

ISRAEL EXPRESSES 'REGRET' OVER SENATE APPROVAL OF AWACS DEAL

Reagan Reassures Begin Of U.S. Support

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Israel expressed "regret" today over the Senate's approval of the sale of AWACS reconnaissance aircraft and other advanced weaponry to Saudi Arabia and said the deal represented "a new and serious threat" to Israel which it would have to "overcome."

The statement was released following a special meeting of the Cabinet convened by Premier Menachem Begin this morning to assess the situation after the U.S. Senate upheld the \$8.5 billion arms package which Israel had vigorously opposed. It noted pointedly President Reagan's repeated commitments to maintain Israel's qualitative military superiority in the Middle East and to establish strategic cooperation with Israel.

"We hope these words of the President will be realized," Begin said after reading the Cabinet's statement to reporters. He released the text of a letter he received today from Reagan in which the President said, "I reiterate my pledge that America continues to be committed to Israel, to maintain its military and technological advantages." The letter added, "This Administration has a permanent interest in working with Israel on a broad basis on strategic problems. These efforts serve our common interest."

The Cabinet statement was drafted by Begin himself. Several ministers reportedly felt that Israel should not, at this early stage, refer to Reagan's pledges of arms aid and strategic cooperation on grounds that it might imply that Israel was reconciling itself to the AWACS deal and was seeking compensation. Begin replied, according to Cabinet sources, that there was no point "playing broigetz" (anger) with the U.S. He said the Cabinet expressed precisely what it felt, feared and hoped.

No Ill Feelings Toward AWACS Supporters

The statement also took a conciliatory tone toward those Senators who supported the Administration on the AWACS sale and those who opposed it but switched sides at the last minute. It expressed appreciation to the 48 Senators who cast their votes against the deal. The statement said:

"Israel expresses its regret over the Senate's decision on the proposal by the Administration for the double arms deal to Saudi Arabia. (Saudi Arabia is) a country which is in a state of war with Israel, opposes the Camp David agreements, and finances terrorism in our region.

"The Israel cabinet reiterates that a new and serious threat has arisen for Israel -- a new departure not experienced since the establishment of our state. We shall have to overcome it -- and we will do all that is incumbent upon us in order to overcome it.

"The debate in Washington was long. Friends of Israel, regardless of origin or political outlook, fought the just struggle bravely and nobly. We express our appreciation for their efforts. We are

mindful too that many of those who supported the deal and of those who shifted from opposition to support admire Israel's standing and Israel's policy in the Middle East and in the free world and harbor warm feelings in their hearts for our nation and for our country."

NIXON, CERTAIN WHITE HOUSE AIDES, ACCUSED OF INJECTING ANTI-SEMITISM INTO AWACS DEBATE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- A top ranking American Jewish leader charged today that former President Nixon and certain White House aides were responsible for injecting into the recent debate over the AWACS sale an element "questioning the right of the Jewish lobby to fully participate in the process."

Maynard Wishner, president of the American Jewish Committee, also accused Nixon and certain White House aides of introducing the notion that a defeat of President Reagan on the AWACS issue would trigger a wave of anti-Semitism in the U.S. Wishner, who is visiting Israel at the head of an AJCommittee delegation, will meet with Premier Menachem Begin, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other leading Israelis to discuss U.S.-Israel relations in the wake of yesterday's Senate vote upholding the AWACS sale.

Warns Of AWACS Capabilities

Meanwhile, Gen. (res.) Yeshayahu Bareket, former chief of Israel Air Force intelligence, warned today that the AWACS radar planes in Saudi hands would rob Israel of the element of surprise in any future war with the Arab states. He said that would be an unprecedented situation for Israel.

According to Bareket, who was interviewed on Kol Israel radio, in the event of war the Saudis would fly the AWACS over the Mediterranean or along international civil aviation routes over Egypt, making it virtually impossible for Israel to shoot them down while they monitored Israeli aerial activity.

Even in peacetime, Bareket said, planes would be able to furnish the Saudis with continuous detailed pictures of Israel Air Force training and preparedness activities.

