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ISRAEL 'REGRETS' U.S. HASTE

IN SUSPENDING F-16 DELIVERIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA) -- Israel said today that it very much regretted the Reagan Administration's "unjust" decision to suspend delivery to Israel of four F-16 jet fighters pending a determination of whether Israel violated U.S. law by the use of American-made aircraft in its attack Sunday on Iraq's nuclear reactor.

The mildly-worded statement read by Foreign Ministry spokesman Naftali Lavi was mainly a reiteration of Israel's official explanation and justification for the raid. Earlier, Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori said the American move was the result of a misunderstanding and would not lead to a crisis in relations between the two countries.

Zipori said Israel had a basic understanding of the significance of American aid and the limitations placed on it. But he stressed that only the Israeli government could define Israel's defense needs, not any other government, no matter how friendly. He said Israel used the American planes in the Sunday raid because they were the weapons most suitable for the attack.

Lavi repeated Israel's contention that it had acted in defense against threats to its existence by Iraq. He noted that Iraq has declared itself to be in a state of war with Israel since 1948, it was an active participant in all Arab wars against Israel and has continued to refuse to sign an armistice agreement with Israel. The statement also noted that Iraqi leaders have time and again expressed their enmity toward Israel and their aggressive intentions and have not restricted or disguised their plans to use any weapons, conventional or unconventional, against Israel.

According to the statement, Israel exhausted every diplomatic means before it decided to take military action against Iraq's nuclear facility. Lavi explained in that connection that for five years Israel had tried to persuade France not to provide Iraq with a nuclear weapons capability, but its representations were in vain. Asked by reporters why Israel took no action during the administration of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, who concluded the nuclear deal with Iraq, but struck only weeks after the election of President Francois Mitterrand, who is more sympathetic to Israel, Lavi replied that to wait any longer would have meant an attack on an active nuclear reactor with the danger of radioactive fall-out in the Baghdad area.

Habib Continuing Mission, U.S. Says

The Reagan Administration maintained today that special envoy Philip Habib is continuing his efforts to prevent a conflict between Israel and Syria over Lebanon. "We have not had any indication from any of the parties that they think it (the Habib mission) should be discontinued," David Passage, a State Department spokesman, said. Habib has been in Beirut since Monday, apparently waiting for the furore over Israel's attack on the Iraqi nuclear facility to subside.

COUNCIL SLATES MEETING TODAY ON RAID BUT SWITCH LIKELY

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, June 11 (JTA) -- The Security Council is scheduled to meet here tomorrow at 4 p.m. to discuss Israel's Sunday attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor but that time-table is subject to change, diplomats here said today.

The diplomats noted that the Council session initially had been set for tomorrow and then was changed to some day at the start of next week. The diplomats said there may be a fourth schedule change because the Arab League Foreign Ministers are holding a meeting in Baghdad, which opened today. The results of that meeting will determine Arab strategy toward Israel in the Council debate, they said.

Arab League Ambassador Clovis Maksoud told a press conference here yesterday that the League would ask the Council to adopt a resolution imposing sanctions on Israel but observers said they did not believe the United States and other western countries would support so severe an action and would vote only to condemn the raid.

Iraq, in a statement, asserted Israel has "28 nuclear bombs" and that making such bombs has never been the goal of Iraq in its nuclear program."

STATE DEPT. DENIES 'PASSING BUCK' TO CONGRESS ON RAID

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 11 (JTA) -- The State Department denied today that Secretary of State Alexander Haig's letter to Congress yesterday, saying that Israel may have committed a "substantial violation" of its arms agreement with the United States by using U.S. made planes to bomb the Iraqi nuclear plant, was an effort by the Reagan Administration to "pass the buck" of a hot issue to the legislative branch.

David Passage, a Department spokesman, also denied that the Administration's decision to suspend the shipments of four F-16s, scheduled to go to Israel tomorrow, was a means of pressuring Israel to lessen its opposition to the sale of AWACS reconnaissance planes to Saudi Arabia. He said the AWACS planes transaction is a program that "stands on its own merits" and is not "tied" to any other arms delivery program.

Meanwhile, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is expected to hold hearings late next week and the House Foreign Affairs Committee after that, on Haig's letter sent to Congress late yesterday.

