

SEP 14 1981

Vol. LIX - 64th Year

Wednesday, September 9, 1981

No. 173

EGYPT ASSURES ISRAEL THAT PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION WILL PROCEED DESPITE POLITICAL UNREST IN EGYPT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 8 (JTA) -- Egypt has assured Israel that the current political tensions and arrests in that country of some 1,500 people accused of contributing to Moslem-Christian violence will not prevent or delay plans to step up normalization between the two countries. Egypt's Ambassador to Israel, Saad Mortada, conveyed this message today to the Foreign Ministry Director-General, David Kimche, at a meeting here.

At the same time, talks began at El Arish between Israeli and Egyptian experts on streamlining the transportation of goods by land across the Sinai border. Next Sunday a party of 50 Egyptian officials and diplomats is due to arrive in Israel for talks, in separate working groups, on aviation ties, on sea links, telecommunications links, trade and on tourism.

The two governments have agreed on an intensive schedule of meetings, alternating between Jerusalem and Cairo, on these various aspects of normalization. Israeli officials say they sense a new urgency and spirit of concrete cooperation on the Egyptian side.

In the past Israeli sources often accused Cairo of footdragging over normalization. There were fears here, moreover, that the upheavals in Egypt last weekend might further set back the normalization schedule.

Now, Israeli officials are plainly gratified that Cairo has signalled its intention to proceed with the normalization talks at a resolute and determined pace. The advent of the 50-member delegation next Sunday is seen here as solid proof of Egypt's seriousness.

SECURITY TIGHTENED AROUND JEWISH INSTITUTIONS IN WEST GERMANY

By David Kantor

BONN, Sept. 8 (JTA) -- Security has been tightened around Jewish institutions in this country following reports that a German neo-Nazi who was trained in Palestine Liberation Organization camps in Lebanon is suspected of complicity in the murder last May of Vienna city councilman Heinz Nittel who was also the president of the Austrian-Israel Friendship Society.

A security official said that a full-scale investigation is going on to determine whether there are any possible plots against Jewish personalities or friends of Israel in West Germany. The official said that about 10 neo-Nazis who were trained in PLO camps are known to be presently in Germany. He could not say how many other German neo-Nazis are still in training in Lebanon.

Karl-Heinz Hoffmann, the leader of this group and the head of a so-called sports group, his woman friend and four other neo-Nazis who received training in PLO camps are in custody in West Germany. Hoffmann is also suspected of the murder of the Jewish publisher, Shlomo Levin, in December 1980 in Nuremberg.

A few months ago, German police launched a major crackdown against neo-Nazis in the country. An intensive search of hundreds of apartments yielded a large quantity of arms and of neo-Nazi propaganda material.

VIENNESE JEWS CALL FOR STRICTER MEASURES TO APPREHEND TERRORISTS

By Monika Brenner and Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Sept. 8 (JTA) -- Representatives of the Jewish community here have called for stricter measures to detect and apprehend terrorists and criticized Austria's present policy as too lax. Edmund Preiss, vice president of the Vienna Jewish Community Council, charged Chancellor Bruno Kreisky with pursuing a one-sided policy regarding the Middle East situation and that this policy was creating a favorable climate in this country for terrorists to attack Jews and non-Jews who are friends of Israel.

Preiss emphasized that this criticism of the Chancellor does not therefore necessarily mean that Austrian Jews automatically support any kind of Israeli foreign policy. "As a people that has suffered, we can understand someone who wants his independence," Preiss said. He was apparently referring to the Palestinian campaign for "self-determination."

Preiss also called for increased surveillance of "potential attackers, the Arabs living in Austria." He said surveillance had been "gravely neglected" and observed that the reason for this was politically motivated.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Erwin Lanc said that in the near future all 4,000 Arabs residing in Austria will have to report to their local police stations where their work permit and immigration papers will be checked. At the same time, police said there were no new developments in their investigation of last week's terrorist attack on the synagogue here where two people were killed and 18 were wounded.

There were, however, additional anti-Semitic incidents since the attack on the synagogue. Following the burial of one of the victims, Ulrike Kohut, hundreds of small sheets of paper with swastikas printed on them were found in the alley leading to Vienna's central Jewish cemetery. Last Thursday, anti-Semitic slogans were shouted during a soccer match between two Viennese teams.

