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ISRAEL DETERMINED TO CONTINUE ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST AWACS SALE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Israel is determined to campaign against the Reagan Administration's plan to sell AWACS reconnaissance planes to Saudi Arabia, despite American efforts to convince Israel to give up its opposition, it was learned here today.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig's statement yesterday on ABC-TV's "Issues and Answers" program that the Administration intends to "proceed" with its proposal and "win" the Congressional battle was interpreted here as part of the ongoing effort by the United States to tone down Israel's opposition to the sale. President Reagan's special advisor on Jewish affairs, Jacob Stein, is reported to have told Premier Menachem Begin during their talks here last week not to press his luck with Reagan by continuing to oppose the sale. Stein said continued opposition would be considered a personal affront to Reagan himself. (See late story P.3.)

However, Begin is reportedly determined to go ahead with the anti-AWACS campaign because he regards the issue as a matter of principle. In Begin's view, Israel should continue with its campaign even if its chances of success are not great. His view is that Israel should not give up such campaigns because of the argument that they may aggravate Reagan.

HUSSEIN, MITTERRAND TO HOLD DISCUSSION ON MIDEAST SITUATION

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- King Hussein of Jordan will meet French President Francois Mitterrand Wednesday for what French officials say will be a wide-ranging discussion of the Middle East situation. Mitterrand is due to leave next month for his first official visit to the area, to Saudi Arabia, and Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson is starting this week a trip to several Arab capitals including Damascus and Beirut where he is due to meet Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat.

The recent Arab slant within the French Administration is provoking a definite uneasiness among many French Jews. The usually pro-Socialist weekly, Tribune Juive, in an editorial due to appear this week says "the time has come to judge the new (French) Administration on its acts and not on its sentiments or professed sympathies."

The paper reviews the various Franco-Arab contacts since Mitterrand's election victory last May and is especially critical of its countless contacts with Arab leaders while treating Israel at best with a certain neglect. (See related story P.2.)

Mitterrand had promised during his campaign to pay an official visit to Israel "at the earliest" should he be elected, but French officials now say that any discussion about such a visit or an invitation to Israel's Premier to visit Paris "must wait for a more appropriate moment."

ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS TO DISCUSS NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AT THEIR MEETINGS IN ALEXANDRIA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin will head a large delegation scheduled to fly tomorrow to Alexandria for the first Egyptian-Israeli summit meeting since Begin's reelection for a discussion of a variety of topics, including one which is a sore point for the Israelis -- what they consider the slow pace of normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel for which they hold Egypt responsible.

Another key topic will be the completion of Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai peninsula, scheduled for next April under the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. Observers said the Israeli delegation will seek to create a linkage between the way Israel will evacuate the Sinai and the nature of relations between the two countries.

Observers said that normalization of relations and Sinai evacuation arrangements have been given precedence, as far as the Israelis are concerned, over resumption of the talks on autonomy for the Arabs of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, also required by the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, which have been in a state of suspension for the past 14 months.

Israeli officials reportedly feel they will have more leverage to expand normalization before completion of the Sinai withdrawal than after.

Normalization And Evacuation of Sinai

As the Israelis see it, an evacuated Sinai peninsula will serve as a bridge between Israel and Egypt and the peninsula will be open to a free flow of tourist traffic, both by auto and train. Airfields in the Sinai will be used for civilian purposes and postal services will operate on the ground as well as by air. Israel also wants a step-up of the normalization process in such areas as larger operations of Israeli corporations in Egypt, youth delegations exchanges and more cultural ties.

Under the peace pact, Israel must turn over to the Egyptians the civilian and military infrastructures they created during their occupation of Sinai but at the regular Sunday Cabinet meeting there were expressions of differing views as to just what parts of those infrastructures should be handed over to Egypt.

Most Cabinet Ministers urged that everything movable should be dismantled and brought back to Israel, with only the immovable components left behind. But Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, a member of the delegation going to Alexandria, and three Liberal Ministers suggested that Israel leave behind a considerable quantity of buildings and equipment, but on a purchase-by-Egypt basis.

