

BEGIN: U.S. NEVER ASKED ISRAEL TO LIMIT USE OF AMERICAN-MADE AIRCRAFT TO 'NON-ATTACK PURPOSES'

By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin said today that the United States had never asked Israel to limit the use of the aircraft it supplies to "non-attack purposes." He told reporters after the Cabinet session that "We have never had such a demand. It would be completely out of this world." The Premier also rejected the use of the term "American planes." He said "They are not American planes. They are Israeli planes made in America."

The issue of whether Israel had violated U.S. law in using American-made planes when it bombed Iraq's nuclear reactor last June and again when it bombed terrorist installations in Beirut last month was raised in Washington by the Administration as a basis for suspending deliveries of F-16 warplanes to Israel.

Although no violation of U.S. law had been found, the Administration, nevertheless, decided to continue its embargo of the warplanes. Immediately after the bombing of the terrorist installations in Beirut, the Reagan Administration claimed that sending war planes to Israel would only exacerbate the volatile situation in the area. After the cease-fire along the Israel-Lebanon border was proclaimed July 24, the Administration said it would wait and see whether the cease-fire would hold.

Expects Aircraft In Israel Next Week

Begin, in reviewing U.S.-Israel relations in preparation for his visit to Washington early next month for meetings with President Reagan and other top Administration officials, said he expected Reagan to lift the embargo on the F-15s and F-16s within the next few days. He told reporters after the Cabinet meeting that the planes are "of very great help to Israel's security, and I want to tell you that we also help America's national security. And the Americans know that very well."

Begin said he expected the planes would be allowed to leave the U.S. within a day or so and arrive in Israel within a week. "The embargo which lasted several weeks was absolutely unjust and unjustifiable," he said. "A wrong was done to Israel, those planes having been denied to Israel for quite a long period. But now the President will decide to right that wrong, and righting a wrong is doing justice."

Begin noted that "somebody said it was a precedent. I would like to express the hope that is no precedent at all and that it will never be repeated."

Try To Remove Misunderstandings

Begin reportedly told the Cabinet that his talks in Washington would be largely devoted to trying to remove misunderstandings which may have arisen between Israel and the U.S. He told reporters he would shortly be sending a note to Secretary of State Alexander Haig asking what has happened to special envoy Philip Habib's mission, which was initially aimed at getting the Syrian missiles out of Lebanon.

Begin noted that the missiles are still there and that the terrorists are building up their forces in Lebanon. He said that Israel could not sit back and do nothing if there was a threat of another war of attrition. He was referring to the terrorist bombings of northern Israeli villages and kibbutzim before the cease-fire went into effect.

Asked by reporters for his reaction to Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's conciliatory policy toward Arabs living in the administered areas (see Friday, Aug. 14 Bulletin), Begin said it was not a new policy but the government's already declared policy, albeit with a change of emphasis under Sharon. The Defense Minister's aides said he would be holding meetings with West Bank leaders "quietly, away from the spotlight" in an effort to get to know them.

Dismisses Saudi Plan

Discussing the proposals raised Aug. 14 by Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Begin said these did not constitute a Saudi peace initiative. The Premier said he had carefully studied Fahd's statement which called for, among other things, guaranteeing the right of all states in the Middle East to "live in peace." It did not mention Israel by name.

Begin, noting that, said that other Arab spokesmen who had frequently used similar terminology in the past always explained that they did not include Israel in their definition because they did not regard Israel as a state.

The Premier confirmed that he will go to Alexandria Aug. 25 for two days of talks with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. He will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Interior Minister Yosef Burg who is in charge of the autonomy talks on behalf of Israel, and Sharon who cancelled his own planned visit to Egypt which was to have been this week. They will also accompany Begin on his visit to the U.S.

Referring to his forthcoming meeting with Sadat, Begin said: "It is obvious that the main issues will be renewal of the autonomy talks and the peace process." Begin is due to leave Israel for the U.S. Sept. 6, meeting Reagan on Sept. 8 and 9. During his nine-day stay in the U.S., Begin will call on former President Jimmy Carter in Plains, Georgia.