JEWISH LEADERS, CONCERNED OVER AWACS SALE, URGE REAGAN TO REASSURE ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- American Jewish leaders registered their serious concern today over the possible effects of the Senate's approval yesterday of the Reagan Administration's \$8.5 billion weapons sale to Saudi Arabia on the prospects for peace and stability in the Middle East.

They stressed, at the same time, that the Administration now has the responsibility and obligation to see to it that the Saudis abandon their consistently hostile and obstructive posture toward the peace process within the Camp David framework and, above all, to assure and maintain Israel's military superiority in the region. Many Jewish leaders also deplored the injection of anti-Semitism as an issue in the bitter debate over the arms package deal.

Howard Squadron, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, declared today: "We hope that the White House success in the (Senate) vote will, as the President promised, result in a strengthening of our country's position in the Middle East. We hope too that the Saudi royal family will respond by joining in the quest for peace."

"If the Saudis do not take such actions, the arms deal will prove once again the futility of appeasement. It will encourage those forces in the Arab world, enemies of peace, who insist that acting against American interests is the surest guarantee of American support. For the Reagan Administration, it will have turned out to be a Pyrrhic victory," Squadron said.

Maynard Wishner, president of the American Jewish Committee declared: "We deeply regret that the Senate did not vote to block the proposed AWACS arms package sale to Saudi Arabia in view of the clear Congressional and public concern as to the risks involved. We appreciate that, whatever may have been differences of views regarding this issue, the Administration has always made clear its full commitment to the security of Israel and the Camp David process in its search for peace in the Middle East. We now urge the Administration to demonstrate that commitment in tangible form, to make available to Israel the means to counter the risks to her security created by this sale. We also urge the President to make clear to the Saudis that they are now expected to demonstrate in tangible form their intention to aid the President in his efforts to forward the peace process."

Daniel Thursz, executive vice president of B'nai B'rith International, asserted that Senate approval of the sale "only magnifies our concern over peace and stability in the Middle East." He declared that "The time has come for President Reagan to call upon Saudi Arabia to respond by supporting the American-Egyptian-Israeli peace process and stopping its financial and military support" of the Palestine Liberation Organization's terrorist activities.

The B'nai B'rith leader also urged the Reagan Administration to reassure Israel, "America's only stable and reliable ally in the Middle East," by providing it with the resources to protect itself and ensure its survival.

Anti-Semitism 'Poisoned' Debate

Maxwell Greenberg, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said "We hope that the approval of the arms package for Saudi Arabia will contribute to American interests as forecast by its proponents. At this point, the Saudis must display their good faith. They can do so by participating in the Camp David peace process and by ceasing and desisting from their financial and moral support of the Palestine Liberation Organization."

Greenberg noted that "Reports of anti-Semitism as an element in the AWACS debate have confused and poisoned our discourse. We know, respect and value President Reagan's dedication to fair play and abhorrence of bigotry and anticipate that he will disavow those who have either misguided or viciously used it."

Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, observed that "The sale was approved solely on the premise that Saudi Arabia is an ally and friend of the U.S. and shares our country's concerns in the Middle East. This thesis must now be proved. Anything less than

Saudi support of the Camp David process and an end to its funding of the PLO would make a sham of the Administration's assurances. America has fulfilled its pledge to deliver these powerful and sophisticated weapons. Whether Saudi Arabia is genuinely motivated toward peace will now be put to the test."

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, stated that "In winning the AWACS vote, President Reagan has assumed two serious obligations. First, he must use his powers of persuasion to press the Saudis to do what they have so far refused to do -- cooperate with American policy by supporting the Camp David process and abandoning the terrorist PLO and all those who seek to scuttle the peace ... Second, he must move to repair the harm done by those of his supporters who questioned the loyalty of the opposition and falsely made the issue a contest between Reagan and Begin. The surfacing of anti-Semitism that has resulted from this tactic must be dealt with firmly and promptly by the President himself."

