

## SENATE MINORITY LEADER SAYS HE WILL VOTE AGAINST AWACS DEAL

Rejects Administration's Argument That The Sale Is Needed As Part of Strategic Consensus  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- Sen. Minority Leader Robert Byrd (D. W.V.), accusing the Reagan Administration of failing to develop "a clearly defined or workable policy" for the Middle East, announced today he would vote against the sale of AWACS reconnaissance planes and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia.

In a speech on the Senate floor, Byrd rejected the Administration's argument that the weapons sale was needed as part of the Administration's strategic consensus policy opposing the threat to the region from the Soviet Union or its surrogates. While acknowledging that there is a direct and indirect threat to the region from the USSR, Byrd declared, "The central issue for American policy in the Middle East is the Arab-Israeli dispute, and not the Soviet threat."

Byrd rejected the view that the U.S. would be damaged in the Arab world if Congress vetoes the arms sale. "The United States is damaged in the Arab world only because of continued irresolution of the Palestinian problem and the perceived lack of commitment on our part to address this issue," he said.

Byrd's announcement could seriously wreck President Reagan's efforts to win support for the sale in the Senate where a slim majority now opposes it. The House voted by a 3 to 1 margin last week to reject the sale and the Senate is due to vote next week, probably Wednesday. The President had been hopeful Byrd would support the arms package and the Minority Leader acknowledged today that he had swung back and forth before making the decision.

### Action Seen As Turning Point

After Byrd spoke, Senate Deputy Minority Leader Alan Cranston (D. Calif.) a leader of the anti-sale forces, called Byrd's announcement a "turning point." He said many undecided Senators may now announce their opposition to the sale.

But Sen. John Glenn (D. Ohio) said that while he agreed with Byrd's position, the Administration could still get the sale approved if it obtained an agreement on joint U.S.-Saudi crewing of the planes. Glenn urged Reagan, who left this morning for the North South Economic Summit in Cancun, Mexico, to speak to Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia and convince him to agree to the joint crewing.

### Reagan Fails To Win Over Solons

Meanwhile, the President failed to win any converts yesterday in talks at the White House with six Senators. Three of the Senators -- Alan Dixon (D. Ill.), Daniel Inouye (D. Hawaii) and Roger Jepsen (R. Iowa) -- said they still intend to vote against the AWACS sale after seeing the President. Sen. John Melcher (D. Mo.) said he was still undecided. The other two Senators -- Mal-

colm Wallop (R. Wyo.) and Jennings Randolph (D. W.V.) -- had announced previously they would support the sale.

In view of Byrd's speech today and the failure of the Administration to get a joint crewing agreement from the Saudis, it is doubtful that the letter the President plans to send the Senate giving assurances on the sale would have much effect.

A draft of the letter, circulated in the Senate yesterday has the President promising that the Saudis have agreed to "stringent security measures" to safeguard the equipment being sold them, that all information gathered by the AWACS will be shared with the U.S., that no information will be shared with a third country without the approval of both the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, and that the Saudis will not operate the AWACS outside Saudi Arabian borders without the consent of the U.S.

The letter does not appear to go beyond the safeguards outlined earlier by Administration spokesmen to Congress.

### Cites Three Reasons For Opposition

In his speech today, Byrd stressed that he does not believe the \$8.5 billion arms sale would endanger Israel's military superiority. He said there were three reasons for his opposition. The first is his fear that "the highly sophisticated technology" being given the Saudis would fall into Soviet hands. He was not only concerned about the AWACS but also about the AIM 9-L Sidewinder missiles that are also being sold to the Saudis.

Secondly, Byrd said he was concerned about fueling the "ever escalating" arms race in the area. "As long as the Arab-Israeli dispute is pushed into the background, this sale does not make sense," he said. "Rather than contributing to stability in the region, I fear it will only raise the threshold of tension. I am concerned that we are fast approaching the point where we are handing over grenades to potential adversaries in the region with the pins already pulled."