REAGAN JUMPS THE GUN ON NOTIFYING CONGRESS OF PROPOSAL TO SELL AWACS TO SAUDIS; BUT CLOCK WILL NOT START RUNNING UNTIL AFTER LABOR DAY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- President Reagan will send Congress on Aug. 24 the informal notification of his Administration's proposal to sell Saudi Arabia five AWACS reconnaissance planes and other sophisticated military equipment. But State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said last Friday that the 50-day period in which Congress may reject the proposed sale will not actually start until after Congress returns from its summer recess in September.

The Aug. 24 date was announced Friday morning by Max Friedersdorf, the President's Assistant for Legislative Affairs, at a breakfast meeting of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Sources at the State Department denied that there was any connection in the timing of the AWACS announcement and the expectation that

Reagan will announce this week the lifting of the suspension of delivery to Israel of 10 F-16 and two F-15 jet fighter planes.

Fischer said he could not say whether the U.S. had completed its negotiations with the Saudis on the AWACS. The negotiations reportedly concern continued U.S. control of the highly sophisticated planes in order to calm the fears of Congressmen opposed to the sale. The President has delayed submission of the proposal since last May on the advice of Senate Majority leader Howard Baker (R. Tenn.) and other Republican leaders who feared that the proposal would be rejected by Congress.

In a letter to Senate and House leaders Reagan urged Congressmen, as they left for vacation earlier this month, not to "prejudge" the sale until they saw the completed proposal. The sale goes through automatically unless rejected by both houses of Congress. Congress has a 20-day-informal notification period followed by a 30-day-formal period during which it can adopt resolutions voiding the sale.

C.O.L. GOING UP AGAIN

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- The cost of living index rose by 6.1 percent in July the Central Bureau of Statistics announced today. Bureau spokesman David Neuman pointed out this figure was twice as high as during the past two months but equalled the monthly average for the past seven months. If the index continues to rise at this month's rate, the annual inflation figure for 1981 will be about 100 percent, he said.

This is less than last year's 134 percent figure but higher than the 70-80 percent forecast by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor. Histadrut Secretary General Yerucham Meshel noted that this July's figure was the highest ever for a July since the establishment of Israel.

Opposition spokesmen said the monthly rise had been kept artificially low during the election period, but Bureau of Statistics economists say the government has already, in the past four months, spent three-quarters of its annual budget for this year's subsidies.

KUZNETSOV AND ZALMANSON TO DIVORCE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Eduard Kuznetsov and Sylva Zalmanson, two of the better-known Russian refusniks who came to Israel after years spent in Soviet prisons, have come to an amicable agreement to divorce. The Tel Aviv rabbinical court granted a formal "get" (bill of divorcement) to the couple who made world headlines through Sylva's efforts to secure her husband's release from a Soviet jail.

They said they would remain friends, but the incompatibility of their temperaments made it impossible for them to live together. Sylva retains custody of their 18-month-old daughter and is continuing to live in their Holon apartment, while Eduard has moved into a friend's apartment in Ramat Gan.

The couple were together for only five months before trial and imprisonment for their part in the Leningrad hijack attempt to flee to Israel in 1970. Sylva was released after a few years and came to Israel, from where she continued to campaign for her husband's release. She paid many visits to the U.S. and Europe to persuade world leaders to help her.

Kuznetsov was finally released nearly three years ago and came straight to Israel. But the years apart did not help their marriage and they have now decided to part as friends, Sylva told her acquaintances.

ISRAEL BOND LEADERS MARK THEIR 30th ANNIVERSARY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- "Don't take anything for granted in Israel. Always remember that we live in a miracle." This advice was offered by President Yitzhak Navon to 600 Israel Bond Organization leaders from the United States, Canada and Western Europe who are attending the 30th anniversary conference of the organization. He noted that although the history of the Jewish people is measured in thousands of years, a short period of time can be decisive. If Israel had been established 10 years earlier, hundreds of thousands or millions of Jews could have been saved, Navon said.

The President was introduced to the conference by Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Bond Organization, and long time Bond leader Julian Venetzky. Hal Linden, the star of ABC-TV's "Barney Miller," who was a delegate to the conference, was presented with the Israel Bond Freedom Award.