Unanimity On Israel

Rabbi Walter Wurzbeger, president of the Synagogue Council of America, noted that notwithstanding the sharp differences of opinion in the course of the arms package debate, "there was total unanimity that concern for the security of the State of Israel is not only a moral necessity but an essential pivot of American policy. We fervently hope that future developments in the Middle East will enable the Administration to allay our fears over the peril to the security of Israel and that Saudi Arabia will be persuaded to become truly moderate and join the peace process."

Simon Schwartz, president of the United Synagogue of America and Rabbi Benjamin Kreitman, its executive vice president, sent a telegram to President Reagan today calling upon him "in this critical juncture to assure the future security of Israel and give tangible evidence of this support through the granting of appropriate armaments and economic aid and assistance." They also called on the President "to do everything within your great power to urge Saudi Arabia to support the peace process."

Ivan Novick, president of the Zionist Organization of America, noted that President Reagan has emphasized that Saudi Arabia is a "moderating force" in the Middle East. "If this is an accurate assessment, then we can look forward with considerable anticipation that the family of Saud will confirm these assumptions by taking tangible and visible steps to distinguish Saudi Arabia as a moderate."

Novick added, "The United States has often been asked by Saudi Arabia to prove our good intentions. Now that the sale of our most sophisticated and secret weapons will go forward, it is the United States that should expect from Saudi Arabia that it prove its good intentions and cease to be intransigent and unyielding."

World Is Watching

Rabbi William Berkowitz, president of the Jewish National Fund, declared that "President Reagan made the AWACS vote a test of his credibility abroad. Now that he has won ... he must demand that the Saudis demonstrate their commitment to American policy in the Middle East, most particularly, the effort to bring peace to the region through the Camp David process. The country and the world will be watching to see what the Administration does with its victory."

Rabbi Joseph Glaser, executive vice president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, expressed alarm over the Senate's approval of the arms package. "That the President could be able to persuade Senators who knew better, and have so stated, to vote for

a measure which will compromise the security of the United States is almost incomprehensible, particularly when the arguments he is alleged to have used are so weak and even transparently insincere," Rabbi Glaser said.

Rabbi Sol Roth, president of the Rabbinical Council of America asserted that "the central issue" in the AWACS debate "was America rather than Israel. At the same time, we cannot help but express our deep distress and profound dismay over the fact that anti-Semitism was permitted to become a tool to assure victory for those who advocated the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia."

Phyllis Sutker, president of Pioneer Women/Na'amat, said:

"We accept the decision of the Senate, but we remain uneasy and concerned. By its actions, Saudi Arabia has demonstrated that it does not deserve the most sophisticated equipment America possesses. And we retain our strong doubts that Saudi Arabia can be trusted to keep these weapons out of unfriendly, anti-American hands, or to refrain from using them against Israel, or to refuse to transfer them to those who would destroy Israel."

Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the American Zionist Federation, declared that the "decision to sell AWACS and other armaments to Saudi Arabia is not in the best interests of the United States. But the Congress has spoken. Given the fact, efforts must now be made to strengthen the Camp David peace process, the only promising avenue to Middle East peace ... With the decision to sell the AWACS now final, we must now seek something tangible from Saudi Arabia which will demonstrate unequivocally and publicly their commitment to a just peace and real stability in the Middle East."

STATE DEPT. OFFICIAL ASSESSES MIDEAST OUTLOOK IN WAKE OF AWACS SALE VOTE By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- A State Department Middle East expert said today that while he does not expect yesterday's Senate approval of the sale of AWACS and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia to result in the Saudis joining the Camp David peace process "directly," the Saudis have been demonstrating evidence of support for Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and his intention to continue the Camp David process.

Peter Constable, deputy assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, responding to questions at a day long National Foreign Policy Conference, based his view on an editorial in the official Saudi newspaper, Al-Madina.

"We do not and must not expect President Mubarak to abrogate the Camp David agreements at this time for a number of reasons that are understood by those acquainted with international events," Constable quoted the Saudis as saying. He called this a "significant and supportive statement" in view of the Saudi opposition to Egypt over the past two years because of the Camp David agreements.

