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EHRlich TERMS SAUDI PLAN A 'TURNING POINT'

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich today described the Middle East peace plan proposed by Saudi Arabia as a "turning point," noting that "this is the first time this country (Saudi Arabia) speaks of Israel's right to exist." But, he added, despite this "we should not be too excited. It is not a new plan and its aim is to bring about the end of Israel" by gradual stages.

Ehrlich offered this view at the first meeting of the new Cabinet which he chaired in the absence of Premier Menachem Begin who is vacationing in Nahariya. He was referring to one of the eight points in the plan which called for guaranteeing the right of all states in the area to "live in peace." The plan, which was proposed by Saudi Crown Prince Fahd in an interview with the official Saudi News Agency last Friday, did not specifically refer to Israel by name. The plan also did not mention the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who briefed the Cabinet on the plan, was highly critical of it. In an interview in Yediot Achronot he said there was nothing new in the plan. "Even the implied Saudi willingness to recognize Israel is not new," Shamir said. "The plan and all its details are dangerous to Israel. We rejected it in the past and we reject it now."

Labor Leaders Reject Most Points Of Plan

Leaders of the Labor Party rejected most of the points in Fahd's plan but welcomed the part which spoke of the right of people in the region to live in peace. Party chairman Shimon Peres also told Yediot that the plan "includes one new element -- willingness to reach peace with Israel. The other points, such as Israel returning to its 1967 borders, establishment of a Palestinian state and dividing Jerusalem (with East Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state) are old proposals and it is inconceivable that Israel will accept them." He added that "dictating preconditions will only block peace. The Saudis should know what Israel can and cannot accept. Their conditions are unacceptable."

Former Premier Yitzhak Rabin also told Yediot that the Saudi plan must be rejected. "But Saudi Arabia's readiness to be involved in efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli dispute is very positive," he said. "We should therefore reject the plan but call on Saudi Arabia to negotiate with Israel."

10 Deputy Ministers Appointed

Most of today's Cabinet sessions was devoted to administrative matters. Ten Deputy Ministers--the highest number ever to serve in a Cabinet in Israel's history -- were appointed. Observers said the large number of deputies, named to satisfy the demands of Likud's coalition partners in return for their support, may create some financial difficulties for Finance Minister Yoram Aridor who recently ordered a freeze on added expenditures and personnel in the government.

Economists calculated that the 10 deputies will cost some 7 to 10 million Shekels a year. This includes their annual salaries, full staffs with aides and secretaries, office space and equipment. Several deputies are already balking at Begin's announcement last week that Deputy Ministers will not be entitled to use government cars for transportation but will have to use their own cars or travel by taxis.

The Deputy Ministers are: Dr. Yehuda Ben Meir (National Religious Party), Deputy Foreign Minister; Miriam Glazer-Tassa (Likud) Education; Pessach Grupper (Liberal Party) and Michael Dekel (Likud), Agriculture; Moshe Katzav (Likud), Housing; Haim Druckman (NRP), Religious Affairs; Aharon Uzzan (Tami), Absorption; Bension Rubin (Tami), Labor and Special Welfare; Dov Shilansky (Likud), Premier's Office; and David Shiffman (Likud), Transportation.

The Cabinet also approved the establishment of the Ministry of Tourism as a separate Ministry. It had been previously part of the Trade and Industry Ministry. The Cabinet also approved that the name of the Religious Ministry be changed to Ministry for Religious Affairs. It was also decided by the Cabinet to transfer Project Renewal from the Premier's Office to the Ministry of Construction.

U.S. STUDYING FAHD'S PROPOSAL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- The State Department said today it was studying an eight-point proposal for Middle East peace proposed by Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

But the Department's deputy spokesman, Alan Romburg, said that the United States has seen nothing but press reports about Fahd's proposal which said that the Arab states would accept United Nations Security Council Resolutions recognizing Israel's rights to "live in peace" if Israel withdrew from the administered territories and a Palestinian state was established there.

Romburg also said that the United States had heard "nothing from the Saudis" about Fahd's reported threat to cancel a visit to the United States in October unless the United States changed its policy on Israel.