Begin is expected to raise in Alexandria the resumption of the autonomy talks but he is not expected to try for a formal understanding on which talks could be resumed, primarily because the two countries are so diametrically opposed on many principles affecting the autonomy goals. Egypt's Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, said over the weekend that the autonomy talks are

not likely to be resumed until after the completion of President Reagan's meetings with Middle East leaders which will last until the end of the year. Begin, who is understood to be determined not to make any more concessions than those already made, is likely to agree with that timetable.

The Alexandria talks will last two days, including three working sessions between President Anwar Sadat and Begin, with parallel talks between Ministers of Egypt and Israel. Sharon plans to remain in Egypt until the end of the week.

According to reports from Cairo, the Egyptians have shown special interest in Sharon's recent intensive contacts with West Bank leaders. Egyptians have expressed the hope that the contacts would lead the way to a resumption of the autonomy talks and development of Palestinian trust in the talks.

PLO OFFICIAL WARNS FRANCE IT MUST RECOGNIZE THE PLO AS SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS

PARIS, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Ibrahim Souss, the Palestine Liberation Organization representative in France, said here yesterday that the European Middle East initiative was dead and that each country, particularly France, would now be judged individually by the PLO.

In an interview with the French news agency, Agence Centrale de Presse (ACP), Souss said the PLO was disappointed with France and felt the country's Mideast policy had taken a step backwards since the new Socialist government of Francois Mitterrand came to power last May. He warned that the PLO is "not prepared to wait indefinitely" for France to recognize the PLO "as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

The French authorities, Souss charged, "are talking too much about the security of Israel and no longer regard a Middle East settlement as a priority. Thus we are counting on the government to show some sign of movement in the near future." He said he saw no obstacle to France recognizing the PLO. "It could take any form," he said. "A public declaration, a change in the status of the PLO bureau in France, in brief, something concrete."

Souss said the PLO would ask the Arab League foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis next month to judge each European country separately and take appropriate action. "At one time we were lured with an eventual European initiative. At that time we were told to wait while this develops. We are no longer interested in the European initiatives, if there ever was one. Let's not talk about this. It's finished."

Leaders of the European Economic Community (EEC) agreed at their summit meeting in Venice last year to work toward a European initiative in the Mideast and called for the PLO to participate in the peace talks. Since then, however, differences of opinion have developed among the EEC countries which has led to an unofficial shelving of the effort.

PLO View Of Israel

Asked about the PLO position on recognizing Israel, Souss said: "There is one thing which must be clear: We will never recognize Israel because recognition is an act of sovereignty. There is no Palestinian sovereignty. Sovereignty means territory. And territory means the establishment of the structures of a state."

Asked whether French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson would meet PLO chief Yasir Arafat in Beirut during a Middle East tour at the end of next week, he said: "We have agreed to the meeting, now it is up to the French side."

Cheysson will visit Jordan, Lebanon and Syria from Aug. 28 to 30. French newspapers have quoted informed official sources saying the meeting will take place. Cheysson would not be the first French Foreign Minister to meet Arafat. Former Foreign Minister Jean Sauvagnargues met the PLO leader shortly after former President Valery Giscard d'Estaing took office in 1974.

SHARON BEGINS MEETINGS WITH WEST BANK LEADERS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Hilmi Hanoun, Mayor of the West Bank town of Tulkarm, told Defense Minister Ariel Sharon that the West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians completely reject Premier Menachem Begin's autonomy plan and regard the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole representative of the Palestinians.

Hanoun met with Sharon last week, and was understood to have been the first West Bank leader in a series of talks the Defense Minister is having with them. He is the only one so far to have admitted to the conversation. Defense Ministry officials decline to discuss the meetings, and according to reports the Arabs concerned have promised not to disclose the subjects discussed or even admit to the fact of the meetings.