The delegates visited the port of Ashdod last Friday where three veteran Israel Bond leaders unveiled a commemorative plaque marking the role of the Bond Organization 20 years ago in the construction of the port. "Nothing, absolutely nothing was here when we saw the first stone being lowered into the water to start the building of this port 20 years ago," said Alice Pearce, national chairman of Israel Bond's Board of Governors, who attended the inaugural in 1961. Ashdod is now the largest port city in Israel with a population of 70,000.

EFFORT TO SAVE HOUSE WHERE GOLDA MEIR LIVED AS A TEEN-AGER

DENVER, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- An effort is underway by an ad hoc committee to save an abandoned structure in Denver which by sheer chance has been discovered to be a residence in which Golda Meir lived as a teen-ager and where she met Morris Myerson, later to become her husband.

The Intermountain Jewish News reported that on Aug. 4, the Denver City Council unanimously passed a resolution calling for the preservation of the abandoned duplex on Julian Street on Denver's West Side. The Jewish weekly reported that while the vote does not guarantee preservation of the structure, it will help greatly, adding that actual permission to allow the building to be placed on city property "should be debated soon."

Meanwhile, a resolution urging that the home be designated a historical landmark was adopted by the Denver Landmark Preservation Commission. The commission said that the home was likely to qualify as a landmark.

When Golda Mabovitz was 15, she lived in the Denver duplex, then the home of her sister and brother-in-law, Shana and Sam Korngold. During the year she lived there, she attended North High School and made pocket money by working in her brother-in-law's dry cleaning business.

According to the weekly, the duplex has been empty for more than a year and its owners, the Boys Club, Inc. of Denver, who had no idea that Israel's Premier-to-be had lived in it, planned to raze the structure for a new athletic field.

The Intermountain Jews News reported the structure was saved at the last moment by two fortuitous events. One was the photographic activities of a

a volunteer, Jean May, seeking pictures of historic buildings in Denver for a fund-raising cookbook for a local citizens group. Though non-Jewish, Ms. May has long been an admirer of Golda.

She told the weekly that she knew Golda had lived in the area but she did not know where. She checked material at the Denver public library, and Colorado tax records and North High School files to confirm the location. Ms. May photographed the duplex and called the Boys Club and learned of the plans to destroy the building.

The other fortuitous event was that the demolition contractor had been delayed. After Ms. May notified newspapers and historic preservation committees, protesting telephone calls poured into the office of the Boys Club which agreed to postpone any demolition action while the ad hoc group develops a plan and raises money to save the house.

Irving Feldman, chairman of the ad hoc committee, said moving the house to a nearby city park was the most realistic option. Belle Marcus of the Rocky Mountain Historical Society, has suggested conversion of the building into a Denver Jewish Museum.

Feldman said that moving the house, preparing an excavation at a new site for it, and funds for restoration would total between \$30,000 and \$40,000. He said the ad hoc committee planned to raise the funds from both the Jewish and general community.

POWERFUL LOBBY INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING PRISON TERMS REDUCED FOR NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

By David Kantor

BONN, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Imprisoned Nazi war criminals in West Germany benefit from the efficient help of a powerful and discreet lobby which has succeeded remarkably in reducing their jail terms and in providing them legal help, according to a broadcast of the Cologne-based state radio station, Westdeutscher Rundfunk.

According to the broadcast, the lobby masquerades as a voluntary organization, called "Stille Hilfe" (Quiet Help) which purportedly seeks to help all prison inmates.

The broadcast cited a recent study on two categories of prisoners serving life terms: Nazi criminals and "normal" criminals. For Nazi inmates, life imprisonment usually ended after 12 years in jail, but for the other category, a jail term of less than 18 years was an exception. The broadcast attributed the sharp difference to the continued efforts of Stille Hilfe to obtain early release for Nazi war criminals.

Heiner Lichtenstein, the moderator, said judges often get letters asking them to release Nazi inmates because of family problems or for reasons of age. He said many of those letters had a similar text and were most probably prepared by Stille Hilfe members with legal backgrounds. The organization is recognized by West German income tax officials so that contributions to it are tax-deductible.

The broadcast named some leaders of Stille Hilfe and quoted from a document which made it clear that, at a recent Stille Hilfe meeting in a Bremen hotel, additional help for jailed Nazis was being planned.