Israel And Sadat Reject Saudi Plan

Both Israel and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat have rejected Fahd's Mideast peace proposal. While the Israelis saw some progress in Fahd's proposal to recognize the Jewish State, Sadat said yesterday on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press" that this proposal was "nothing new." Instead, he urged the Saudis to join in the Camp David peace process.

Sadat indicated yesterday that Fahd made his proposals at this time in response to Sadat's own trip to Washington where he urged the Reagan Administration, as the next step in the Mideast process, to begin talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Move To Give Saudis Moderate Image

However, there is some belief that this is part of the effort to give the Saudis a moderate image in order to convince Congress not to reject the Administration's proposal to sell five AWACS reconnaissance planes to Saudi Arabia. Administration spokesmen have stressed in recent weeks the help Saudi Arabia gave the United States to achieve the cease-fire across the Israel-Lebanon border.

Sadat, throughout his visit to Washington, stressed that although the Saudis are attacking him daily for his participation in the Camp David process, he wanted to praise their efforts in getting the Palestinians and the Syrians to stop shooting at Israel from Lebanon.

All of this seems to round out President Reagan's personal plea to members of the House and Senate, as they left for their summer vacations last week, not to "prejudge" the AWACS sale. Up to now there has been a majority in both Houses of Congress against the sale of the AWACS to Saudi Arabia.

SHARON: JORDAN IS A 'PALESTINIAN STATE' AND A SECOND ONE IS OUT

TEL AVIV, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon told the Knesset today that Jordan was a "Palestinian state" and Israel would not allow the establishment of another Palestinian state on the West Bank. Sharon was making his first address to the Knesset in his new capacity as Defense Minister, replying to parliamentary questions.

He said that there were signs of a renewal of shooting on Israel's northern border as the Palestinians were fortifying their positions there and building up stocks of arms and ammunition. Referring to his inspection of the northern area yesterday, Sharon said Israel had no intention of "putting towns and industries in the north underground." He said ways would be sought to ensure normal life and production under shellfire.

CARTER CALLS ON PALESTINIANS TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL AND FOR ISRAEL TO END ITS 'MILITARY OCCUPATION'

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- Former President Jimmy Carter appealed yesterday to Palestinian leaders to recognize Israel's right to exist and for an end of the "Israeli military occupation." Carter's call came as he welcomed Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who went to Plains, Ga. to visit the former American President who sponsored the Camp David accords in 1978.

In a statement before Sadat and his wife, Jihan, attended a private dinner with Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, Carter appealed to "all Palestinian leaders to forego the use of violence and to recognize Israel's right to exist in peace." Carter added: "It is time for the Israeli military occupation to end and for freedom and full autonomy to be granted to Palestinians who live either in the West Bank and Gaza or as refugees from their homeland."

During the welcoming ceremony, which was held on a softball field, Carter praised Sadat as a man of courage and strength, who inspired the world through his initiative for a Mideast peace settlement and set the foundation for the Camp David peace process.

Carter said that the high hopes of Camp David have not been sustained. "Negotiations to complete the Camp David accords are not being pursued and those who have depended on the fulfillment of those solemn promises inevitably will become angry and disillusioned as the months go by," the former President declared.

But, Carter said, the situation is not hopeless because both Israel and its neighbors want peace and because Sadat understands that security is important to Israel and that Palestinian rights are most important to the Arabs. "Both must be guaranteed in order to have enduring peace," Carter said.

REPORT CONFIRMS COOPERATION BETWEEN NEO-NAZIS AND PLO

By David Kantor

BONN, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- The annual report of the West German security services released here today for the first time officially confirms that there is cooperation between neo-Nazis in this country and the Palestine Liberation Organization. It is also the most detailed annual survey of rightwing and leftwing extremism in the Federal Republic.

The report states that for the first time in many years the National Democratic Party (NPD), which participated unsuccessfully in the recent nationwide parliamentary elections, is no longer the largest single neo-Nazi organization in the country. Its membership has dropped from 8,000 in 1979 to 7,200 in 1980 and its affiliated youth organization has failed to recruit enough members to fill its ranks.

News Groups Gaining Ground

But this development, the survey shows, is not indicative of a decline in the number of neo-Nazis since other, even more extreme groups are gaining new ground both in terms of membership and influence. As an example, the report cites the growing influence of the "German People's Union," an organization headed by the Munich publisher, Gerhard Frey.