U.S. REITERATES THAT ISRAEL IS AN 'ALLY' BUT DOES NOT INDICATE WHETHER IT WILL SEEK TO FORMALIZE ALLIANCE DURING BEGIN'S VISIT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration reiterated today that the U.S. considers Israel an "ally" although it did not indicate whether it would seek to formalize the alliance during Premier Menachem Begin's visit here this week. (See related story P.2.)

Begin, who arrived in Washington today for talks with President Reagan tomorrow and Thursday, has long advocated such an alliance with the U.S. but no American government has offered one, presumably for fear of Arab reaction.

The Administration's declaration was made today by State Department spokesman Dean Fischer who

noted that it was a position "made clear on a number of occasions" by this Administration. "We are firmly committed to the security of Israel and will ensure that Israel maintains a defensive capacity adequate to its needs," Fischer said reading from a prepared statement.

"The President has made it clear that we regard Israel as an ally. While we do not have a formal military alliance with Israel, we consider a strong Israel and the maintenance of the regional balance of forces to be in our strategic interest," he said.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig, in an interview with the New York Times over the weekend, said the U.S. wanted to put "meat on the bones" of the strategic relationship with Israel. But Haig was not specific and Fischer said he could not say how the enhancement of the strategic relationship would be discussed during Begin's talks with Reagan and other members of the Administration.

There have been reports that the U.S. plans to provide Israel with \$600 million in additional military credits for the 1983 and 1984 fiscal years. Also reported is that Israel would either be given a U.S. spy satellite or time on a U.S. satellite, but Administration officials over the weekend seemed to steer reporters away from this proposal.

The Issue Of The AWACS

Fischer denied today that the U.S. was discussing enhancement of the strategic relationship as an effort to mute Israel's opposition to the Administration's proposed sale to Saudi Arabia of five AWACS reconnaissance planes and other sophisticated military equipment. Congress will begin discussing the proposed sale after it returns from summer recess tomorrow.

Fischer said justification for the AWACS sale "stands on its merits." He said the U.S. would be discussing the strategic relationship with Israel whether or not there was an AWACS proposal before Congress.

"This Administration and the Israel government have a quite common perception about the threat to regional peace and stability arising from either the Soviet Union or from other groups which may be acting in the Soviets' interest," he said. Fischer stressed that the Administration has no objection to Begin publicly opposing the AWACS sale as he said yesterday he would do.

There had been reports from Administration sources over the last few weeks that Begin would harm his relationship with Reagan, who he will be meeting for the first time tomorrow, if he made a public issue of the AWACS sale. If the AWACS issue comes up, Fischer said, "we will set forth the reasons for our decision to proceed with the AWACS proposal and then try to address as best we can the concerns that are expressed ... by the Israelis."

Says Saudi, Iranian Situations Differ

Fischer rejected concerns in Congress that in view of the Iranian experience, providing the Saudis with AWACS would jeopardize the security of highly advanced American weapons which could fall into unfriendly hands if the Saudi regime were to be overthrown. "The situations are entirely different," he said, asserting that the U.S. has "every confidence in the royal family" which rules Saudi Arabia.

Begin's visit follows the visit here last month of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt. Fischer said

today that Sadat's arrest of opponents in Egypt are entirely "an internal matter" of Egypt. But he noted that Sadat promised that all those arrested would go through the judicial process.

EXCLUSIVE TO THE JTA BRITISH REAL ESTATE FIRM FOUND GUILTY OF DISMISSING JEWISH EMPLOYEE WHILE TRYING TO OBTAIN A LARGE LOAN FROM KUWAIT

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Sept. 8 (JTA) -- Britain's second biggest real estate company has been found guilty of dismissing its only senior Jewish employee while trying to obtain a big loan from Kuwait.

A three-member industrial tribunal upheld the complaint of 44-year-old Anthony Simmons that he had been the victim of racial discrimination when he was fired as assistant company secretary by MEPC a year ago.

The case is expected to cause a sensation in Britain's real estate world in which Jewish-owned companies are prominently represented. It has also focussed attention on the lengths to which some British businesses might be prepared to go for Arab financial backing.