The type of statements made by Hanoun in radio interviews today, describing his talk with Sharon, have till now been banned by the authorities, who regarded them as sufficient to detain the men concerned.

Hanoun said: "We told him (Sharon) that we completely rejected the autonomy plan from the beginning, and were therefore not prepared to discuss details with him"

"We talked about the general feelings on the West Bank. We told him we were against the confiscation of Arab land and the building of Jewish settlements. We insisted that the PLO is the only representative of the Palestine people and any solution that the PLO accepts will be accepted by us.

"But we also told him we do not represent the Palestinians. We might be the medium between the PLO and the Israel government, if Israel agrees to make negotiations with the PLO." Hanoun said Sharon had replied that the PLO was a terrorist organization.

Sharon is reported to have met also with Gaza Mayor Rashad A-Shawwa, East Jerusalem personality Anwar An-Khatib and others. Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij has denied reports that he has met with Sharon. The military Governor of Nablus met Nablus Mayor Bassam Shaka for some four hours today, in what was believed to have been an effort to get Shaka to agree to meet Sharon.

Asked what he thought of the new Defense Minister after their meeting, Hanoun said that Sharon had promised to make life easier for the Palestinians but only his future actions would prove that there really was a new policy. "His acts will prove whether he means something or not. What we are after in the West Bank is first of all a stop to confiscating lands and building settlements. If this is stopped we may believe that he is going to change the policy of the past government," Hanoun said.

But the iron fist showed through Sharon's recently-declared velvet glove policy even while he was talking to the West Bank leaders. Police yesterday arrested 77 West Bank Arabs for spending the night in Israel at a work camp of 4,000 volunteers organized by the

Nazareth town council. They were transported back across the "Green Line" to Jenin, where they are to be charged with sleeping over in Israel without a special permit.

Those arrested were among volunteers including Israeli Arabs and Jews engaged in voluntary road construction work within the municipal area. West Bank Arabs are not allowed to remain in Israel from 1 A.M. to 7 A.M. without a special permit.

The Nazareth council complained that the detention action had been taken because the Nazareth council is regarded as pro-PLO, while no action is taken against thousands of West Bank Arabs who remain overnight in Tel Aviv and other towns where they are employed, sometimes unlawfully and not through labor exchanges, on construction and sanitation work.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENTS ITS RATIONALE FOR SALE OF AWACS

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration today presented its rationale for the proposed sale of AWACS reconnaissance planes to Saudi Arabia at a press conference at the State Department. Undersecretary of State James Buckley presented a two-page statement and reporters received an 18-page background paper entitled "The Air Defense Enhancement Package for Saudi Arabia." In his statement, Buckley cited the dangerous situation in the Persian Gulf.

He cited the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Iranian revolution, the Iraq-Iran war, and increased Soviet influence in Ethiopia and South Yemen as "indicative of the growing threat to U.S. and Western interests that is posed by the Soviet Union and its proxies. The President and this Administration are determined to reverse this dangerous trend, to protect interests vital to the U.S. and its friends, and to work with countries in the area to enhance regional security."

Buckley stated that providing Saudi Arabia with the equipment will "not only help it meet its own legitimate needs, but will strengthen our own posture in the region."

Committed To Israel's Security

Regarding concerns expressed by Israel, over the proposed sale, Buckley said: "We recognize that the Israeli government has expressed concern about Saudi acquisition of this equipment. Let us reaffirm that this Administration remains committed to the security of Israel and will ensure that Israel maintains its substantial military advantage over potential adversaries. In short, we will not allow the regional balance of forces to be affected by the sale."

He added, "By the same token, the restoration of U.S. strength and credibility in the region and progress in resolving the regional disputes offer the best long-term guarantee of security to Israel as well as to other states in the area wishing to remain free of Soviet pressure."

"The items we propose to sell to Saudi Arabia will significantly improve its defense capabilities and contribute significantly to the pursuit of U.S. strategic goals."