He is the publisher of the weekly "National Zeitung," the most widely circulated neo-Nazi publication in the country. Its weekly circulation is 100,000 and the Union itself has a membership of more than 10,000. Its popularity, according to the report, is based on its campaign against foreigners living in West Germany and its campaign to grant a general amnesty for Nazi war criminals.

Increase In Extremist Groups

The overall membership of extreme rightwing groups is given officially as 19,800 in 1980, compared to 17,300 in 1979. Among the 75 known neo-Nazi organizations, 13 have more than 250 members. The number of publishing houses specializing in neo-Nazi propaganda was 65 in 1980, up from 45 in 1979.

The number of violent incidents committed by rightwing extremists rose from 97 in 1979 to 113 in 1980. It included the bomb explosion at Munich's Oktoberfest and other extremist attacks, most against liberal and leftwing groups. The outlawed Wehrsportgruppe Hoffmann, whose members receive military training in PLO camps in Lebanon, is classified in the report as having a stronger organizational structure than other comparable organizations. The leader of the Wehrsportgruppe Hoffmann, Karl-Heinz Hoffmann, is now under arrest in Germany along with other neo-Nazis who were trained by the PLO.

Brandt Warns Against Rightwing Extremism

Meanwhile, former Chancellor Willy Brandt, who is presently the chairman of the ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD), has issued a sharp warning against rightwing extremism and called for an internationally coordinated campaign to combat it. In a statement several days ago commemorating the victims of the bomb explosion in Bologna, Italy a year ago, in which 85 people died, Brandt said there are clear indications that rightwing extremists have extended their international contacts.

Brandt's warning is understood here as also referring to the group led by Hoffmann. The former Chancellor assailed the lack of coordination between police in various countries in the struggle against rightwing terrorism. While stressing that legal action alone will not be sufficient to cope with the problem, Brandt said it is necessary to coordinate laws dealing with terror-

ism and to increase cooperation between law enforcement agencies. He also called for international agreements banning trade and export of Nazi propaganda material.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA U.S. MAY HAVE FOUND A 'TECHNICAL' REASON FOR SITTING ON THE F-16s

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration may have gotten itself off the hook about having to decide this week whether to resume shipment of the F-16 fighter-bomber jets to Israel.

The U.S. has ordered a grounding of all F-16s throughout the world, including the 53 now in Israel, until it can repair a "mechanical problem" discovered in the planes. "If you can't fly them, you can't deliver them," a Pentagon spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.

The Administration has said it would make a decision on the deliveries of the planes before the next group of four planes were due to be flown to Israel. This next delivery date is believed to be Friday. The Administration held up delivery on four F-16s to Israel after Israel's June 7 strike against Iraq's nuclear reactor. Six more planes scheduled for delivery in July were embargoed after the Israeli attack on Palestinian terrorist headquarters in Beirut July 17.

There have been some reports that the Administration wants to hold up delivery until after Premier Menachem Begin meets with President Reagan in Washington in September. State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romburg refused to comment on this today. He said Reagan would make a decision when it is necessary to make the decision.

The Administration is not entirely off the hook. The first of the 15 F-15s Israel has ordered reportedly is due to be delivered to Israel tomorrow but the Administration has left the impression that they would not be delivered until it has decided to lift its embargo on the F-16s.

YITZHAK NISSIM DEAD AT 85

JERUSALEM, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- Israel's former Sephardic Chief Rabbi, Yitzhak Nissim, was buried today on the Mount of Olives. He died here yesterday at the age of 85. In accordance with his wishes, there were no eulogies at the burial service. He had served as Chief Rabbi for 18 years until 1974.

Born in Baghdad, Nissim studied at the Jewish Religious Academy there and became known for his scholarship at an early age. In 1925 he emigrated to Jerusalem. In 1926 he published his first major commentary, "Zedaka U-Mishpat." His home soon became a meeting place for scholars and community leaders.

