported that only one of two nuclear reactors under construction in Iraq was hit and severely damaged by the Israeli raiders. The sources said one French technician was killed. The Israeli communique yesterday claimed the raid was carried out on Sunday when no technicians would be on the site and that none were hurt.

IRAQ AGREES TO DELAY CALL FOR SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, June 9 (JTA) -- Iraq, which asked last night for an immediate meeting of the Security Council to take up Israel's air strike at the French-built nuclear plant near Baghdad, has agreed to postpone the meeting until after the meeting of the Arab League Foreign Ministers in Baghdad tomorrow, a U.N. spokesman announced today.

He said the Security Council meeting could not be expected before Friday, noting that Iraqi Foreign Minister Saadoun Hammadi will have to return to New York from Baghdad to participate in the debate.

Meanwhile, the President of the Security Council, Porfirio Munoz Ledo of Mexico, was holding "individual consultations" with Security Council members in preparation for the debate on the Iraqi complaint. A UN spokesman said Ledo met today with the representatives of the U.S., the United Kingdom and France.

Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who issued a statement last night condemning the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear facility and charged that it was "in clear contravention of international law", reiterated his criticism of Israel at a press conference in Tokyo today. His spokesman said that Waldheim was in contact with the President of the Security Council regarding a meeting to deal with the Israeli raid and that it is possible he would cut short his trip in order to attend the Security Council meeting. But Waldheim has not yet decided, the spokesman said.

A spokesman for Waldheim said here last night that "Upon hearing of the confirmation of the report of the Israeli air strike on Iraq's nuclear facility, the Secretary General expressed his deep concern at this action which is in clear contravention of international law and must be condemned."

Such an action has to be viewed with the utmost seriousness, not only in itself but as regards its possible consequences for international peace and security," Waldheim's spokesman said.

ISRAEL 'REGRETS' WALDHEIM CRITICISM OF A-BOMB RAID by Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, June 9 (JTA) -- Israel expressed today "profound regret" over Secretary General Kurt Waldheim's statement condemning the Israeli operation against Iraq's nuclear reactor.

In a statement issued here by Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Israel said "the Secretary General has once again arbitrarily prejudge a matter of extreme complexity."

Blum charged that Waldheim "has again exceeded the limits of his office as the chief administrative officer of an organization in which states representing a diversity of interests are members. He has given up any semblance of the impartiality required by his office."

Blum recalled in his statement that Waldheim "refused to condemn the Iraqi invasion of Iran last year and did not denounce" the repeated calls for jihad (holy war) against Israel made by Saudi Arabia and other Arab and non-Arab members of the United Nations."

In fact, Blum noted, Waldheim attended the Summit of the Islamic conference held in Taif this January "in full knowledge that that call would be repeated and endorsed by those participating."

STATE DEPT. EXPECTS TO FINISH SOON STUDY OF 'POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS' BY ISRAEL IN PLANES USED IN RAID

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 9 (JTA) -- The State Department said today it expects to complete this week its study on whether there was a "possible violation" by Israel in the use of American made planes to bomb the Iraqi nuclear plant Sunday.

"It is not a question of whether or not American planes were used," the Department spokesman Dean Fischer said. "It is a question of whether or not the use of those airplanes violates the provisions of the agreement on arms for Israel."

Fischer said the study was "complex" and could contain many options including the suspension of arms to Israel. He stressed that he was not prejudging the results and that the U.S. was not backing away from its commitments to Israel. The spokesman did not know whether there would be any hold-up on the delivery of four F-16 jets scheduled for delivery to Israel Friday.

The Israelis reportedly used U.S. made F-4's to attack the nuclear plant, backed by the higher flying F-15's. The U.S. arms agreement requires Israel and other countries to use the weaponry only for defensive purposes.

Spokesman Vague On Study Details

While Fischer indicated that this is what would have to be determined by the State Department study, he said he had no details on how the study is being conducted, or in what form the report would go to Congress. Senate majority leader Howard Baker, (R. Tenn.) said today that once Congress sees the report, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold hearings.