Buckley's presentation on behalf of the Administration was preceded last week by an announcement by President Reagan that he would send to Congress today the informal notification of the proposed sale of the AWACS. However, the 50-day period in which Congress

may reject the proposal will not actually start until after Congress returns from its summer recess in September.

State Department spokesman Dean Fischer told reporters today that the first 20 days, which will start after Congress reconvenes Sept. 9, will cover the period of informal notification, followed by 30 days formal notification. It takes both Houses of Congress to block the Administration proposal. If only one House blocks it, the legislation proceeds as proposed. Presently, there are more than 55 Senators and 248 Representatives -- a majority in each House -- who have indicated opposition to the sale.

CABINET MINISTER MOVES HIS OFFICE TO EAST JERUSALEM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Minister Without Portfolio Yitzhak Modai has moved his office to the Sheikh Jarrah quarter of East Jerusalem where a large complex was built with government offices. The complex was originally constructed to include the office of Premier Menachem Begin, but the Premier deferred moving his office there following international protests and pressures.

Modai is the first Minister to move to the complex which is adjacent to Israel's national police department headquarters. The only government ministry located in the complex is the Justice Ministry. Modai said he decided to move his office there yesterday because it was spacious, comfortable and had been empty for a long time. He said his move was made in the interest of administrative efficiency and was not politically motivated.

The international protests against Begin moving his office to the complex was orchestrated by the Arabs who said that such a move would be tantamount to "annexing" East Jerusalem. The Knesset last year adopted a resolution stating that all of Jerusalem was Israel's united capital.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Cabinet Sunday appointed Minister of Construction and Housing David Levy as the second Deputy Premier, in addition to Simcha Ehrlich. Premier Menachem Begin announced that in his absence, Ehrlich would take his place. The Cabinet also appointed Likud Knesset member Haim Kaufman as Deputy Minister of Finance. Kaufman, a major toy importer, will have to divest himself of his business assets or place them in trust.

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DETROIT (JTA) -- Nazis gathering for a rally in a downtown plaza here Saturday were pelted by stones and bottles hurled by counter-demonstrators. Seven persons were arrested and three persons were injured when police used billy clubs to subdue the crowd. Only several Nazis managed to get on the stage, according to police. The decision to grant the Nazis a rally permit followed a long debate among City Council members.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Israeli manufacturers have threatened to halt production if the government does not change its economic policies but continues to cut credits. Manufacturers Association president Avraham Shavit said Monday the recent slow-down in devaluation of the Israel Shekel, introduced as a measure to wind down inflation, made exports unprofitable and only encouraged local consumption of imported goods. The Association said it was considering halting production and exports for some days as a protest.

JEWISH COMMUNITY ASSURED OF SAFEGUARD IN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOL DEAL WITH SAUDIS

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Kansas City Jewish community relations officials have been assured by the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine (UMKC) chancellor that any contract to formalize a planned exchange of medical faculty and students between the university and Saudi Arabia will contain safeguards to protect Jewish faculty members and students from any Saudi discriminatory pressures, according to a report by the Kansas City Jewish Chronicle in its Aug. 21 issue.

Chronicle Associate Editor Anne Schirn reported that the university's School of Medicine had been in negotiations for several months with the College of Medicine and Allied Sciences of King Abdulaziz University. The proposal is to send UMKC medical school members to teach at the Saudi medical school and to accept Saudi medical students to study at the UMKC medical school, according to information provided William Levi, chairman, and David Goldstein, executive director, of the Jewish Community Relations Bureau (JCRB).

A formal proposal has been made to the Saudi university by Dr. David Moffat, professor and chairman of the department of anatomy at the UMKC School of Medicine, with indications that an agreement would bring the local medical school nearly \$1 million. According to the Chronicle, medical school administrators have said the medical school is under-funded and needs money.

