

# JTA daily news bulletin

(212) 575-9370

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, N.Y. 10036-2574

Vol. LIX - 64th Year

Wednesday, August 26, 1981

No. 164

## ADMINISTRATION UNVEILS ARMS PACKAGE TO SAUDI ARABIA AND ITS RATIONALE FOR THE SALE

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration yesterday sent its controversial \$8.5 billion Saudi Arabian arms package proposal to Congress where it will have until Oct. 30 to be approved or rejected.

This package includes five AWACS planes with sophisticated radar, capable of detecting enemy aircraft; six KC-707 aerial refueling tankers for F-15 jet-fighters which Saudi Arabia is also purchasing; 101 sets of extra fuel tanks for the F-15s which will give them greater range; and 1077 Sidewinder missiles. The price tags include spare parts, support, training, and related ground equipment.

The proposal was also presented to the press yesterday at a State Department briefing by Undersecretary of State James Buckley.

### Four Primary Objectives

The proposal asks the law-makers to consider four primary U.S. objectives in the region: continuation of stable and secure access to regional oil; prevention of the spread of Soviet influence; security of friendly states in the region, including Israel; demonstration of U.S. constancy, and resolve in supporting overall regional security.

Concerning a possible threat to Israel of the presence of such weapons in the region, the proposal states: "The security of the State of Israel has been and will continue to be a paramount interest of the U.S. The air defense package has been designed to meet Saudi defense requirements while minimizing the impact on the Arab-Israeli balance."

The proposal cites four factors that would limit the effect of the sale on Israeli security: superiority of the Israeli Air Force; topography of the region, limitations of the AWACS, and presence of U.S. personnel.

### No Threat To Israel Claimed

Concerning the Israeli Air Force, the proposal states, "Israel has increased its margin of military superiority over its Arab adversaries since the 1973 war. With or without the enhancement items, the Saudi Air Force realistically poses no significant threat to the security of Israel."

The statement adds: "This assessment is true even in the context of a general regional conflict. The air defense package helps Saudi Arabia to defend itself against regional threats but will not measurably increase Saudi offensive potential. The Israeli Air Force is far more capable than other, more likely Saudi adversaries such as Iran or South Yemen."

The proposal states that the topography of the region is a deterring factor in the use of the AWACS to attack Israel. "To provide coverage of Israel, the AWACS would have to be deployed along Saudi Arabia's northern-most border, or over Jordan or Syria. Even then, because Israeli and Jordanian terrain is very rugged, AWACS radar

coverage would be masked in some areas. Consequently, Saudi deployment of AWACS near Israel, would provide little improvement in Saudi warning time, but would dramatically increase the vulnerability of AWACS to Israeli attack and destruction."

The proposal emphasizes that the AWACS will be primarily a defensive system. "It is essentially a flying air defense radar. AWACS cannot detect ground targets, nor can it collect electronic, signal or photographic intelligence."

In addition, the proposal states: "If the Saudis chose to expose their AWACS by operating close to Israel, the aircraft could collect data on Israel air activities. However, this information, would be highly perishable, most of it being valuable for only a few minutes, following its collection. Therefore, without a sophisticated, computerized communications network in other Arab countries which only the U.S. could provide, little if any of this information could help in a collective Arab attack on Israel. Information derived from AWACS could be sent in the clear to other Arab forces, but such communications could be easily jammed by Israel."

### Other Safeguards Cited

The proposal continues, "Data on advancing Israeli air craft could not be supplied in a timely manner, or with enough accuracy to enable other Arab forces to react effectively. Although AWACS-derived information could provide some warning of preemptive Israeli air strikes, this warning would not alter the overall Israeli military superiority or the likely outcome of a war between Israel and the Arab states."

The proposal also states that "the nature of the AWACS is so complex that U.S. contractor personnel will be required to maintain key elements of the system for its entire life. It is therefore extremely unlikely that any unauthorized use of AWACS could go undetected. The withdrawal of U.S. support of the Saudi AWACS would quickly result in a system, becoming non-operational."