CHARGE THAT FOUR GERMAN NEO-NAZIS TRAINED BY THE PLO IN LEBANON HAD THE HELP OF THE GERMAN EMBASSY

By David Kantor

BONN, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- The opposition Christian Democratic Union (CDU) has charged that four

German neo-Nazis, trained by the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon had the help of the West German Embassy in Beirut despite the fact that they had criminal records and were wanted by the authorities.

Carl-Dieter Spranger, the CDU expert on interior policies, charged that the Social Democratic government of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt was guilty of "dangerous neglect" in dealing with recent revelations of military cooperation between West German neo-Nazis and the PLO.

Spranger said that the annual report of the Federal Service for Domestic Security disproved the reply by Interior Minister Gerhard Baum to the charge in a key detail. That detail, Spranger declared, was Baum's assertion that the four neo-Nazis had established that they had no criminal records and received help from the Embassy in Beirut on that assurance.

The CDU called the answers given by Baum to a series of parliamentary questions on the issue "unsatisfactory." The CDU urged the federal government to "tell the whole truth" about the issue, and to answer specifically why the West German Embassy in Beirut helped neo-Nazis working with the PLO and whether that Embassy had made available information about the four neo-Nazis to other West German government services.

In his answers, Baum confirmed that an unspecified number of German neo-Nazis received PLO military training in an Al Fatah camp near Beirut and that this information had been available to West German authorities since the start of 1980. But Baum insisted that the information was not enough to justify legal steps against the leader of the neo-Nazi group training in PLO installations.

WINNER OF PRESTIGIOUS AWARD TURNS OUT TO BE A NEO-NAZI

BONN, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- A retired woman from Duesseldorf, Josephine Juergens, has been in the center of public attention since the end of the Maidanek trial a few weeks ago, where former SS officials of the concentration camp were charged with the murder of thousands of inmates. Juergens last January received one of the state's highest decorations, the Bundesverdienstkreuz, from President Karl Carstens for her volunteer work in taking care of prisoners. She was honored at the recommendation of the government of the federal state of North Rhine Westphalia, where Duesseldorf is located.

In an ironic twist, Juergens turned out to be a dedicated neo-Nazi who has never hidden her hostile view towards Jews, although at the time she received her award no one in the federal state government seemed to know about her views. For the last five years she was involved in helping the former SS officials who were tried in Duesseldorf.

In a radio interview, Juergens declared that Duesseldorf is governed by Jews, hence, she explained, the lack of public sympathy for the SS officials during the trial. In a letter to the judge who presided at the trial, she said that it is imperative for him, as it is for every German, to resist Jewish influence in similar court trials in the future and in the country's judicial system.

After some attempts to play down the matter, officials of the North Rhine Westphalia government realized that the award to Juergens had become a public scandal. In a recent letter to Carstens, Johannes Rau, the head of the Duesseldorf government, acknowledged that his administration was not aware that Juergens was a dedicated neo-Nazi. He recommended that the decoration she received be taken back.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES JEWS FROM IRAN ARE BUILDING A SYNAGOGUE IN QUEENS, N.Y.

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- The first synagogue for Jews from the town of Mashad in Iran, who came to the United States after the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini took power in 1979, is under construction in the Kew Gardens section of Queens.

Pending completion of their own synagogue, the 400 Iranian families had been using, until a few weeks ago, the facilities of Congregation Adath Yeshuran in the same area. Its rabbi is Bernard Rosensweig, who was ordained by the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University.

Details on the synagogue construction plans were provided to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by a Yeshiva University spokesman. He said the Iranian Jews of Congregation Shaare Tovah recently rented a building near the Adath Yeshuran synagogue and now worship there regularly. He said that the Iranian Jews worship in Hebrew but that their congregational communications, such as their bulletins, are in Farsi.

Synagogue To Cost Some \$1 Million

The spokesman said that the new synagogue, which is being erected across the street from Adath Yeshuran, is expected to be ready for use early next year and will cost around \$1 million. Rosensweig said that, as the Iranian Jews build their own synagogue and as newer members adjust to American society, they are getting help from other Jews in Queens.