Nissim was elected Chief Rabbi in 1925 and soon became a key figure in the Chief Rabbinate Council. As Sephardic Chief Rabbi, he also served as president of Israel's Rabbinical High Court. Noted for his independence of thought, Nissim sought to create a harmonious relationship between all sections of Israel's society, including its secular element. He traveled frequently to kibbutzim to discuss religion with kibbutz members.

He upset Israeli leaders when, in 1964, he refused to participate in a reception for Pope Paul VI during a papal visit to Israel. He said he felt the Pope did not show proper respect for the Chief Rabbinate in Israel. A hard-liner on Jewish religious law, he often was in conflict with early Israel governments, dominated by the Labor Party, over positions of secular authorities on key religious issues.

In 1972, Nissim, then 76, was defeated as Sephardic Chief Rabbi. Rabbi Ovadia Yosef succeeded him in the election. Nissim was the father of Justice Minister Moshe Nissim.

ISRAELI AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS WILL CONTINUE WITH THEIR DUTIES

TEL AVIV, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- Israel's air traffic controllers have decided not to withhold services from El Al and other airlines leaving for the United States. American air traffic controllers now on strike have appealed to their colleagues throughout the world not to handle any aircraft bound for the U.S.

But the Israelis decided yesterday to await the outcome of a meeting of international air traffic controllers due to take place soon to discuss a united stand on the American controllers' appeal. El Al pilots are, however, being warned to pay special attention to any security problems which might arise in view of the staffing of American control towers by military personnel instead of the usual civilian controllers.

WORKERS COMMITTEES ASSESSING IMPACT OF BAN ON SABBATH WORK

TEL AVIV, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- Representatives of the country's 13 largest workers committees met yesterday to discuss the government's agreement to Agudat Israel's demands for halting all work on the Sabbath but decided to postpone a decision on what action to take until later this month. Some delegations demanded immediate strike action to avoid being presented by a government fait accompli ordering El Al and all other enterprises to cease all Sabbath work.

Spokesmen for the workers committees said they were opposed to such an order on both principle and economic grounds. Many workers earn a large part of their income from special overtime payment for work on the Sabbath and on holidays. The Histadrut central committee also discussed the issue and decided to present the Cabinet with a detailed analysis of the negative effects of a Sabbath work ban.

STOLEN TORAHS RECOVERED

NEW YORK, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- Two Torahs stolen from the Temple Beth Shalom in Smithtown, L.I. last June have been recovered and three Centereach, L.I. teenagers have been charged with the burglary, the Suffolk County police said yesterday.

The Torahs, valued at \$16,000, were found buried in a sump in a heavily wooded area, the police said. Still missing are the Torah crowns and breastplates and office equipment that were taken in the June 15 robbery. The total loss was estimated at \$50,000.

A spokesman for the Conservative synagogue said that the value of the missing items were "overstated" and said he preferred not to speak about the costs. He said, however, that "the entire (police) department has done a beautiful job" in helping to recover the lost items.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- For the first time, Bank Leumi Trust Company of New York ranks among the world's 500 largest banks, by deposit size. According to the rankings compiled by the American Banker in its July 30 issue, the Trust Company's ranking is 481 which represents a jump of 20 places from last year. In the U.S., Bank Leumi Trust Company of New York ranks among the top 1 percent of all 15,000 commercial banks in the country. The parent company of the Trust Company, Bank Leumi le-Israel B.M., ranks number 95 worldwide, a gain of four places over last year.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Agudat Israel leader Avraham Shapiro declared Monday he wished to work with sports representatives to end soccer games on Saturday afternoons.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES FILM MAKER SAYS SEXUAL EQUALITY IN ISRAEL IS 'ONLY A MYTH'

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- Are Israeli women equal to Israeli men? Yes, many people would say, pointing to the fact that women must serve along with men in the Israel Defense Forces.

"This is only a myth," says Shuli Eshel, who wrote, directed and produced a unique documentary film, "To Be A Woman Soldier," to prove her point of view about the status of Israeli women. "There is no equality of the sexes in Israeli society. The Israeli army is a microcosm of the society, a microcosm where the inequality between men and women is sharply demonstrated."

Eshel, a young, effervescent sabra, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview here that her film was meant to "explode" the myth of equality between the sexes in the army and to the status of women as it really is. The film was broadcast last April on Israeli television and was acclaimed by critics as an important social document.

