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ADMINISTRATION MAY SUBMIT TO CONGRESS BY WEEK'S END PROPOSAL TO SEND AWACS TO SAUDI ARABIA

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 8 (JTA) -- There is a growing belief in Washington that the Reagan Administration will submit to Congress by the end of this week its proposal to send AWACS reconnaissance planes and other arms to Saudi Arabia.

But State Department spokesman Dean Fischer denied today that such a decision has been made. "We are still consulting with members of Congress on the "precise timing" for submitting the proposal, he said.

Fischer seemed definite that nothing would be done either today or tomorrow on the arms package. But when he was asked whether the Administration would submit the proposal Friday or Saturday, he replied, "I don't rule it in or rule it out."

The Administration had planned to submit the proposal last May but accepted the advice of Senate Majority leader Howard Baker (R. Tenn.) to delay the proposal because of opposition in Congress to the sale of five AWACS, enhancement equipment for the 62 F-15s the Saudis bought in 1978, and other arms.

A further delay was urged late last month by Senate Republican leaders after a majority in the Senate and House indicated they would oppose the sale. The Administration has said it is working with Congressional leaders on the proposal in order to overcome objections voiced by members of Congress.

50 Working Days Deadline

The sale automatically goes through unless a majority of both Houses rejects it within 50 working days. This includes a 20-day informal consultation period followed by 30 days of official notification.

It is believed that the Administration hopes to get the consultation period completed before Congress takes its summer holiday in August. This would mean that the 30-day period in which Congressional committees would hold hearings and the issue publicly debated, will take place after Labor Day in September.

If the Administration makes the announcement on the AWACS, it is also expected to announce that Israel will continue to receive F-16s as scheduled. The Administration has been maintaining that it will complete its review of whether Israel violated the arms agreement with the U.S. by using American made planes in destroying Iraq's nuclear plant before July 17, the date when six more F-16s are scheduled to be shipped. The Administration suspended shipment of four F-16s in June after the U.S. condemned Israel for the Iraqi raid.

Habib Leaves For Mideast

Meanwhile, the State Department said that special envoy Philip Habib left last night for Europe enroute to the Mideast where he will continue efforts to ease the tension over the situation in Lebanon.

CLOSE BEGIN AIDE CHALLENGES PREMIER'S MOVE TO APPOINT SHARON DEFENSE MINISTER IN NEW GOVERNMENT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin's probable appointment of Ariel Sharon as Defense Minister in a new Likud-led government was sharply challenged today by one of Begin's close aides who is also a contender for that post.

Reacting to press reports that Begin has made a final decision to offer the defense portfolio to the ultra-hawkish Yom Kippur War hero, Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori said he regarded himself to be first in line for the job "unless Begin would prefer to stay Defense Minister" himself. Sharon's appointment would be "a national disaster," Zipori was reported to have said in private. While he denied that he had made this statement he did not deny his opposition to Sharon's appointment.

Sharon, who is Minister of Agriculture in the outgoing government, has made it clear that he expects the defense post. According to some reports, he has threatened not to support the Likud coalition in the Knesset if it is denied him. Responding to that, Zipori is said to have reminded Begin that his Knesset vote carries as much weight as Sharon's.

Sharon, who opposed the Camp David agreements and the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty and demands unrestricted Jewish settlement in the occupied territories, is known to have been Begin's choice for Defense Minister when Ezer Weizman resigned last year. But strong opposition from other ministers forced Begin to take over the defense portfolio himself, retaining Zipori who had served as Weizman's deputy.

Although a new Likud government is expected to be dominated by hawks, in the absence of Weizman, Moshe Dayan and Yigael Yadin who were the strongest moderates in the previous government, there is still opposition to Sharon. It is most pronounced in Likud's Liberal Party branch and among some members of the National Religious Party which is expected to continue to be a Likud coalition partner.

Labor Fears Loss Of Arab Bloc

Meanwhile, an official of the opposition Labor Alignment warned his party today that it stands to lose the unexpectedly large bloc of Arab support it won in the June 30 Knesset elections unless it can produce some gains for Israel's Arab citizens.