Report On Visit To Saudi Arabia

The JCRB, investigating the exchange plans, reported that, in the course of negotiations, Dr. E. Grey Dimond, former provost for health sciences at UMKC and now consultant to Chancellor George Russell and interim chairman of the department of medicine at Truman Medical Center, a branch of the UMKC medical school, visited Saudi Arabia and reported on the visit in a recent lecture to the medical school faculty.

Dimond then said, according to the Chronicle, that the Saudis prefer to send their medical students overseas only to medical schools which have a low percentage of Jewish faculty members. The Chronicle reported that Dimond was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

The JCRB, realizing the implications of the proposal for potential discrimination not only against Jews at the UMKC medical school, but also against women and Blacks, arranged for a meeting with university officials on Aug. 17. Those in attendance included Albert Goller, president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City, Levi and Goldstein.

Representing the university and its medical school were Russell; Dr. Harry Jonas, dean of the UMKC medical school; and Dr. Eugene Trani, vice chancellor for academic affairs. Moffat was invited to attend but did not and no explanation was given for his absence. Mrs. Schirn reported in the Chronicle.

In preparation for the Aug. 17 meeting, Goldstein prepared a set of questions, stressing the importance of an anti-discrimination clause in any contract between the UMKC and Saudi Arabia, as well as a provision for a monitoring committee which would include human relations experts from outside the university to report to Russell regularly on Saudi compliance.

Levi and Goldstein said the responses from the UMKC officials was "positive and reassuring." Russell said the university would not sign any contract without a detailed anti-discrimination clause and that the contract would have a termination clause for use if the Saudis reneged on it. In a letter sent to the Jewish Federation and the JCRB, Russell said the university supported a monitoring clause and would "implement monitoring procedures which will assure me that discrimination is not practiced under terms of the agreement."

The Chronicle reported that the Chancellor's letter mentioned "ethnic origin or sex" in outlining discrimination it would oppose, but not religion. But Jewish community leaders reportedly felt assured this was an inadvertent omission and that discrimination against Jews, "so widely practiced" by the Saudis, was "equally covered" in the Chancellor's pledge.

Levi said that, despite the reassurances from the UMKC officials, "we are nonetheless greatly concerned for the potential for subtle discrimination which could effect the hiring and promotion and assignment practices for Jewish and other minority faculty members of the UMKC medical school because of the negotiations and proposed relationship with a government that is itself discriminatory and anti-Semitic."

There are currently five Saudi medical students at the UMKC medical school but the Chronicle reported it could not learn the auspices of those students because of the current negotiations with the Saudi government which has acknowledged receipt of the proposal from Moffat. Six of the 26 full-time faculty members at the UMKC medical school are believed to be Jews and about 12 percent of the medical students are Jewish.

JANET EPSTEIN DEAD AT 86

CHICAGO, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held today at Congregation Rodfei Zedek for Janet Epstein, the great-granddaughter of one of Chicago's first rabbis. She died last Friday at Michael Reese Hospital after a long illness. She was 86 years old.

Her great-grandfather was Rabbi Abraham Rabinowitz, who settled in Chicago in the late 1860s and established the first congregation on the South Side, Ohav Shalom, in 1891. Mrs. Epstein was the widow of A. Epstein, the founder of A. Epstein and Sons, International, an engineering and architectural firm with headquarters in Chicago and branches throughout the world, including Israel.

Survivors include two sons, Raymond and Sidney, and a brother. Raymond Epstein is a former president of the Council of Jewish Federations, general chairman of the Jewish United Fund-Israel Emergency Fund, and president of the Jewish Welfare Fund. He is presently a vice president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Sidney Epstein has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and several Federation agencies.

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MIAMI (JTA) -- El Al will have a different kind of passenger Tuesday when one of the 747 jets departs for Israel. The passengers will be more than 100 Florida alligators ranging up to 10 feet long and will travel "with first-class care," according to Henry Laskau, cargo supervisor for El Al in Miami. The alligators will be flown to Israel to populate a swamp where gators used to roam wild. They will be turned loose in a 20-acre tourist park near an ancient Roman spa at Gader.