But Byrd stressed that his main reason for opposing the arms sale was his belief that the Administration has "all but abandoned the Camp David process, leaving the future of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty uncertain at best." He said the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat "sends a strong signal; it is time for caution and reflection" and not that there is a need for a new arms sale.

### Key To The Peace Process

Byrd said that "the key to the peace process (in the Mideast) now rests on the shoulders" of Israeli Premier Menachem Begin since he is the only one of the three signers of the Camp David agreement still in office. He said he was "heartened" by the "mutual commitment" of Begin and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak "to carry forward with the peace process. Despite domestic concerns, Prime Minister Begin has also committed his government to complete the total withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Sinai scheduled for next April. For this he is to be commended."

Byrd said that "Israel will have to make concessions and take risks" to enable the new Mubarak government to continue the peace process. "Their (Israel) willingness to take such risks will be predicated upon their full confidence that the United States will stand



by them" he said. But Byrd warned that if the sale to the Saudis goes through, Begin will not have any "maneuvering room whatsoever to make these decisions."

While commending Begin for carrying on with the peace process, Byrd criticized the Israeli Premier for actions which, he said, "have not been helpful to the peace process." He listed among these Israel's air raid on Iraq's nuclear reactor last June and Begin's endorsement of "Israeli legislation annexing all of Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital."

Byrd warned that "there is a growing perception that Mr. Begin is unwilling to permit any real local control over the West Bank by Arab authorities." He said that these signs "point in the direction of an Israeli intransigence in the peace process which discourages hope of tangible progress on the difficult questions which must be resolved."

#### BELGIAN, FRENCH POLICE PROBING POSSIBLE SIMILARITIES IN PARIS AND ANTWERP SYNAGOGUE BOMBINGS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- French and Belgian police are cooperating in the investigation of yesterday's synagogue bombing in Antwerp which killed two persons and injured more than 100 others because of strange similarities between that outrage and the Rue Copernic synagogue bombing in Paris last October which took four lives. In both cases, the bombs consisted of containers of powerful charges of TNT and on both occasions, vehicles bought by men claiming Cypriot nationality were used.

Belgian police said this morning that the car in which the Antwerp bomb was hidden was bought a few days ago by a man who said his name was Nicolas Brazzi, a Cypriot national. French and Belgian police officers are trying to determine whether the same men were involved in both attacks. The police have made composite photographs according to the descriptions supplied by eye witnesses.

One year after the Rue Copernic explosion French police still have no clues to the real identities of the terrorists or where they originally came from.

A man claiming to represent "Black September" telephoned news agencies in Brussels today claiming responsibility on behalf of that extremist Palestinian organization. The caller said that two more cars packed with explosives were about to detonate in Antwerp and concluded his call with the Palestine Liberation Organization slogan "Palestine shall win."

Belgian investigators say, however, that the call came some 24 hours after the explosion and that the caller supplied no information which had not been made public before. "It could be anyone," a police investigator told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

#### Many More Could Have Been Killed

Police say that the blast might have caused twice as many victims had it gone off half an hour later when the synagogue across the street would have been filled. At 9:30 am. local time, police sources say, the street was half deserted and the synagogue empty. The large number of victims was due to the force of the blast which killed or wounded passersby several hundred yards away.

Police said the explosion was one of the most powerful ever in recent Belgian history. A black

cloud hung over the area and buildings were damaged in a radius of several hundred yards. Firefighters had to battle their way through fire and shattered glass to evacuate the wounded. Fire brigades from several cities near Antwerp were called to help fight the flames and dozens of ambulances evacuated the wounded.

Most of the 15,000 Jews in Antwerp feel personally and deeply concerned by the attack. All those contacted by the JTA and other news agencies blamed the police for neglecting to take all necessary precautions and governments which have failed to strongly condemn Palestinian organizations and their terrorist acts. On July 27, 1980 two Arabs threw a hand grenade at a group of Jewish youngsters waiting to board a bus for a day's outing. One 15-year-old boy was killed.

Antwerp Jews and Brussels community leaders say they were still under the effect of last year's shock when this week's attack took place. The local community said it will step up its own protection methods and hire security guards to guard local Jewish institutions and offices.