Ra'anana Cohen, who headed the Alignment's election campaign in the Arab sector, told Labor activists in the Negev that the election results showed a strong trend toward Labor among Arab voters at the expense of the Communist Hadash faction. Labor won about 30 percent of the Arab vote in Communist strongholds while Hadash's share dropped by 11 percent.

But Cohen warned that this trend is not unconditional. The Arab citizens expect much more to be done to integrate them as full members of Israel's society, he said. If Labor fails to accomplish this, the Arabs will revert to the Communists or other extremist factions, he said.

AGUDA ISRAEL DRAFTS DEMANDS

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- Aguda Israel today drafted some of its demands for a new coalition

agreement with Premier Menachem Begin's Likud, and these are reported to include cessation of public transport in Haifa on Shabbat -- long a thorny issue between the religious and secular in Israel.

Whereas buses do not run elsewhere on Shabbat, they have always run in Haifa and the tradition is considered part of the religious "status quo." Haifa's Mayor Yisrael Gurel warned today that if the status quo in his city was tampered with, the whole delicate balance would disintegrate. There could well be street violence if tempers flared over religious-secular controversy the mayor warned.

If the buses were stopped, secular elements in the city would seek to strike back by opening cinemas and theaters on Shabbat, and organizing public transport by trucks and bus-rental companies, Gurel cautioned.

Other Demands Outlined

Other religious demands expected to be made by Aguda and by the National Religious Party in the coalition negotiations include:

- * Amending the "Who is a Jew" provision in the Law of Return so that it defines a Jew as a person born of a Jewish mother or converted according to Halacha. (These last three words are not part of the law at present, and they would imply non-recognition of Reform and Conservative conversion in the U.S.).

- * Tightening legislation against the marketing of pork in predominantly Jewish areas (this was agreed in the 1977 coalition pact, but legislation on the subject was never finalized).

- * Tightening legislation banning Shabbat employment (only defense installations and other vital industries would remain free of Shabbat closure orders).

Aguda is also said to want a repeal of the "Bader-Ofer Law," the complicated legislation brought in by the two big parties in the mid-1970s whereby "leftover votes" in an election are allocated to all the parties in proportion to their strength. Aguda says this law robbed it of its fifth seat in this election. (By David Landau)

ALIZA BEGIN IN STABLE CONDITION

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- Aliza Begin, Premier Menachem Begin's wife, was reported in stable condition this evening after being admitted to the Hadassah Medical Center last night suffering from a bronchial infection. Hospital sources said she would have to undergo tests and would be in the hospital for about a week.

Mrs. Begin spent more than two weeks in the hospital a month ago suffering from what was defined as "an interference in the blood circulation." She was discharged and the Premier himself said subsequently that while she was not feeling fully herself, she was making a good recovery. This latest setback is presumed to be connected with the chronic asthma from which Mrs. Begin has been afflicted for many years.

ISRAELI RELIGIOUS PARTIES URGED TO SET CONDITIONS FOR ENTERING GOV'T

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) -- Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, president of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, sent a cable yesterday to the religious parties in Israel -- Aguda Israel, the National Religious Party and Tami -- stating that a primary and essential condition to their participation in a coalition government headed by Premier Menachem Begin must be a firm commitment by Begin to amend the Law of Return immediately without further delay.

Feinstein emphasized: "Do not rely on any promises that 'we will try' to amend the law. You must demand a clear and unequivocal commitment that the law will be amended immediately to read *Giyur KeHalacha* (according to Halacha)." He added that it is now quite evident that the opportunity for such a demand is ripe. "Do not let this opportunity pass you by," Feinstein declared.

He also urged the religious parties to include in their demands a law prohibiting the desecration of the Sabbath and legislation barring the Conservative and Reform movements from making any inroads in Israel.

ISRAELI ORTHODOX LEADERSHIP CONDEMNED BY HEAD OF THE JTS

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) -- The current proposal of Orthodox groups in Israel is a "religious affront to the overwhelming majority of the Jewish people," according to Dr. Gerson Cohen, Chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Cohen released today a cable he has sent to Israeli leaders urging them to reject the demand of the religious parties mandating a change in the Law of Return as their price for joining a viable Israeli government.