After delivery of the proposal, senior Administration officials briefed reporters on additional points. There would be an American presence of over 400 men when the first AWACS are delivered in late 1985. That would include 30 U.S. Air Force personnel for training and contract administration, and the balance would be contractor personnel. Boeing would be the principal contractor.

In addition, Saudi Arabia would be prohibited from allowing nationals of third countries to work on the planes. It was also revealed that the U.S. would withhold its most sophisticated equipment from the Saudi AWACS, so they would not be of the same caliber as U.S. AWACS or those flown by NATO.

### THREE F-15s ARRIVE IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Israel received the first delivery of warplanes from the United States since the lifting of the embargo last week by President Reagan, a military spokesman said today.

The three F-15 jet fighters, two of which were part of the embargoed planes and one which was originally scheduled to arrive today, arrived after a 10-hour direct flight from Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire. The planes refueled several times in mid-air.



The Reagan Administration held up delivery of the 14 F-16s and two F-15s following the Israeli raids on Iraq's nuclear facility in June and terrorist headquarters in Beirut in July.

However, there was still no date for when the F-16s would arrive in Israel, the spokesman said. The Administration grounded all F-16s in the U.S. following the crash of one of the planes in Utah earlier this month in which a pilot was killed. There is reportedly a problem with the planes' flight control computers.

#### AWACS SALE EVOKES CRITICISM

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration's formal notification yesterday to Congress of the proposal to sell Saudi Arabia five AWACS reconnaissance planes and other sophisticated weaponry evoked criticism from Congressional leaders, the Israel Embassy and American Jewish leaders.

"The position of Israel is well known," a spokesman for the Israel Embassy said yesterday following the announcement by Undersecretary of State James Buckley and the presentation of the Administration's rationale for the proposed sale. "Israel considers the sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia a danger to its security and to the military balance in the area."

Sen. Claiborne Pell (D. R.I.), the ranking minority member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he would co-sponsor a resolution of disapproval of the sale when Congress reconvened next month. He said he continues to oppose the sale "because the principal effect of transferring this equipment will be to increase the threat to Israel. Inevitably, I fear, providing this equipment to Saudi Arabia will impel Israel to ask for more equipment from us and thus the already dangerous arms race in the Middle East will escalate."

Rep. Edward Derwinski (R. Ill.), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said the proposal to sell the AWACS was "untimely and unwise, a major error in legislative strategy as well as in foreign policy."

Sen. Carl Levin (D. Mich.), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said that the decision to sell AWACS to Saudi Arabia adds to the arms race "bringing ruin to the Middle East, will further destabilize the region and will endanger the security of our most sophisticated electronic equipment."

#### 'Capitulation To Blackmail'

Rep. Stephan Solarz (D. N.Y.) said, "I believe this sale would seriously compromise Israel's ability to achieve and maintain air superiority which is the linchpin of its security. The magnitude of this sale alone should give us pause, since the value of this one transaction is approximately two-thirds that of all of the military equipment we have sold to Israel over the past 30 years."

Rep. Richard Ottinger (D. N.Y.) condemned President Reagan for "breaking his explicit promise to the American people that he would not sell weapons to Arab nations which might threaten the existence of Israel. Enhancing Saudi Arabia's ability to attack Israel, will do nothing to lessen tensions in the Middle East. The Administration action is a tragic capitulation to blackmail."

Rep. Les AuCoin, (D. Ore.), in a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said the sale "would lay bare Israel's entire defense system," and would be "an unwarranted transfer of American military technology to a nation of questionable stability." He added: "This patently shows the flaw in the Administration's approach."

#### Response By Jewish Leaders

In New York, Rabbi Sol Roth, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, announced that the more than 1,000 rabbis in synagogues throughout the U.S. would deliver sermons within the next six weeks and during the High Holy Days against the proposed sale. He said the rabbis would also call on their congregants to "let their voices be heard" through letters to their elected representatives and personal meetings with them.

Statements opposing the sale were also issued by leaders of major Jewish organizations. The thrust of these statements was that the AWACS will undermine Israel's security, will not promote peace in the Middle East, will not enhance Saudi security and will destabilize the region by fuelling a new arms race. The statements also called attention to Saudi Arabia's continued hostility toward Israel, its financing of the Palestine Liberation Organization and its rejection of the Camp David peace process.