The letter was sent to Capitol Hill about an hour after Haig showed it to Israel Ambassador Ephraim Evron. Evron said Israel was "deeply disappointed" by the decision but reiterated that the Israeli raid was an act of self-defense.

President Sees Possible Violation

In his letter, Haig said that President Reagan believes that in the use of F-15s and F-16s to attack the Iraqi plant "a substantial violation of the 1952 (mutual defense) agreement (with Israel) may have occurred." The Arms Export Control Act requires that any U.S. arms sold to a foreign country can be used only for self-defense.

"We are conducting a review of this entire matter and will consider the contention of Israel that this action was necessary for its defense because the reactor was intended to produce atomic bombs and would become operational very soon and that, once it became operational, an attack would have been impossible because it could not be carried out without exposing the residents of Baghdad to massive radioactive lethal fallout," the Haig letter said.

"While our discussions with Israel continue, and while your committee(s) is considering this matter, the President has directed the suspension, for the time being, of four F-16 aircraft which had been scheduled for this week."

Administration spokesmen said that the suspension affected only the four F-16s and no other military equipment being sent to Israel. At the State Department today, it was stressed that Haig had not said that the shipment would be held up until the Reagan Administration completes its review, or until Congress completes its hearings, but only "for the time being." A source said it is possible that the Administration may never make a decision on whether Israel violated the law.

Observers See Tacit Understanding

This is what observers expect to happen. They do expect the Administration to reach some understanding with Israel on future incidents, while not punishing Israel beyond a temporary suspension. Almost no one believes Congress would cut off arms to Israel.

Passage said that the Administration was dedicated to "prevent the spread" of nuclear proliferation. "This event might offer a suitable opportunity for all countries to take a good look at nuclear programs that have the effect of spreading potentially dangerous technology." But Passage rejected a suggestion that the Israeli Sunday raid might have had a "beneficial effect."

On the AWACS, Passage denied reports that the Administration has decided to send to Congress during the week of July 6 its proposal for selling AWACS and enhancement equipment for F-15s to Saudi Arabia. He said the Administration was still working on the proposal.

Department spokesman Dean Fischer admitted yesterday that Deputy Secretary of State William Clark met with Evron last week and also gave a letter to the Israeli envoy but he refused to give any details. Clark reportedly criticized Israel for its strong lobbying efforts against the arms package to Saudi Arabia.

KREISKY DENOUNCES RAID AS HARMFUL TO ANWAR SADAT

VIENNA, June 11 (JTA) -- Chancellor Bruno Kreisky sharply criticized yesterday the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear reactor by Israeli planes and said the attack was "inexcusable and herostratic." Israel acted according to the "law of the jungle," Kreisky said. The fact that the attack served an immediate purpose in the electoral campaign made the action "even less understandable and acceptable," Kreisky added.

By saying "herostratic," Kreisky referred to herostratos of ephesos, who, to become famous, set the temple of Artemis afire in 356 B.C. Kreisky also said that Israel had maneuvered Egypt's President Anwar Sadat into a very difficult situation with the raid.

Sigvar Eklund, the director of the International Atomic Energy Organization, which has its headquarters in Vienna, said here yesterday that

Iraq has signed the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear arms and that officials of his organization have had access to the reactor to check that none of the nuclear material could be used for the production of atomic bombs.

The reactors have been checked recently and all nuclear material has been booked correctly, Eklund said. Another control had been planned for June 8 but was postponed because the officials who conduct the inspection were attending a meeting of the IAEA governors in Vienna.

"During our inspections of the reactors we found no proof whatsoever that Iraq violated the treaty of non-proliferation," Eklund said. "The Israeli attack has been an attack on the IAEA's security system, too."

PERES DELAYS SADAT VISIT UNTIL AFTER ISRAEL VOTING

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA) -- Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres today postponed his meeting with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt until after Israel's Knesset elections June 30 on grounds that he did not want to involve the Egyptian leader in Israeli election campaign politics.