Cohen said, "The Law of Return is being made a political tool, subject to the selfish interpretation of a tiny Orthodox group. They have constituted themselves as the sole arbiters of the question of who is a Jew, and seek to use their momentary political clout to have their idiosyncratic interpretation enacted into the laws of the State of Israel. It is not difficult to imagine that, under such a law, Jewish refugees from some future anti-Semitic excess could be denied admission to Israel just as an earlier generation of would-be immigrants was turned away by the intransigent policies of the British protectorate."

The Seminary, Cohen continued, "Recognizes that the determination of who is a Jew must be made according to the dictates of halachah. However, it objects to the move under consideration because the Orthodox minority is using its improper, but calculated interpretation as a means of excluding the majority of established rabbinic authorities from the valid and responsible application of the Jewish laws of personal status."

The insistence of the leaders of Agudath Israel, Cohen concluded, "to have their interpretation of who is a Jew made part of the laws of the State of Israel shows indifference to the universal nature of halachah, and contempt for the millions of Jews who live today outside the State. Such legislation would constitute the first tragic example of an official action of the State of Israel taken in violation of the spirit of Torah."

JUDITH LERNER DEAD AT 65

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) -- Judith Lerner, wife of the famed Moscow cyberneticist and aliya activist Dr. Alexander Lerner, died yesterday in the Soviet capital of a massive heart attack, it was reported here today by the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry. Mrs. Lerner was 65 years old.

Grace Pearl binder, president of the Long Island Committee, and Lynn Singer, executive director of the Committee, expressed "profound sorrow" at Mrs. Lerner's death which prevented her from "fulfilling her dream of emigrating with her family to Israel. September will mark the 10th anniversary since they first applied to emigrate and were refused. We extend to Dr. Lerner and his son Vladimir of Moscow, and to his daughter Sonya who is a resident of Israel our deepest sympathies." The two Long Island Committee officials said the family is in mourning at Dimitry

Ulyanova 4/2/322, Moscow 117333, RSFSR, USSR. They asked that letters of condolence be sent to that address.

Shock and grief at the death of Mrs. Lerner was also expressed by Dr. Seymour Lachman, chairman of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, and officials of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. The three groups appealed to Soviet authorities to permit Dr. Lerner and his son to join their family in Israel and to permit Sonya Lerner to travel to Moscow for her mother's funeral.

U.S. ACCUSES LIBYA OF TRYING TO WRECK CHANCES OF PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO CONFLICT IN LEBANON

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 8 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration today accused the Libyan regime of Muammar Qaddafi of being the only Arab state that wants to wreck chances of a peaceful solution to the conflict in Lebanon.

"In what can only be seen as an effort to interfere with a reasonable solution to the most recent tragedy in Lebanon, Libya has introduced sophisticated weapons and trained personnel into Lebanon during the highly volatile period of the last few weeks," Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for Africa declared.

"Whereas other Arab states have counseled together and with us to seek a peaceful solution, Libyan efforts seem clearly designed to create the opposite outcome in Lebanon," he said. Crocker made his remarks in the course of testimony before a subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on what he said was the "serious concern" of the U.S. over Libya's "growing intervention" in Africa and elsewhere.

Cites Diplomacy Of Subversion

"Under Col. Qaddafi, Libya has adopted a diplomacy of subversion in Africa and the Arab world," Crocker said. "It is a diplomacy of unprecedented obstruction to our interests and objectives. Qaddafi has tried in every way he could think of to obstruct our efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East. He has sponsored subversion from Africa to the Philippines. He has actively supported international terrorism, using assassination abroad as an instrument of his policy."

Crocker said that because the Administration realized "the U.S. could no longer carry on 'business as usual with Qaddafi's Libya,'" it closed the Libyan Peoples Bureau (Embassy) in Washington in May. He said because of Libya's invasion of Chad, the U.S. has offered military aid to African countries that feel threatened by Libya, particularly Tunisia and Sudan.

Last week, the State Department expressed hope that Qaddafi would not become the next head of the Organization for African Unity (OAU). The OAU's 1982 meeting will be held in Libya and traditionally the head of the host government becomes head of the OAU.

Libya's presence in Lebanon became publicly known in late May when Israeli jets destroyed four SAM-9 anti-aircraft missile batteries guarding a Palestinian terrorist base in Lebanon. It was revealed at the time that the batteries were manned by Libyan troops.