#### ISRAEL SAYS ANTWERP TRAGEDY DUE TO INTERNATIONAL TOLERANCE OF PLO

By GIT Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- Israel is mounting an international campaign to shatter what it perceives to be the increasingly positive image of Yasir Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Western Europe and elsewhere. Political circles here let it be known today that they regard yesterday's bombing of a synagogue in Antwerp in which two persons were killed and over 100 injured as the result of international tolerance of the PLO.

Political circles said there was a direct link between the PLO's strengthened ties with Moscow and the escalation of terrorist activities. It was announced yesterday that the Soviet Union has extended full diplomatic status to the PLO.

Israel regards this latest move as part of an overall policy to encourage the extremist elements in the Middle East, particularly the rejectionist front, and to create an atmosphere of unrest and instability in the region. The Israelis also charge the Soviets with fomenting unrest in Africa and increasing arms supplies to Libya for that purpose.

Meanwhile, Israeli diplomatic missions in Europe have been instructed to alert their host governments to the new wave of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel terrorism, as manifested by the Antwerp synagogue bombing. Israel is also preparing a detailed document on the dimensions of Soviet assistance to the PLO which will be circulated to Western European governments.

#### BONN PLAYS DOWN PLANNED VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER TO ISRAEL

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- The Bonn government has gone out of its way to play down the planned visit to Israel of Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher which was announced in Jerusalem this week. The Foreign Ministry here stressed today that no date has been set for the visit. The Israeli reports said Genscher was due in February, 1982, shortly after President Francois Mitterrand of France visits Israel.

According to the Foreign Ministry, Genscher will visit Israel some time during the first four months of next year. It informed the media of this apparently to dampen the enthusiastic reaction in Israel to the announcement that the West German Foreign Minister had accepted Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's long standing invitation.



The acceptance was conveyed by Bonn's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hildegard Hamm-Bruescher who represented the Federal Republic at the funeral of Moshe Dayan last Sunday. Israeli sources saw this as a sign of a thaw in relations between Bonn and Jerusalem which have been frosty since Premier Menachem Begin's personal attacks on Chancellor Helmut Schmidt during his Knesset election campaign last spring.

While most German newspapers reported that Jerusalem was eager to host Genscher, the Foreign Minister himself was described as having reservations. Observers here suggested that Bonn intends to watch carefully Israel's implementation of the Camp David accords before it decides on further diplomatic moves in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Germans will be watching particularly to see if Israel carries out its final withdrawal from Sinai scheduled for mid-April, 1982, sources here said.

#### AUTONOMY TALKS TO RESUME

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- Israeli, Egyptian and American negotiators will resume the autonomy talks in Tel Aviv tonight. The discussion at the sub-ministerial working level, are expected to last a week. They are the first since the autonomy talks were resumed in Alexandria last month after a hiatus of more than a year.

But the feeling in Israeli circles is that little progress can be expected toward an agreement on autonomy for the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt urged the Israelis, in an interview published in Yediot Achronot today, to be "flexible on questions of principle, especially after the death of President Sadat." He said "both sides must be more pliable."

Israeli officials said Israel had no new positions to offer. Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, said flatly that he saw no way to bridge the gap between the Israeli and Egyptian positions.

#### Key To Successful Outcome Of The Talks

Premier Menachem Begin told the Knesset committee today that the key to a successful outcome of the talks would be the election of members to the self-governing council in the occupied territories. He rejected a proposal that the Arab mayors in the territories nominate the candidates for the council, a suggestion reportedly made by the Americans. The government apparently fears that if the mayors have any role in selecting the candidates, the self-governing body would be in the hands of Palestine Liberation Organization sympathizers.

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres, a member of the committee, said the question was not procedural, but whether Israel really wanted to grant the local population full autonomy or whether it wanted only another document which would not advance the talks. He said there was no point in waiting until Israel completes its withdrawal from Sinai next April because the delay would bring no political gain.