Sadat, who met with Premier Menachem Begin a week ago at Ophira in Sinai, had invited the opposition leader to a meeting this Sunday in Egypt. Peres telephoned Sadat this afternoon to explain the reasons for his decision. He thanked the Egyptian President for the invitation and Sadat reportedly replied that he understood the situation and would be just as happy to see Peres after the elections.

Before calling Sadat, Peres met with the Egyptian Ambassador, Saad Mortado, to whom he gave a message for Sadat. The message reportedly said that after giving the matter much thought, he concluded that his visit to Egypt would have been linked to the election campaign in one way or another, just as the Sadat-Begin summit meeting was last week. Peres added that Egypt and particularly Sadat had no desire to become involved in Israeli election politics which would have compromised the democratic process in Israel and possibly harmed its relations with Egypt.

LATEST POLL SHOWS LIKUD WELL AHEAD OF LABOR PARTY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA) -- A public opinion poll to be published tomorrow is expected to show Likud forging far ahead of the Labor Alignment in voter popularity less than three weeks before the June 30 election. It is believed that the unreleased poll, conducted in the wake of Israel's surprise air attack on an Iraqi nuclear facility last Sunday, will give Likud 46-47 Knesset seats to 40 for Labor.

An earlier poll, conducted just before the air raid, indicated that the two parties were running neck-and-neck with Labor barely ahead by 43-42 seats. Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres denied newspaper reports today that he had proposed a three month postponement of the elections. Peres said he told a Labor forum that if the attack on the Iraqi reactor won the support of the entire nation, a postponement should be sought. He claimed, however, that this was not the case.

Nevertheless, the latest polls show a swing to the right by the Israeli electorate. The ultra-nationalist Tehiya movement which opposes the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, demands the immediate annexation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights and suspension of Israel's staged withdrawal from Sinai appeared to be gaining votes according to the most recent surveys. Former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's new Telem party which calls for unilateral

implementation of the autonomy plan on the West Bank, is losing support. The polls also showed that Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu Hatzeira's new Tami faction would win three to four seats. Abu Hatzeira established Tami after breaking away from the National Religious Party which he accused of not serving the interests of its Sephardic constituency.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court rejected an appeal to bar Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach party from the elections because of its anti-Arab propaganda. The court said the matter was in the province of the Central Elections Committee.

JEWISH LEADERS ASSAIL PLAN TO SUSPEND PLANE DELIVERIES

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA) -- Leaders of major Jewish organizations, who yesterday assailed critics of Israel's Sunday air blow at Iraq's nuclear plant, responded with equal sharpness today to the disclosure that President Reagan, responding to the raid, suspended delivery to Israel of four F-16s, due to have been delivered tomorrow.

Howard Squadron, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said the member organizations were "offended and upset" by the Reagan Administration's "punishment" of Israel, adding that the Presidents Conference hoped the Reagan Administration would "reject" any moves at the United Nations to impose sanctions or other reprisals against Israel.

Frieda Lewis, president of Hadassah, said Israel was faced "by an irrational enemy whose avowed aim is the destruction of its people," and that Israel "decisively eliminated" the threat of an Iraqi atomic attack. She expressed the hope that President Reagan would lift the suspension of the four fighter planes promptly.

Bertram H. Gold, executive vice-president of the American Jewish Committee, criticized the Reagan Administration for suspending the plane shipment before the scheduled review had been carried out as to whether Israel had violated its arms accord with the United States.

Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the American Zionist Federation, said Israel "deserves praise, not punishment" adding that the Zionist Federation hoped for the "quick reversal" of the suspension so that the four planes could be delivered.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the (Reform) Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said President Reagan "should have criticized those countries which provide nuclear materials and know-how for Iraq's nuclear reactor," but, instead, "he condemns the intended victim of the nuclear attack."

The suspension of the deliveries of the planes came under sharp criticism from Julius Berman, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, and Fred Ehman, the Orthodox Union Israel Commission chairman. They asserted that, "in the light of the fact that Israel's action was a strictly pre-emptive, defense maneuver, the suspension is an unwarranted punishment."

Rabbi William Berkowitz, president of the Jewish National Fund, called the suspension "regrettable and disappointing" and urged the Reagan Administration to focus on the "grave issue of nuclear proliferation and atomic terrorism."