MEPC, whose directors include Angus Ogilvy, a cousin of the Queen, and Lord Boardman, honorary treasurer of the Conservative Party, had hired Simmons, a lawyer, as its assistant company secretary early in 1973 and had told him he might eventually become company secretary.

He was dismissed in September 1980 when the company was seeking to raise cash for a Euro-dollar issue from the Kuwait International Investment Company. MEPC had told Simmons he was being dismissed because he had become superfluous and that he was no longer regarded as qualified for promotion.

However, two of the three members of the industrial tribunal rejected this explanation and concluded that the real motive was connected with his being Jewish. Simmons, who had not been asked about his religion on joining MEPC, is a member of a Reform synagogue and has never visited Israel.

First Proven Case Of Discrimination

Although this is not the first case in which British firms are suspected of having discriminated against Jewish employees while stepping up their contracts with the Arab world, it is believed to be the first in which such an act of discrimination has been proved in court.

There was, however, no proof that MEPC's Arab business partners had requested Simmons' dismissal and the tribunal passed no judgement on whether MEPC had come under such pressure or had fired him voluntarily.

It remains to be seen whether the court will award Simmons damages or costs. On dismissing him, MEPC gave him severance pay, a year's salary, a company car and other benefits. His legal costs so far are calculated at between 5,000 and 10,000 Pounds Sterling. He has not found an alternative full time job and has had to move into a smaller house in order to fight the case.

He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency yesterday that he had fought the case not for financial compensation but to clear his professional name and to prove that he had been treated unjustly.

BEGIN GREETED IN WASHINGTON

By David Friedman (Washington)
and Yitzhak Rabi (New York)

Sept. 8 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin arrived here today for two days of talks with President Reagan and was greeted by some 700 members of the Washington area Jewish community with declarations of

support for Israel and cries for peace. The demonstration of welcome was organized by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington and included people carrying such signs as "No One Wants Peace More Than Israel," and children from the area's day schools singing songs of peace such as Aveinu Malkenu and Avenu Shalom.

When Begin's limousine arrived at Blair House, where the Premier will be staying until Friday, he noticed the crowd of welcomers more than a half block away and walked over to them. He was accompanied by his entire party, including Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who had welcomed Begin 30 minutes earlier at Andrews Air Force base, and the three Israeli Cabinet Ministers accompanying Begin -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Interior Minister Yosef Burg.

Begin shook hands with many in the crowd. He apparently did not say anything to the people, but many of the welcomers said he had tears in his eyes.

Begin will be officially welcomed to the White House by President Reagan tomorrow morning. Meanwhile, the Premier met with Haig this afternoon to discuss the upcoming summit talks with Reagan. Afterwards, Haig met with the President and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger for a preliminary discussion of the summit.

Met With Jewish Leaders

Before arriving in Washington, Begin stopped over for a day in New York City where he held private meetings and prepared for his meeting with Reagan. This morning he had a meeting with representatives of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in his suite at the Waldorf Towers. During the 90-minute meeting, Begin reportedly told the Jewish leaders that Israel is deeply concerned over the Reagan Administration's proposal to sell AWACS to Saudi Arabia.

He also reportedly said that he will present Reagan with the Israeli view that the AWACS aircraft in the hands of the Saudis is a danger to Israel's security. "The Israeli government reached a decision terming the Saudi AWACS a danger to Israel's security and it is my duty to tell the President Israel's point of view," Begin was reported as saying.

Among the leaders who took part in the meeting were Howard Squadron, chairman of the Presidents Conference, Yehuda Hellman, the Conference's executive director, and Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

JDL STAGES PROTESTS AT HIAS, JEWISH AGENCY OFFICES, CLAIMING 'LACK OF ACTION' TO RESCUE FALASHAS By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Sept. 8 (JTA) -- Some 30 members of the Jewish Defense League took over the main offices of HIAS this afternoon and some 15 members chained the front doors of the building which houses the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization-American Section. Both actions, in different parts of Manhattan, were taken to protest "lack of action" to rescue Ethiopian Jews, Falashas, according to JDL director Arno Weinstein.