Real Life Stories

The film depicts, through the real life stories of two women soldiers in their final month of service, the role of Israeli women in the army and in civilian life. Orly, a Yemenite from the city, and Abigail, from a kibbutz, represent the "average" woman. When they entered the army they were, like many other 18-year-olds, full of hope and expecting to take part in defending the country. But they soon realize that all combat jobs or jobs that bring them close to combat are closed to women.

They also discover that out of 709 professions in the Israeli army, only 225 are open to women soldiers. (By comparison, there are 630 professions in the U.S. army, of which 570 are open to women). Women in the Israeli army, the film shows, serve in mainly service roles. Orly and Abigail soon find themselves spending dreary hours in the office -- typing, filing and serving coffee.

The film also shows that a lack of personnel has compelled the Israeli army to open up certain technical jobs to women, such as airplane technicians and control tower operators, jobs that were closed to women soldiers until recently. To illustrate this development, the film presents the story of Miri Dayan (no relation to Moshe Dayan) who had to fight against heavy odds to become the first, and so far the only woman commander of the women's tank instructors course.

The film ends on a partially sad note as Orly and Abigail part with a warm embrace, knowing that the role that awaits them in civilian life after two years of army service is not much different.

Received Aid From American Women

Eshel, who is in the United States to promote her film, has already received an enthusiastic response from the Public Broadcasting Service which stated in a letter to her that "We very much want the film for PBS broadcast." Eshel said she now has to find sponsors for the film to provide the underwriting grants for televising the film on PBS.

She said that her goal in making the film "was to improve the status of Israeli women" because "as a social documentary film maker my commitment is a social one." She contended that the Israeli woman is not equal to the Israeli man in all aspects

of life -- social and juridical -- nor in the general treatment accorded her in society.

Continuing, she observed: "The time has come for women of Israel to take an active role in changing the situation toward equality. One of the sources for the inequality is the army, where the division of the roles between the sexes is a long-standing tradition."

Comparing the status of the Israeli woman to that of her American counterpart, Eshel said American women are much more "liberated." Israeli women, she said, are at a state where American women were in the early 1960s when they started for the first time to be conscious of their second class citizenship in society.

Eshel said that the controversy and responses that followed the showing of her film in Israel indicated that Israel is "ripe and ready" to ask questions and to probe the issue of women's role and status in society in order to change the situation.

21 PEOPLE KILLED, 45 INJURED IN ISRAEL'S WORST HOLIDAY DISASTER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- Twenty one people were killed and 45 injured today when a truck hit an army tank transporter near Gaza. It was the worst traffic accident in Israel's history. Some 40 of those injured remained in the hospital during the day for treatment. All the dead and all but one of the injured were Arabs, on their way from their village of Deir el-Ballah in the Gaza Strip to work in Tel Aviv.

The Arab workers were travelling in a truck, equipped with benches to carry passengers, which entered a crossroad near Gaza on a green light. An empty army tank transporter entered the junction on a red light, travelling at high speed. It knocked the passenger vehicle into a field where it overturned. The tank transporter plunged into a field and came to a stop when it hit a railway embankment. The driver of the transporter was injured.

In another accident this morning, 46 people were injured when the brakes failed on a bus as it was negotiating steep turns on a mountainside road near Dimona. Most of the passengers sustained slight injuries.

Today's accidents brought the number of people killed in highway accidents to 52 during the first 10 days of the month and nearly 400 injured, higher than any previous entire month.

MAURICE PORTER DEAD AT 75

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 10 (JTA) -- Maurice Porter, who had been prominent in Jewish affairs for more than 30 years, died here recently at the age of 75. A leading Johannesburg attorney and businessman, he was the president of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and a vice president of the South African Zionist Federation.

Born in Lithuania, Porter came to South Africa at an early age and had an outstanding educational career at Grey College in Port Elizabeth and what was then Rhodes University College in Grahamstown. Over the years he served in various leadership posts in the Board of Deputies; was a founding member of the South African Board of Jewish Education; was a former chairman and subsequently life president of Arcadia, the South African Jewish orphanage; and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency since 1973. Porter also acted on behalf of the Board of Deputies as a director at meetings of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.