Under questioning Fischer repeated that the U.S. condemns Israel for the "unprecedented attack" and maintained that the U.S. had no advance warning. He said he wanted to "reiterate very strongly ... we did not know until after the attack." Fischer also said there was "no collusion" with Israel in the U.S. decision not to announce the attack until 11 am yesterday even though the U.S. knew about it Sunday afternoon. He said the Department wanted to seek more information and hold consultations. The U.S. announcement came shortly after Israel publicly disclosed the attack.

Fischer also said there was a continuing flow of new information, which was the reason the State Department changed its original statement of "concern" over the attack two hours later to a condemnation. He had no comment on statements from Israel today by Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and Representative Jack Kemp (R. N.Y.) saying the U.S. should have waited for the full Israeli information before issuing its condemnation.

The State Department spokesman maintained that the Israeli attack and the resulting Arab uproar over it will not end the Reagan Administration's efforts to have them join with the U.S. against Soviet incursion in the Middle East. He said the Administration was "not going to abandon" the policy enunciated by Secretary of State Alexander Haig on his visit to the Middle East in April when he sought to convince the Arab countries that the Soviet Union was the main threat to the area.

Meanwhile, as he did yesterday, Fischer continued to express the hope that the Israeli raid will not affect the mission of Reagan's special envoy Philip Habib, to ease tension over Lebanon. He said that Habib has resumed his mission and was in Beirut today.

WEST EUROPE GOV'TS ASSAIL ISRAEL'S RAID ON REACTOR

By Edwin Eytan (Paris) and
Maurice Samuelson (London)

June 9 (JTA) -- Western European governments were sharply critical today of Israel's air raid Sunday that destroyed a French-built nuclear facility in Iraq. The British Foreign Office called it "a grave breach of international law which could have

the most serious consequences." In Paris, Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne was summoned to the French Foreign Ministry to receive a stern rebuke by Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson for Israel's "violation of international law." He was told that contrary to Israel's claim that no one was hurt in the raid a 25 year-old French engineer, Damien Chaussepied, was killed and other French nationals in the scientific task force assisting Iraq were placed in serious danger.

Italy, which also has technicians in Iraq, expressed grave concern over the raid but said none of its nationals was injured.

The statement by the Foreign Office in London that the Israeli attack appears to have been unprovoked, drew a reply from the Israeli Embassy there which claimed that the Foreign Office "predictably ignores the fact that Iraq claims consistently to be in a state of war with Israel and is the only Arab belligerent in the conflict that has continually refused to sign any cease-fire or armistice agreement with Israel."

Winston Churchill, a Conservative MP, vigorously applauded the Israeli raid. "Israel was absolutely right and had no alternative but to take out the Iraqi nuclear capability," he said. Churchill has been a strong critic of France's role in helping the Iraqis.

The Soviet Union meanwhile condemned the Israeli air strike on Iraq as a "barbarous act."

French Situation Called Ambiguous

The situation in France is ambiguous. Despite French anger and official condemnations of Israel, political circles in Paris believe that the new administration of President Francois Mitterrand is, if anything, relieved at not having to cope any longer with the "Iraqi connection" entered into by former President Valery Giscard D'Estaing and his Premier, Jacques Chirac. Mitterrand was torn between his commitment to honor all of France's previous pledges and contracts and his often stated opposition to the sale of arms and nuclear know-how to belligerent states.

Asked last night whether France would replace the destroyed equipment in Iraq, Premier Pierre Mauroy said, "It is a request we would have to study. These problems have already weighed heavily on the (French) government." It was reported meanwhile that France has begun to evacuate most of its personnel from the Iraqi nuclear site.

Israel Envoy Defends Act

Following his interview with Foreign Minister Cheysson, Ambassador Rosenne told French television that "Any country endangered by nuclear bombs like Israel was would have acted in the same way." He said the attack would not have been necessary if weapon-grade uranium had not been supplied to Iraq.

The Israeli envoy dismissed a report by the International Atomic Energy Commission that the Iraqi plant did not have a weapons producing capability. He noted that the Vienna-based agency had granted observer status to the Palestine Liberation Organization. A member of the Commission's board told French television later that the Iraqi reactor had been under constant surveillance through sealed cameras which reported every move. "We never observed anything irregular or not in line with the international treaty against the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons which Iraq had been one of the first to sign," he said.