He said the JDL had presented two demands to the HIAS officials. One was that HIAS initiate an immediate rescue effort for the Falashas. The

other was for HIAS to undertake, as a priority, to seek cooperation from Federations throughout the country for "an intensive awareness program" about the Falashas and thereby dramatize the "obligation" of American Jews to help them. Weinstein said the HIAS officials to whom the JDL members had talked to refused to consider either demand and that the officials were then "escorted" out of the office by the demonstrators.

Weinstein told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that a HIAS official, who he identified as Irving Haber, head of HIAS administration, finally accepted the two demands and that at that point the JDL members left the building peacefully. There had been a large number of police in front of the building but they were apparently under orders not to use force to remove the protestors.

HIAS Agrees To Two Demands

Weinstein said Haber agreed that the first demand would be brought to the next meeting of the HIAS board and that he also agreed to the second demand to send communications to all Federations.

Haber, responding to inquiries by the JTA, said, in regard to the first demand, that HIAS had "always tried to do what we can for Ethiopian Jews and we have been helpful but, obviously, we cannot promote mass evacuation of Ethiopian Jews." He said that issue was dropped at that point.

In regard to the second demand, Haber said he agreed to send a telegram to the Council of Jewish Federations and to four Federations, in which HIAS urged that an immediate program of awareness be initiated regarding the plight of Ethiopian Jews and the American Jewish obligation to help them.

He said he considered the demand that all 200 Federations be contacted was "ridiculous" and agreement was reached on sending telegrams to the four plus the CJF. He said the JDL demonstrators then left peacefully. He added that HIAS would not press any charges against them.

A spokesman at the Jewish Agency building said the demonstrators left after several hours and that the police had not been called. Charlotte Jacobson, chairwoman of the WZO-American Section, in a statement, said that "we do not need any demonstration to convince or persuade us of the importance of doing everything possible to save our Falasha brothers. We know and are confident that everything that can be done is being done to bring every Falasha we can save to Israel. It is very sad that these young and idealistic but misguided young people do not have more confidence in the leaders of Israel."

CITY OF DAVID DIG RESUMES

JERUSALEM, Sept. 8 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court has issued a temporary order overturning Education and Cultural Minister Zevulun Hammer's suspension for two weeks of the controversial City of David dig. The archaeologists returned to the site to resume their work and the ultra-Orthodox Jews of the Mea Shearim quarter also returned to demonstrate against the excavation. Police were also on hand to keep the peace.

The court's interim decision, by a three-justice tribunal, was welcomed by secular and academic circles who had contended that the original halachic ruling by the Chief Rabbis banning any excavations at the site was unjustified. The Chief Rabbis maintained that there was an ancient Jewish cemetery at the site, but secular and academic circles said there was no evidence for this contention and that in the four years of the dig no evidence of a Jewish cemetery was found there. The court, in its ruling last Friday, said it would publish the basis for its decision at a later stage.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA
RABBIS MEETING IN BUCHAREST CALL
FOR REVIVAL OF JEWISH EDUCATION,
RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES IN THE USSR

By Edwin Eytan

BUCHAREST, Sept. 8 (JTA) -- The standing committee of the Conference of European Rabbis called today for a revival of Jewish education and other Jewish religious activities in the Soviet Union in the belief that "the miracle that happened in Rumania could happen elsewhere in Eastern Europe."

The committee, which concluded its six-day meeting today, paid tribute to the intensity and depth of Jewish life in Rumania. The committee's spokesman, Chief Rabbi Mordechai Firon of Zurich, said participants at the meeting had seen "with deep emotion the strength of Jewish feeling of the Torah in Rumania, a socialist East European country." He added that "we should try to do the same in the other countries in the socialist world." Committee members said this was a reference to the Soviet Union.

The committee launched an appeal to Israeli institutions and Jewish organizations around the world to try to provide all necessary assistance to Rumania's Jews. It said they need rabbis, teachers, ritual slaughterers and religious objects as a matter of urgency. It said that the lack of such individuals and religious material endangers the remnants of Rumanian Jewry.