TORAH SCROLL ARREST REPORTED

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA) -- Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau announced

today the arrest of David Levy, 49, owner of a yamulka shop on Manhattan's Lower East Side, on charges of possession of a Torah stolen from the Kehila Kedosha Jamina synagogue on Broome Street, also on the Lower East Side. The arrest was made by officers of the New York Police Department's Bias Incident Investigating Unit under the command of Capt. Paul Donnelly.

According to Morgenthau, Levy who lives in Rego Park, Queens, was arrested in his shop on Essex Street last night while attempting to buy three Torahs stolen in November, 1980, from a young man who Morgenthau said was cooperating with the authorities. Levy was also found in possession of stolen Torah cases, breast plates and crowns. He was booked on charges of criminal possession of stolen goods.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, which has created a task force to deal with the growing number of such thefts in the Greater New York area, hailed the arrest and said that the Jewish community wanted the arrest and punishment of any person, regardless of race, creed or religion, involved in the theft and sale of stolen Torah scrolls.

DRAMA EDITOR OF DAY- JOURNAL DIES AT 74

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here yesterday for Dr. Nathan Swerdlin former drama editor of the now defunct Yiddish daily Day-Morning Journal, who died Tuesday at the age of 74.

Swerdlin, born in Lithuania, began his career as a writer for Yiddish and Polish publications in Vilna and continued as a Yiddish journalist after coming to the United States in 1936. He joined the Day in 1945 as a feature writer and when that paper merged with the Jewish Morning Journal he was appointed drama editor and movie critic, a position he held for more than 25 years. He was for many years president of the I.L. Peretz Yiddish Writers Union and served as president of the Association of Foreign Language Press, Drama and Film Critics.

CHIEF RABBI ROSEN REPORTS ON RUMANIAN JEWISH EXODUS

BUCHAREST, June 11 (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania told the press that during the first five months of 1981, 333 Jews left Rumania for Israel, while 390 Jews obtained passports and are ready for emigration. Rabbi Rosen also said 299 Jews have been approved and are preparing the required documents for passports.

Chief Rabbi Rosen said he had accepted in 1979 a request from the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to supervise Rumanian Jewish emigration to Israel. He said that, following the 1979 agreement, emigres to Israel also are registered in the offices of the Rumanian Jewish communities.

He said he is given lists by name of all applications and the action of Rumanian authorities on each request. He expressed his gratitude to the Rumanian government for the "goodwill and humanitarian feelings" they are showing concerning the problems of Rumanian Jews. He said that since 1948, more than 350,000 Rumanian Jews -- 90 percent of all Rumanian Jews -- arrived in Israel, adding there are 33,000 Jews now left in Rumania.

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AMSTERDAM, June 11 (JTA) -- Racial discrimination in Holland will be punished more severely starting June 20, as a result of an amendment to the Penal Code. The maximum fine for racial discrimination has been increased by Justice Minister Jacob De Ruiter from \$500 to \$5,000.

The new amendment also imposes severe punishment for discrimination in employment for racial reasons or when persons are denied access to public places, such as restaurants, because of their race.

'SHINUI' PARTY STRUGGLES WITH 'INTELLECTUAL IMAGE'

By Gil Sedan

(This is another in a series of articles on the political parties in the June 30 elections.)

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA) -- One element that the Movement for Change (Shinui) finds difficult to change is its image: in the words of Knesseter Mordechai Virshubsky, number two on the party's proposed list for the 10th Knesset, "The party had the image of intellectuals from North Tel Aviv."

Not that the intellectuals from North Tel Aviv are misrepresented on the list, but there are several names among the top ten that may help change this image. Third on the list is Druze Knesseter Zeidan Atche of the Druze village of Isfiya, near Haifa. Eighth is lawyer Rina Sh Ashua, a woman, member of the Mideastern community. Tenth is Eli Alfasi of Yokneam, near Haifa -- considered the representative of the development towns.

Nevertheless, the party still seems to have the largest number of academic degrees among its leaders. It is led by Prof. Amnon Rubinstein, a leading jurist and a senior columnist in the Haaretz daily. Virshubsky himself is a lawyer, formerly the legal advisor of the Tel Aviv municipality. The list also includes Prof. Yehoshua Porat, a leading Mideastern expert, at the seventh place. Dr. Moshe Becker of the Technion is at the ninth place.