The Jewish organizations which issued statements were the American Jewish Committee, American Zionist Federation, American Jewish Congress, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Jewish National Fund, and American Mizrahi Women.

#### CHEYSSON UNDER FIRE FOR PRO-PALESTINIAN DECLARATIONS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- The president of one of the most active Franco-Israeli friendship groups, retired French Army Gen. Jean Lecomte, today called on Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson to resign because of "his inadmissible" pro-Palestinian declarations.

Lecomte, who heads the France-Israel Alliance, rapped Cheysson for having compared Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat to France's war-time leader Charles de Gaulle during a press conference in Rabat earlier this month and for planning to meet Arafat later this week in Beirut.

Lecomte's protest, published in today's Le Monde, describes the planned meeting between Cheysson and Arafat as "an act of hostility towards Israel" and a "continuation of the former Administration's cynical policy in the Middle East." In Jerusalem yesterday, David Kimche, the director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, protested to France's Ambassador to Israel, Marc Bonnefous, about the Cheysson-Arafat meeting.

The France-Israel Alliance anti-Cheysson attack is typical of the French Jewish community's increasing worry about what many here see as a growing pro-Arab slant within the new Administration in spite of President Francois Mitterrand's personal commitment on Israel's behalf.

Cheysson himself said today that his forthcoming meeting with Arafat "is far from certain." The Foreign Minister was originally scheduled to meet the PLO leader Saturday in Beirut but French press reports from Lebanon say that the two sides could not agree where the meeting should be held.

The French want Arafat to call on Cheysson at the French Embassy or at the Ambassador's residence. The Palestinians say that Arafat has the rank of chief of state or Prime Minister, at the least, and



want the French Minister to come to PLO headquarters. The Palestinians say that such a gesture would show "an improvement in Franco-Palestinian relations."

French sources exclude the possibility of Cheysson's acceding to the Palestinian demand and say Mitterrand has personally ordered him not to give in on this point. The President, who as opposition leader has visited Israel on several occasions, is apparently well aware of the symbolic value which such a visit could have and has ruled it out because of his pro-Israeli commitments.

Arafat met in 1974 with President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's Foreign Minister Jean Sauvagnargues. The meeting took place at the French Embassy in Beirut but the PLO now want to up their status.

French pro-Israeli organizations are just as upset, if not more, by what they say is a total lack of contact between the Mitterrand Administration and Israel's leaders though dozens of Arab kings, Presidents and Ministers have been received in Paris, and by Cheysson's tour beginning Friday of Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. Mitterrand himself is due to leave next month for an official visit to Saudi Arabia.

#### MIAMI JEWISH FEDERATION OFFICIAL SELECTED TO BE INS COMMISSIONER

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Harry Braman, 48, a vice president of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, has been selected to become Commissioner of the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), succeeding Acting Commissioner David Crosland. Announcement of Braman's appointment is expected within a few days, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed by a Federation spokesman. The INS is a unit in the Department of Justice.

Braman served as 1981 chairman of the Federation's Combined Jewish Appeal-Israel Emergency Fund which raised \$19 million, a record for any year Israel has been at peace. He has been a member of a number of United Jewish Appeal Prime Minister's Missions to Israel. Braman is considered one of a half dozen top Jewish Republican leaders and has been invited to every White House meeting of those Jewish Republicans, according to the Federation spokesman.

#### HIAS SAYS IT WILL CONTINUE MIGRATION SERVICES FOR SOVIET JEWS WHO DON'T GO TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, said today it would continue to provide migration services to Jewish refugees coming out of the Soviet Union who choose not to go to Israel.

The HIAS executive committee acted at an emergency meeting last night following the announcement by Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, that the Agency would refer to HIAS only those Soviet Jews who had spouses, parents or children in the U.S., Canada and other countries of resettlement. Brothers and sisters would not be included.

Edwin Shapiro, HIAS president, and Leonard Seidenman, executive vice president, will fly to Jerusalem Thursday to take part in a special meeting of the Jewish Agency Executive to discuss the issue.