EX-NAZI GETS 7 YEAR JAIL TERM

BONN, July 8 (JTA) -- A court in Kiel today sentenced a former Nazi to seven years in prison for his complicity in the deportation of 25,000

Belgian Jews to the Auschwitz concentration camp where they died in gas chambers in 1941 and 1942. The court said that Kurt Asche, 71, who was chief of police in charge of Jewish affairs in Nazi-occupied Belgium during World War II, played an important role in the deportation of the 25,000 Jews, 5100 of them children.

Presiding Judge Rudolf Dann said the jail term was insufficient punishment for Asche's actions but for the former Nazi it would amount to a virtual life sentence in view of his age. Defense lawyers had asked the court to acquit Asche, saying the prosecution failed to prove his complicity in the deaths. But Dann said Asche was responsible for rendering Belgium "Jew-free" as quickly as possible and that he had carried out his duties in an "obliging and reliable" way.

Another former Nazi, Ernst Ehlers, was charged with Asche in the trial which began last December. Asche worked with Ehlers who was the chief of the gestapo in Belgium and who was Asche's immediate superior. Ehlers, who served as a magistrate in Schleswig-Holstein until his retirement in 1974, committed suicide six weeks before the trial began when he learned that he was to be tried.

Belgian Jewry had tried in vain to bring Ehlers and Asche to court since 1962. Only in May, 1975 did anti-Nazi activists Beate and Serge Klarsfeld take drastic action to bring them to justice. They broke into Ehler's home, with the help of seven Belgian Jews, and managed to collect documents on his wartime activities. Although detained by German police, they succeeded in preparing the evidence which led to the trial of Asche.

FLATTO-SHARON ASSURED HE WILL NOT BE EXTRADITED TO FRANCE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA) -- Senior members of the Likud are reported to have assured Samuel Flatto-Sharon, who is appealing to the Supreme Court against a lower court's nine-month prison sentence for bribery in the elections four years ago, that Israel will not agree to a French request for his extradition to France to stand charges there for embezzlement. Flatto-Sharon was sentenced in absentia by a Paris court to 10 years in prison.

Flatto-Sharon's entry into the Knesset four years ago provided him with immunity against the French extradition request. But his parliamentary immunity was lifted by the Knesset earlier this year to allow him to be tried for bribery in the 1977 election campaign. He failed to receive enough votes in last month's elections to provide him with a seat in the Knesset.

ELECTRICITY GENERATION STATION IN ASHKELON SPARKS PROTESTS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA) -- The Municipal Council and residents of Ashkelon, as well as ecologists, are up in arms against a decision of the National Council for Planning and Building to build Israel's next and biggest coal-fired electricity generating station on the outskirts of their town.

They say the decision, opposed by many experts, will damage the town and have a serious effect on tourism in the area. They demand that the station, to be the biggest in the country even though only two of the projected 550,000-kilowatt units instead of the original four are to be installed within a decade, be located further to the south, on the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel proper.

Ministry of Energy sources say the projected generating station would be the last to be built on the coast, as no further sites are available.

STUDY SHOWS MAJORITY OF WOMEN IN JEWISH COMMUNAL SERVICE HAVE LIMITED ACCESS TO TOP POSITIONS

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) -- A 1981 follow-up study on the status of women in Jewish communal service has found that the majority of these women has limited access to top executive and administrative positions, and that little has changed since the initial study on the status of women was conducted in 1977, it was reported here today by the Conference of Jewish Communal Service (CJCS) which conducted both surveys.

The two surveys were based on personnel data of more than 2,000 professional staff in 273 agencies, including Federations, Jewish community centers, family and child care agencies, homes for the aged and hospitals. The 1981 survey was prepared by Sophie Engel, CJCS vice president, on behalf of the Committee on Opportunities for Women and presented to the executive board of the CJCS at its annual conference last month at the Concord Hotel, Kiamesha Lake, N.Y. Jane Rogul chairs the CJCS committee.

While the survey shows a slight improvement in the number of women in the two top executive categories -- from 5 percent in 1977 to 8 percent in 1981 -- the great majority, 92 percent, are in the two lower job categories with 32 percent in supervisory capacities and 60 percent as line staff. Comparison with the levels achieved by men show sharp differences. Almost half the men, 45 percent, are in the top two executive slots.