Druze Election Hailed By Party

"The very fact that a Druze was elected third on the list in secret democratic elections indicates that our snobbish image is unjustified," Virshubsky told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The party had five Knesseters in the outgoing Knesset.

Shinui was established in 1974, as part of the general protest movement that followed the Yom Kippur War. But unlike the rest of the protest camp, the group declared from the start that it wanted to take the political path in order to change the political system. Others merely wanted to topple the Golda Meir government, but did not offer alternatives. The new body included people like Rubinstein, Virshubsky and Prof. Yonathan Shapiro of Tel Aviv University, who in the past had no political background, and were taking their first steps in this course. "The shock of the Yom Kippur war had awakened us all," recalls Virshubsky.

For two years the young movement operated outside the political system, but carefully planned running for the 1977 elections. Prof. Yigael Yadin took them by surprise when he declared his intention of joining politics with his Democratic Movement. The partnership was almost inevitable, despite the unfortunate outcome two years later. Yadin had a nationwide appeal, he believed in similar principles -- and essentially would have appealed to the same public that Shinui was hoping to attract.

Thus came the merger that Shinui leaders still believe could have proven the alternative to both the Alignment and the Likud. The party was generally of a dovish character, believed in liberal internal policy with special emphasis on civil rights -- and distinguished itself from the leftist movement by its determined opposition to the idea of an independent Palestinian state.

Virshubsky is certain that if the DMC had not gone into a partnership with Shmuel Tamir, the DMC would have proven successful. However, he says, as soon as Tamir joined, there were local intrigues, which later brought about the split.

Although the Shinui group opposed joining the Likud coalition, it swallowed the bitter pill for nine months, which were the dramatic months culminating with the historic Camp David Accords. By August, 1978, Shinui split from the DMC, over a technical vote, but essentially because there was no longer common language with Yadin's group.

"Had we not joined the coalition, we could have worked for four years in the opposition, establishing ourselves as an alternative," laments Virshubsky.

For the June elections, Shinui is going solo. "The failure of the DMC does not mean that we should give up our good ideas," said Virshubsky. He is aware of the fact that the movement has the problem of competing with the Alignment for essentially similar voters, but he argues that Shinui has better credibility, and that whether the Alignment wins the elections, or loses it, the party should have a strong liberal center party at its side to counterbalance the rightist camp. "If not us, who will be the partners: The NRP, Dayan?" he asked.

The movement has several thousand registered members, with 35 branches throughout Israel. It has a national council of 120 members. Some 75 percent of them are representative of the local branches, and the rest are elected nationally. There is an executive of 10 members. It claims the record of several Parliamentary initiatives such as the bill for equal rights to all trends of Judaism (which failed to pass) and an attempt to make the Scroll of Independence part of the State's law. The Shinui Knesset faction has the highest record of attendance in the Knesset.

MASTER OWNERS OF 'MEZADA', BLAMED FOR FATAL SINKING

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA) -- A court of inquiry faulted the master and owners of the Israeli bulk carrier Mezada for her loss, with 24 lives, during a North Atlantic gale near Bermuda last March 8. The panel, sitting in Haifa, said today that Israel's worst maritime disaster resulted from a combination of stormy seas and human error.

It found that Capt. Gera Levin, who went down with his ship, had failed to take proper actions when she began to take water through a hatch cover smashed by heavy seas. It also charged the Zim Lines, owners of the Mezada, with laxity in dealing with reports of the ship's difficulties. The court said the authorities in Bermuda seem to have shown more concern than the Zim management on the basis of information received. It recommended creation of a team of experts to draw up emergency procedures for Israel's merchant fleet.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- Meyer Levin, the 75-year-old writer who calls himself "the last angry author" was the first Jewish writer to receive the arts award in the new annual prizes of the Jewish Academy of Arts and Science at the 55th annual convocation of the academy here. The science winner is Dr. Rosalyn S. Yalow, Nobel Prize laureate in medicine in 1977. The \$1,000 awards were contributed by Joseph Handleman of Detroit. Levin detailed current examples of what he considered plagiarism, falsification and suppression.