#### HEBREW UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR TO HEAD NEW CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- Menachem Milson, a professor of modern Arab literature at

the Hebrew University, was named by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon today to head the new civilian administration in the occupied territories, effective Nov. 1.

The appointment was the first in Sharon's reorganization plan that will place administrative functions in the territories in civilian hands leaving the Israeli military responsible only for security matters.

Milson, currently on sabbatical leave, has been critical of past policies in the territories which, he contends, have encouraged the radical and pro-Palestine Liberation Organization elements at the expense of the conservative, pro-Jordanian elements. He believes Israel could easily reach an accommodation with the latter.

Milson served previously as Arab affairs advisor to the Military Governor on the West Bank and to the coordinator of activities there who was also a military officer appointed by the Defense Ministry. When the late President Anwar Sadat visited Jerusalem in November, 1977, Milson was assigned to him as military adjutant.

During his term as Arab affairs advisor he encouraged the formation of village-level leagues to counter the influence of the generally pro-PLO mayors of the larger Arab towns. This is a major facet of Sharon's reorganization plan which hopes to include as many Palestinians as possible in local administrations and to create thereby an infrastructure for implementation of the autonomy plan.

#### Cool Reaction To Appointment

But the initial reaction to Milson's appointment was cool even among moderate Palestinian leaders on the West Bank. Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem said he was unclear about the proposed separation of military and civilian functions under Sharon's plan and he had doubts that it is clear even to those who proposed the plan.

Mayor Mustapha Natshe of Hebron said the new policy was only a cosmetic change aimed at tightening Israel's grip on the occupied territories. He said there was no chance of local cooperation because that would mean abandonment of hope for a Palestinian entity. Another moderate, attorney Aziz Shehade of Ramallah, said Milson faced a difficult task and doubted that he would be of much benefit.

Mahmoud Abu-Zuluf, editor of the East Jerusalem Arabic newspaper Al-Kuds, said there was no chance of success for a policy that attempted to divide villagers from townspeople or moderates from those who are suppressed because of their independent views.

#### SOME 30,000 PEOPLE PROTEST PLANNED EVACUATION OF SINAI

TEL AVIV, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- An estimated 30,000 visitors and residents of Yamit in Sinai spent the Simchat Torah holiday last night dancing through the streets of the town with Torah scrolls to protest the planned evacuation of the region by next April.

Observers said that many of the holiday visitors appear to have remained in Yamit and nearby villages, joining ultra-nationalist elements who hope to increase the population which will refuse army orders to move away before the evacuation date.

New residents in Yamit include Knesset members Geula Cohen and Hanan Porat of the Tehiya Party which opposes the evacuation, and Rabbi Haim Druckman of the National Religious Party. All three have said they hope their demonstrative presence will strengthen the resolve of those residents and other nationalist newcomers to resist government orders to move away.



## JEWS IN WEST EUROPE ARE TARGETS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- West European Jews are the targets of international terrorism even though they are relatively secure in their respective countries, according to a survey by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The survey was released on the eve of the ADL's National Executive Committee meeting here at the Fairmont Hotel which concludes Sunday.

Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director and head of its International Affairs Division, said the survey revealed that Jews and Jewish institutions "face very real threats -- including threats to their physical safety -- because of bombings, assassinations, attempted assassinations, assaults and vandalism." The countries examined by ADL were Austria, Belgium, England, France, Italy and West Germany.

Terrorist acts are not only aimed against Jews, Foxman declared, but, increasingly, against American military personnel and installations in Western Europe and against other European groups and individuals in an attempt to destabilize society and bring down democratic governments.

The perpetrators of these acts, he said, are well-organized networks of terrorists and extremists including the Palestine Liberation Organization, other Arab terrorists, neo-Nazis and far left extremists -- that cross national boundaries.

### Right and Left Terrorists Cooperate

The ADL study further noted that many terrorist factions on the right and left cooperate with each other in attacks on Jews, Israelis and Zionist groups. PLO terrorists, the report went on, train West European right wing paramilitary groups, and Libya funds ultra-leftists, who provide support for PLO and other Arab terrorists in Europe.