The French government came under fire from both pro-Israel and pro-Arab groups. The France-

Israel Alliance which supports closer relations between the two countries deplored the government's condemnation of the Israeli attack. The France-Arab Association criticized the government for not reacting sharply enough. The president of the Gaullist RPR Party, Claude Labbe, said the raid was "deplorable" and had "further increased regional tensions." But most Socialist and Communist leaders declined to comment.

LECH WALESKA GETS HISTADRUT BID IN GENEVA TO VISIT ISRAEL

GENEVA, June 9 (JTA) -- Before leaving Geneva on his way back to Poland, Lech Waleska, the Solidarity leader told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he had received from the Histadrut delegate to the International Labor Conference an invitation to visit Israel. He added, "I was happy to receive this invitation but right now I have a lot of work to do at home and cannot travel to Israel but at a later date I shall do so."

He also said that he had had a long meeting with U.S. Labor Secretary Raymond Donovan, who had invited him to the U.S. This visit also will have to wait some time, Waleska said. He also said, "I am for cooperation with the trade union in Israel."

He also declared that he favored a collaboration between Poland, Israel and the United States. He added that Poland had cheap labor and minerals, such as copper and charcoal and petrol, but "we do not have the means and know how to develop and transport them. Thus a collaboration with Israel, us and Japan may be very profitable."

U.S. MACCABIAH CAGE TEAM TO PLAY EXHIBITION IN FLUSHING

By Haskell Cohen

NEW YORK, June 9 (JTA) -- The U.S. Committee Sports for Israel has announced that the U.S. Maccabiah Basketball Team, which will participate in the upcoming 11th Maccabiah in Israel, July 6-16, will oppose, in an exhibition game, the European Championship Maccabi Tel Aviv quintet at Queens College in Flushing, New York on the night of June 23.

Arrangements have been made for the Maccabi Tel Aviv aggregation to train for a few days at New York Tech, at the same site and place and time that the U.S. Maccabiah Team will be training there, under the guidance of Head Coach Sam Stern, who is the athletic director at New York Tech.

The Maccabi Tel Aviv Team defeated the Sidonye five out of Bologna, Italy, in the European Championship Game held in Strasbourg over a month ago. Since that time several of the American players, including Aulcie Perry and Earl Williams, have returned to the States awaiting the arrival of the rest of the Maccabi Quintet.

Some of the members of this team, currently, are playing the European Championship for national teams. This tournament, unlike the Championship Cup tournament, makes it mandatory for all participants to be citizens and/or nationals of the countries they represent. Aulcie Perry will not become a dual citizen until the Fall, while Earl Williams does not anticipate becoming a dual citizen since it calls for the individual playets to be of the Jewish faith. Perry converted to the faith about three years ago and will be acknowledged as a full fledged Israel citizen come this fall.

The U.S. Maccabiah Team will be the defending champion club in the 11th Maccabiah and several players who participated in those games, four years ago, are back with the current basketball team. Included among the returnees are seven foot Dan

Schayes of Syracuse University, Willie Sims of Louisiana State University, and Hal Cohen who graduated from Syracuse University last year and is a first year student at the school's Medical College.

The United States Maccabiah Team will play a second exhibition contest prior to departing for Israel on July 2, at Monmouth College in New Jersey, on the afternoon of Sunday, June 28 when it will meet the United States team which will represent this country in the World University games which are slated to be conducted in Rumania the week after the conclusion of the Maccabiah Games. The United States Women Basketball team will meet the female World University U.S. A. Club in the preliminary game.

It marks the first time in Maccabiah history that female teams will participate in the competition.

NEW ROUND OF TALKS STARTED ON SINAI MULTINATIONAL FORCE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 9 (JTA) -- Israel, Egypt and the U.S. opened another round of talks in Jerusalem today on the multinational force and on observers scheduled to police the peace in the Sinai after Israel's final withdrawal next April. The venue -- Jerusalem -- was considered significant because in the past, Egypt has refused to conduct official negotiations in Jerusalem.