Rosensweig said some Iranian Jews came to Kew Gardens more than 40 years ago and joined Adath Yeshuran. Over the years the number of Iranian Jews settling in Kew Gardens grew. When the Shah fell and the Khomeini government came to power, more than half of the Iranian Jews now comprising Congregation Shaare Tovah were among those migrating to the United States.

He said it was then that the Iranian Jews started their own congregation and began to collect funds for a synagogue building. He said that the Iranian Jewish newcomers will be able to give their children a better Jewish education than they could get in Iran where they could not send their children to yeshivas and Hebrew schools. Rosensweig said the fact was that "there were restrictions on Jews in Iran, even under the Shah."

Problems Of Adjustment

Some of the most recent Iranian immigrants must adjust to other changes in life and in style of worship, according to Meir Kadosh. As a third-year rabbinical student at the Isaac Elchanan Seminary, Kadosh has worked with the Iranian Jews as part of the Shimush in-service training program at the Seminary.

He said one of the differences is in the role of the rabbi, explaining that "the rabbi in Iran worked with the congregation and read the Torah. He was an authority on problems of (Jewish religious) law, but he was not an administrator. He was a volunteer and he did not have to deal with management problems at the synagogue."

Kadosh, who is himself from Morocco, said rabbis in countries such as Iran did not speak to their congregants about the social problems of the society. They presented "more traditional, almost classic" lectures to their congregants. He added that Iranian Jews are considered "second-

class citizens" -- dhimmis -- by the Moslems of Iran, as are Christians, a tradition dating back to the days of Mohammed.

History Of Hardship, Bias in Iran

Rosensweig said the Iranian Jews who came from the town of Mashad in Iran knew about hardship and discrimination long before Khomeini took power. He said that in 1839, when Iran was still called Persia, the Jews in Mashad were forced to convert to Islam.

He said that for generations, the Jews of Mashad practiced Judaism in secret. When they made pilgrimages to Mecca as supposed Moslems, Rosensweig declared, they stopped in Jerusalem, too. They set up elaborate systems in Iran so that they could study Jewish law and pray without being found out.

He said each group of Jews had its own warning system, a woman posted in the courtyard, supposedly sweeping and doing her laundry. She would make a loud clatter when she saw an unwelcome or suspicious visitor approaching. Rosensweig said the Jews in Mashad kept their stores open on the Sabbath but quoted outrageous prices or told their Moslem customers that they were out of certain items. By such means, Rosensweig said, they managed to do very little business on their Sabbath.

The Mashad Jews were not allowed to practice Judaism openly for 80 years until the Shah's family took power in the 1920s, and then under restriction. The university spokesman said the Shaare Tovah synagogue will not be the first Iranian synagogue in the United States, explaining that an earlier wave of Iranian Jews built an Iranian Hebrew Congregation in Chicago about 60 years ago. That congregation still functions.

HOUSING STARTS IN ISRAEL IN 1981 UP ALMOST NINE PERCENT OVER 1980

NEW YORK, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- Housing starts in Israel in 1981 rose almost nine percent over the previous year, the largest jump since 1976, according to a report issued last month by the Builders and Contractors Association in Israel. Association president David Stern reported that 70,370 apartments were built at the end of March 1981, compared with around 64,000 during the same period last year.

The increase in housing construction followed four years of sluggish building activity, Stern said. In 1976, 76,230 apartments were built; that figure dropped to 60,130 in 1977, slumped further to 56,480 in 1978; rose slightly to 64,410 in 1979 and remained at that level throughout 1980.

In the third quarter of 1981, Stern put area construction for apartments and commercial buildings at more than 53 million square feet, a four percent increase over the same period last year. He attributed the gain to renewed government efforts to meet predetermined building quotas. Stern believes the number of apartments currently under construction should sufficiently meet Israel's housing needs for the next two years.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Bank Leumi has bought a rare collection of ancient coins, to prevent its sale abroad. The bank is to present the collection, for which it paid \$200,000, to the Israel Museum on loan display. The coins belonged to the late Adolf Reifenberg and the collection is regarded as one of the most important in Jewish numismatics. It includes unique coins from the Bar Kochba period. When the bank heard that Reifenberg's heirs had decided to put the collection up for sale in Zurich it decided to purchase it to prevent its removal abroad.