Many or all of the groups operating in Western Europe, the report said, have been responsible for terrorist incidents in the past two years, the most prominent of which were the fatal bombings of synagogues in Paris in October, 1980 and Vienna last August, the murders of a West German businessman and a non-Jew who headed the Austria-Israeli Friendship Society earlier this year, and the slaying of a 15-year-old Jewish boy in Antwerp in July, 1980 when a hand grenade was tossed at a bus carrying youths to a Jewish summer camp.

Not only are Jewish lives threatened, the ADL report said, but Jews are victims of many other types of anti-Semitic acts carried out by neo-Nazi and other rightwing extremists and paramilitary groups.

These include harassment and intimidation through militant rallies and marches designed to provoke violence and attract headlines; acts of vandalism such as cemetery desecrations; intimidating letters and threatening phone calls, and the widespread distribution of "vicious" anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist propaganda materials through newspapers and handbills.

### Great Threat Seen In The Future

The terrorists, according to the ADL findings, operate effectively despite the fact that they are few in numbers and do not have mass followings -- and despite the fact that West European Jews are prominent in public and professional life and reside in nations which have a "healthy" state of democracy.

The threat may grow even greater in the future, the report went on, with unemployment and economic uncertainty -- the historic situation for scapegoating Jews -- contributing to the impact of anti-Semitic acts and propaganda.

Turning to the menace posed by the PLO, the report declared that the "PLO and its assorted factions continue to demonstrate the ability to bomb and shoot selected targets, virtually at will. Their ability to do so rests in large measure on the fact that they enjoy the support of the Soviet Union, other Communist and Arab states and ultra-leftist and rightist groups which make common cause against Jews, Israel, the United States and democratic forms of government."

In detailing the activities of neo-Nazi and other extreme rightist movements, the ADL report stated that "they are few in numbers and without significant political influence. But they constitute a serious threat to the security of European Jewry because of their ability to bomb and terrorize Jewish targets."

### VITALY RUBIN DEAD AT 58

JERUSALEM, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held here tomorrow for Prof. Vitaly Rubin, a former Jewish activist who emigrated from the Soviet Union five years ago and settled in Israel. He was killed last Sunday in a car accident near Beersheba. He was 58 years old.

Rubin, an expert on Chinese history, gained world prominence for his long struggle to receive an exit visa from the Soviet authorities to go to Israel. He was one of the founding members of the Helsinki Watch Committee, a group established in Moscow in 1975 to monitor Soviet compliance with the accords on East-West cooperation signed in Helsinki that year. Rubin received an exit visa to Israel three weeks after he helped to establish the Helsinki Committee.

During his long struggle for human rights and the right to emigrate, Rubin was dismissed from his post at Moscow's Institute of Oriental Studies. His plight drew international attention. Columbia University invited him as a guest lecturer and American scholars threatened to boycott American-Soviet seminars.

In Israel, Rubin joined the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, teaching Chinese philosophy. His wife, Inessa, who was injured in the accident that killed her husband, has been working as a librarian at the university.

### OFFICERS, CREW OF MISSILE BOAT HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR MISHAP

TEL AVIV, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- The officers and crew of a missile boat that grounded on a coral reef off the Saudi Arabian coast on September 14 have been held partially responsible for the mishap according to the report of a naval commission of inquiry just published here. As a result, the commander of the vessel, its chief engineer and the officer on watch at the time have been relieved of their duties, effective immediately.

The report, and appended comments by former Navy commander Lt. Gen. (ret.) Avraham Botzer, found the basic cause of the grounding was technical failure. But this was abetted by errors of judgement and negligence on the part of officers and crew, the report said. The missile boat was on a routine voyage to Eilat when it suddenly veered off course and raced at 23 knots toward the Saudi coast.

Although the grounding occurred within sight of a Saudi military position, Saudi forces did not intervene. Israel immediately informed the Saudi government, through the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, that the intrusion into Saudi waters was an accident with no hostile intent. The boat was eventually freed by Israeli salvage crews and towed to Eilat.