The Root Of Soviet Jewish Dropouts

Discussing the issue of Soviet Jews who decide, when they leave the USSR, to settle in countries other than Israel, committee members said this problem stems from a lack of Jewish identification on the part of the dropouts. "The real root of this (dropout) tragedy is that our brothers and sisters who leave the Soviet Union lack a minimum of Jewish self-identification and have lost the spirit of the Torah," the committee said in a statement. "When the emigrants will feel like real Jews, identify themselves with Jewish spiritual values and the love of Zion, the problem of dropouts will disappear."

Several of the rabbis told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Rumanian example, where 95 percent of the Jews made aliya to Israel, inspired their appeal for a renewal of Jewish activities elsewhere in the Soviet bloc countries.

Turning to the archaeological excavations at the City of David in Jerusalem, the committee said it is not qualified to take a basic stand on the issue. "The halacha in Israel is the sole concern of the State's Chief Rabbinate," it said. The committee, however, called for the utmost moderation and for an end to "all violence, including verbal abuse." It expressed its "deep concern" at the growing gap between religious and secular Jews in Israel and in the diaspora and stressed that "hearts must be drawn closer through persuasion, explanation and education." It added that "this is the only way."

Remnants Of Traditional 'Shtetls'

Yesterday, the rabbis visited provincial centers. In Dorohoi, where thousands of Jews resided before World War II and where only some 500 Jews now reside, the rabbis were greeted in the small, centuries-old synagogue by a children's choir and a small orchestra. Many of those greeting the rabbis presented them with flowers.

In Buhushi, old Jewish "mamas" held their children up to be blessed and a choir burst into

song. The venerable rabbis, who lead large Jewish communities, were so taken by the choirs in both towns that they joined hands with the people in festive dances. These two towns, and several others visited by the rabbis, are the remnants of the traditional Jewish "shtetls."

Even in small Jewish centers such as Suceava, where only a couple of hundred Jews are left, Jewish institutions, home for the aged, kosher canteens, Talmud Torah schools and ritual slaughter houses are still being operated.

In Jassi, the former Moldovian capital where over 60,000 Jews lived in pre-war days, Jewish community members gathered first in the city's cemetery where 11,000 Jews murdered by the Nazis with the help of extreme rightwing Rumanians are buried.

Then, close to 300 people, including many non-Jews, met for a festive banquet. Among those present were also the head of Moldovia's Orthodox Church, known as the Metropolit, and representatives of other Christian denominations. All paid tribute to the understanding between Jews and Christians and called for still closer ties between the two.

Tonight, Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania and several of the visiting rabbis will meet Rumanian Minister for Religious Affairs, Ioan Rosianu, and attend a festive dinner given in their honor by the Rumanian Federation of Jewish Communities. The Conference of European Rabbis will have their next meeting in May 1982 in Paris.

POLL SHOWS MAJORITY OF ISRAELIS
FAVOR UNLIMITED SETTLEMENTS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 8 (JTA) -- More than half the Israeli public favors continued unlimited settlement in Judaea and Samaria. Another fifth of the public favors restricted settlement, and another fifth is entirely opposed to settlement there. These figures, showing a distinctly hawkish trend, emerged from a poll conducted by the Modiin Ezrachi Applied Research Center on behalf of The Jerusalem Post and published in today's Post.

Center director Dr. Sara Shemer found a relatively high proportion of the "hawks" are to be found among the lower-educated and lower-income sectors of the population, among the religious and among the Orientals. She noted that children of Sephardic families held even more hawkish views than their parents. Among the doves there was a large proportion of high-education and high-income people.

* * *

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- An alert bus driver, checking his vehicle at its terminal station in Bat Yam near Tel Aviv Tuesday, discovered a suspicious parcel and summoned security guards. When the parcel was opened by a police sapper it was found to contain a watch linked to explosives, forming a time-bomb due to go off shortly afterwards. Police said 13 people were detained for questioning.

* * *

AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- An advertisement to plant trees in a Jewish National Fund forest in Israel in sympathy with the victims of the terrorist attack on the Vienna synagogue has appeared in the Dutch press. It is signed by parliamentarians of most of the Dutch political parties and by representatives of the Protestant and Roman Catholic churches and others. The initiative was taken by the Amsterdam Protestant cleric, Rev. Arnold Spijkerboer. The attack on the Vienna synagogue Aug. 29 left two people dead and 18 wounded.