The Egyptian refusal applied, to these talks, too -- until President Anwar Sadat acceded to Premier Menachem Begin's request at the Ophira summit last Thursday that the talks be held in Jerusalem.

The Egyptian Chief Delegate, Taha Shasha, began the session with a public statement to the effect that the presence of his team in Jerusalem "should not be construed as affecting the well-known and firm Egyptian stand on Jerusalem. We consider that all unilateral actions and laws taken by Israel with a view to altering the status of Jerusalem are null and void. They will not affect the final status of the holy city. Arab Jerusalem remains part of the West Bank occupied by Israel. It is therefore subject to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and to United Nations Security Council Resolution 242."

Israel's chief delegate, David Kimche, director general of the Foreign Ministry, opened his remarks with a reference to the sensitivities felt by both sides on the matter of Jerusalem.

On the multinational force, he said it would serve as an effective safety valve through which disputes concerning the Sinai demilitarization arrangements could be ventilated.

The U.S. team is headed by State Department senior aide Michael Sterner, who has said he hopes this present round, due to go on until Friday, will see the conclusion of an agreement on the force mandate.

The three teams include military and legal experts who are working on the details of the force's deployment, its functions, and the privileges and immunities it will have.

Among countries mentioned as possible participants in the force, alongside the U.S., are Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Fiji, Nepal, Argentina, and Italy.

OSCAR LAZARUS DEAD AT 93

NEW YORK, June 9 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for Oscar Lazarus, a

founder and former head of the Benrus Watch Co. who was long active in Jewish philanthropy and in combatting anti-Semitism. He died Friday at the age of 93.

Lazarus, who was born in Rumania and came to the United States at the age of two, was a lawyer by profession and practiced in New York from 1909-1924. In 1923 he and his brothers, Benjamin and the late S. Ralph Lazarus, organized the watch company. He served as its president and chairman, ending his association when the firm was sold in 1960.

In 1972, as national secretary of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Lazarus marked his 85th birthday by donating \$100,000 to establish the Center for Interreligious Affairs to combat bigotry. He was also active in promoting American cultural ties with Israel.

MICHAEL TZUR GETS TEN MONTHS CUT IN PRISON TERM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 9 (JTA) -- Michael Tzur, Israel's most prominent white-collar criminal, will be released from jail in August, ten months before his term was due to end. The remission decision was taken by President Yitzhak Navon over the weekend, upon the recommendation of Justice Minister Moshe Nissim.

A year ago, Navon reduced Tzur's original 15-year sentence to 11 years at the recommendation of then Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir. Since then appeals have been piling up on Nissim's desk from Knesset members and other public figures for further leniency in Tzur's case.

Tzur received his tough sentence after conviction in 1975 on charges of theft, fraud and bribery in connection with the Israel Corporation, the government-founded investment group which he headed. His crimes came to light following the collapse of Tibor Rosenbaum's International Credit Bank in Geneva with which the Israel Corporation had close connections.

Tzur had been a leading light in Israel's economic and financial community, having served previously as director general of the Commerce Ministry and later as chairman of Zim Lines, the national shipping company. He was considered a financial genius, and a protege of the late Pinhas Sapir, for many years Israel's all powerful Minister of Finance.

In recommending this latest remission of sentence, Nissim wrote that he had thought long and hard about the case. On the one hand, Tzur was a "symbol" of a pernicious evil that had taken root in Israeli society and had to be extirpated. On the other hand, he had "drunk the bitter cup to the dregs" by falling from "a lofty position" to Ramle Jail. Moreover, he had displayed "sparks of contrition" by his conduct in prison where he became teacher, friend and adviser to many prisoners and planned and initiated worthy and profitable employment projects for the prisoners.

With a third of his sentence commuted for good behavior, Tzur would have been released in June 1982.

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GENEVA, June 9 (JTA) -- A group of 1,800 Christians, members of the Beth Shalom group, declared at a meeting in Zurich their unconditional solidarity with Israel. They agreed that Jerusalem must remain united in possession of Israel de jure and de facto. They sent a message to the Israel Government, extending their wishes for Israel's peace and prosperity. The meeting was scheduled to coincide with Jerusalem Day.