Under a long-standing agreement between the Jewish Agency and HIAS, Jewish refugees

arriving in Vienna from the Soviet Union have been met by Agency workers and urged to continue on to Israel. If they decline, the Agency refers them to HIAS, which provides assistance to help them emigrate to lands other than Israel. Funds for Soviet refugee resettlement to the U.S. are provided almost entirely by the U.S. government.

Last week Dulzin announced that the Agency would no longer give HIAS the names of those Soviet Jews who on their arrival in Vienna from the USSR choose not to go to Israel. Last month nearly 85 percent of the Jewish refugees permitted to leave the Soviet Union did not go to Israel.

#### Resolution Adopted By HIAS

In a resolution adopted at its meeting last night, HIAS declared: "The executive committee of HIAS fully understands and appreciates the motivation of the Jewish Agency's efforts to increase emigration to Israel. HIAS as a world organization shares these endeavors and recognizes its responsibility to help achieve such a goal.

"However, HIAS is not prepared to refuse its services to Soviet Jewish emigrants who have not been specifically referred by the Jewish Agency. HIAS is also not prepared to renounce the previously agreed-upon consultative process with the Jewish Agency, the American Joint Distribution Committee and the Council of Jewish Federations, which are an integral part of the procedure for resettling Soviet Jews.

"The HIAS tradition is to serve every Jewish refugee in need, anywhere in the world, with compassion and understanding."

#### ACADEMICS UNITED AGAINST CHIEF RABBI BAN ON CITY OF DAVID DIG By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- The academic community is united in rejecting Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren's claim that the City of David area where archaeological excavations are now going on was the site of Jewish cemeteries in the past.

Noted professors of history, archaeology and liberal arts called a press conference in Jerusalem today at which they presented a document signed by 17 academics who had researched this field, stating categorically that no Jewish cemeteries ever existed in that area. The document was accompanied by maps and ancient texts, including some of those quoted by Goren to support the contention on which he and Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef had based their ruling that the archaeological excavations at the City of David must be halted.

Prof. Arye Ben-Yehoshua, a noted liberal arts academician, stressed that the documents confirmed that there has never been a Jewish cemetery in the City of David area. He said there was "no objective scientific basis" for the interpretation of the texts cited by Goren.

Prof. Nachman Avigad, who has carried out extensive research into Jewish graves and cemeteries in and around Jerusalem, said it was "absolutely clear" that no Jewish graves existed in the area under dispute. He said there was proof that the City of David area had been inhabited in the Second Temple period, and it was clear that no dead were ever buried inside a city.

Prof. Yehoshua Prawer, a world expert on the medieval and Crusader period, said there was no basis for Goren's claims on the basis of the Middle Ages texts he had quoted. The professors said they were ready to give evidence and present their proofs to any court if anyone decided to appeal to the Supreme Court on the archaeology issue.



### ADL WELCOMES RELEASE OF 59 ARGENTINE POLITICAL PRISONERS. URGES ACTION FOR OTHERS WHO ARE IN PRISON OR HAVE DISAPPEARED

NEW YORK, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith today welcomed the release of 59 Argentine political prisoners. But the ADL called for prompt, decisive action for the thousands of others who have been imprisoned or have disappeared, with no word on their fate.

The ADL's Argentine Prisoner Project, begun in 1977, has compiled a list of 1,200 individuals, most of them Jews, in whose behalf the agency works. Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, ADL's Latin American Affairs Department director, said eight of those announced by the Argentine Embassy in Washington as having been released between March and July are from the Prisoner Project and two of these were allowed to emigrate to Israel. The ADL's efforts to free political prisoners or clarify the status of the disappeared include a pamphlet describing individual cases and urging public action to secure their release.

One of those listed, Eduardo Grutzky, 24, who is among the 59 freed, arrived in Israel Aug. 1. A university student when he was arrested in 1974, Grutzky was jailed for three years, and after completing his sentence was held under indefinite detention.

A supplement to the ADL Argentine Prisoner Project pamphlet to be issued soon highlights the plight of additional political prisoners, including Rafael Rey, 38, who has just been paroled. He and his wife, Juana, were abducted from their home in 1975 and then held despite a court order for their release. Juana Rey was allowed to emigrate to Israel in 1979. Her husband's latest petition to go to Israel expires Oct. 11, Rosenthal pointed out.