Women Earn Less Than Men

The survey also found that women communal workers earn less than males. Almost three-quarters of the women earn less than \$20,000 a year, whereas one-third of the men fall in that same category. In 1977, 95 percent of the women, as compared with 43 percent of the men, earned less than \$20,000.

In the upper salary brackets, only 3.5 percent of the women, as compared with 38 percent of the men, earn \$30,000. Further, the report noted that women do not reach the top salaries achieved by men. No woman is reported as earning over \$50,000 and only a few are in the \$40-\$50,000 bracket.

Additional comments from the report explained that while there has been some improvement for women in Jewish communal service "there is still a wide gap between levels achieved by men and those achieved by women in relation to position and salary. The opportunities for career advancement and for higher earnings are evidently better for men than for women."

Goal Is To Achieve Equity

The 1981 survey noted that "Although the coverage is by no means complete, it is sufficiently broad and diversified to provide comprehensive documentation in four major fields of service." For this, the survey continued, "the Committee on Opportunities for Women is deeply indebted to the Council of Jewish Federations and the Jewish Welfare Board for their cooperation in making their personnel data available.. Confidentiality as to the agency identity was maintained as summary statistics were provided in a coded form."

The survey concluded by noting: "The goal of achieving greater equity in opportunities for women should be the concern of men and women in the Affiliated Professional Associations of the Conference of Jewish Communal Service. Improved personnel standards for women will benefit all professionals."

It was announced that a special task force will be appointed by Gerald Bubis, president of the CJCS to formulate a plan of action to correct the inequities documented by the survey.

EXHIBIT ON JEWISH COMMUNITY IN PITTSBURGH FROM 1846-1980 MADE POSSIBLE BY A \$154,000 NEH GRANT

PITTSBURGH, July 8 (JTA) -- A grant of \$154,000 has been awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Jewish Committee and the Institute for Research in History to produce an exhibition to be called "In Pittsburgh/Of Pittsburgh," it was announced today by Barry Deutsch, president of the AJCommittee Pittsburgh chapter.

The exhibit, which will open May 1, 1982 at the Pittsburgh Plan for Art, will document the history of the Jewish community in Pittsburgh from 1846 to 1980 and will explore the integral role of the Jewish community in the rich ethnic and religious diversity of the "Renaissance City." It is hoped that the exhibition will stimulate other ethnic groups to undertake similar projects based on their own unique historical experience, Deutsch said.

From June, 1982 to March, 1983, the exhibition will travel throughout the greater Pennsylvania area and is expected to be seen by more than 140,000 people. Dr. Corrinne Krause, historian and member of the board of the Pittsburgh AJCommittee, will direct the project; Sylvia Robinson, chairperson, and Eileen Lane, co-chairperson, have been appointed to head the exhibition committee.

Artifacts, historical photos, printed and audio-visual materials will constitute the four sections of the exhibition: Family and Faces; Creating a Jewish Life; Meeting Human Needs; Making Pittsburgh Someplace Special. "In Pittsburgh/Of Pittsburgh" will trace the history, ideals, values, neighborhoods and growth of Pittsburgh's Jewish community. It also will explore the historic interface between the Jewish and non-Jewish population of the city, and the resistance and adaptation which are characteristic of the American emigrant and ethnic experience.

MORE JEWS STUDY ARABIC

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- A growing number of Jewish students are studying Arabic, according to data released yesterday by the Education Ministry. It showed that some 150,000 students studied the language last year, compared to 138,000 in 1979, 121,000 in 1978 and 103,000 in 1977. At the same time, there has been an increase in the number of teachers preparing themselves to teach the language; some 450 last year compared to 350 in 1979 and 280 in 1978.

The Education Ministry spokesman said the increase in the number of Arabic language students followed the Ministry's decision to encourage the study of the language by granting special incentives to schools which made Arabic part of their regular curriculum. He said the first push for studying the language followed the signing of the peace agreement with Egypt three years ago.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- In an effort to attract observant Jews to the police force, the chief police rabbi, together with the head of the criminal investigation division and scientists have checked out and accepted a number of sophisticated pieces of equipment to enable an Orthodox member of the force to fulfil his duties on the Sabbath. The equipment includes a small tape recorded with voice-activated microphone to replace the need to write, a special camera and fingerprinting equipment.