#### Additional Political Prisoners

Those listed in the ADL supplement in addition to Rafael Rey are:

- \* Gustavo Westerkamp -- detained by the National Executive Power (PEN) and repeatedly denied option to leave Argentina. He was arrested when he reported for military training in 1976.

- \* Berta Horen -- a sociology student who has been held without charges since 1978 when she completed a three-year sentence.

- \* Pablo Bohoslavsky -- a professor of mathematics tried without benefit of counsel and detained since 1976.

- \* Jorge Enrique Arrieta -- held in prison since 1976 without charges.

- \* Oscar E. Krilyzanosky -- mistaken for a Jew because of his Polish last name, he was severely tortured. He has been in prison since 1976.

- \* Ruben Sergio Pra -- charges dismissed in 1977, but he remains under PEN.

- \* Tiburcio Padilla -- held without charges for more than five years.

- \* Mario Jaime Zaraceansky -- numerous petitions for right of option to leave the country have been rejected and he remains in prison under PEN.

### BEGIN-SADAT TALKS START

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin left today for his 11th round of talks with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat from Atarot Airport near Jerusalem.

He was greeted at a small military airfield near Alexandria with full military honors and then rode through streets adorned with Israeli flags,

at the last minute, along the famed Corniche sea-shore road through the port city for a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on the seashore.

After a brief rest, Begin started the first of two scheduled tete-a-tete talks with Sadat at 4 P.M. local time. While the two leaders are in private conversation, the Ministers accompanying Begin will be meeting with their Egyptian counterparts -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon discussing details of Israel's planned withdrawal from Sinai next April, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir talking about the normalization process, and interior Minister Yosef Burg discussing the autonomy question.

Israeli reporters accompanying Begin said Begin is expected to tell Sadat that Israel completely rejects his idea that the Palestine Liberation Organization should be brought into the peace talks. They said Begin is likely to say that if Sadat continues to press this point, Israel will refuse to attend further talks. Israel is ready to have local West Bank leaders brought into the negotiations, but not official PLO representatives.

The day of Begin's arrival in Egypt, Sadat dismissed his chief of military intelligence, naming him as Governor of Alexandria--regarded as a demotion. The head of Israel's military intelligence, Gen. Yehoshua Saguy, who is accompanying Begin, is expected to meet with the new Egyptian army intelligence chief.

### TZUR DISCHARGED FROM PRISON

TEL AVIV, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- Michael Tzur, former managing director of the Israel Corporation, spent his first free weekend at home after his discharge from prison where he had served six-and-a-half years. Tzur, the first prominent "white collar" criminal in Israel, was sentenced to 16 years in prison with heavy fines for embezzling funds while heading the important government-supported corporation.

His original sentence was reduced to 11 years by President Yitzhak Navon last year, and he was freed last Friday after further reductions for having been what was described as a "model prisoner" who devoted all his time to helping other prisoners.

Tzur said his immediate plans include a vacation abroad and writing a book. He is reported to have received many offers of work from large financial institutions abroad (he has the reputation of a "financial genius") but says he will continue to live in Israel.

### STOCKHOLM JEWISH COMMUNITY NOW HAS TWO AMERICAN RABBIS

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- The 8,000-member Jewish community here now has two American rabbis with the appointment of Arthur Lavinsky of New York City. The Chief Rabbi is Morton Narowe, from Philadelphia, who has served the congregation since 1965. He leads the Conservative services at the Great Synagogue on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.

Lavinsky will concentrate on the youth, college age and young married people of the community. A graduate of the Theological Seminary of America, where he was president of the student body, he was also in the U.S. Naval Ensign Program. His father is a retired cantor who now lives in Monroe, N.Y.

The Grand Synagogue has become known to increasing numbers of American visitors. Both the sanctuary and the community building houses a wide range of activities and holds important memorabilia. Kosher lunches are served there daily between 12 and 1 p.m. and the Jewish Student Organization sponsors a regular Wednesday evening program in English for tourists.