Constable also indicated that he did not expect President Reagan to convince King Hussein of Jordan to join the peace process when the two meet at the White House next Monday and Tuesday. He said the meeting will enable the two leaders to get acquainted and to listen to each others views but it would take more than this initial meeting to change Hussein's refusal to join the negotiations for Palestinian autonomy.

Constable stressed that the U.S. is committed to the Camp David peace process which he said is also inclined with the Reagan Administration's strategy to secure the Mideast and the Persian Gulf against threats from the Soviet Union and Libya. He said rejection of the \$8.5 billion Saudi arms sale would have hampered this strategy but approval allows the Administration to continue the course set out in the Mideast nine months ago.

Fahd 8 Points No Substitute For Camp David

Constable said the U.S. "welcomes" the "constructive elements" in Saudi Prince Fahd's eight-point peace program for a Mideast peace. But he said Fahd's proposals did not provide a "vehicle" for negotiations and some of the eight points "preempt" outcomes that must be subject to negotiations. While Constable did not list these points, Fahd's proposals call for Israel's complete withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank including East Jerusalem, and the establishment of a Palestinian state. Constable added that while welcoming constructive parts of the Fahd proposals, it cannot be a substitute for the Camp David peace process.

Under questioning, Constable repeated the U.S. position on the Palestine Liberation Organization -- that it will not negotiate with the PLO until it recognizes Israel's right to exist and accepts United Nations Security Council resolution 242. He stressed that the Camp David process was designed to enable the Palestinians to join the talks and he hoped that the autonomy agreement now being worked out by Israel, Egypt and the U.S. will convince Palestinians to join the negotiations.

Constable earlier stressed that the U.S. was committed to maintaining its long standing relationship to Israel and to see that Israel maintained "technical and material advantages" in the region. But, he refused to be specific on whether new arms would be sent to Israel. Following the AWACS approval, Israel is expected to ask for additional arms.

PALESTINIAN ARRESTED FOR VIENNA SYNAGOGUE BOMBING AND MURDER OF COUNCILMAN

By Monika Brenner and Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Austrian police have arrested a Palestinian who they believe planned and organized the killing of Vienna City Councilman Heinz Nittel and the attack on the synagogue in the Austrian capital. According to the Interior Ministry, police in Salzburg arrested Bahij Younis, 28, who was carrying a Jordanian passport.

A search of his home produced a number of handguns, hand grenades, and several Arab passports. Police believe he is one of the top organizers of the extremist Palestinian groups, Al Asifa, headed by Abu Nidal.

After the attack on the Vienna synagogue Aug. 29 where two persons were killed and 18 injured, two terrorists were apprehended. They claimed to be members of Al Asifa. During their interrogation one of them, Muhammed Radjai, confessed to having killed Nittel, president of the Israel-Austrian Friendship Society, on May 1. In both terrorist acts, Radjai said, he received instructions and guns from a Palestinian officer in Vienna, whose name he would not give. Police think that Younis may be the wanted third man.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Advisory Committee of the Bank of Israel has authorized planning for the eventual printing of 500 and 1,000-Shekel notes.

SAUDI ARABIA HAS WORLD'S HIGHEST PER CAPITA SPENDING FOR DEFENSE; ISRAEL IS SECOND

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Israel's per capita defense expenditures rose sharply this year and remains by far the highest in the world except for oil-rich Saudi Arabia. The sum spent for defense in 1981 was \$1,835 for every man, woman and child in the Jewish State, up from \$1,333 in 1980. The Saudis spent \$2,664 per capita. The United States, in contrast, will spend only \$759 and Britain \$512 for each of their citizens.

Saudi Arabia's 1981 defense spending of \$27 billion is bigger than that of any country in Western Europe except Britain. Its increase alone since last year amounted to about \$7 billion, equal to Israel's entire 1981 defense spending.

These figures were published recently by the International Institute For Strategic Studies in its annual military balance sheets. They showed that Israel also leads the world in its defense budget's portion of her gross national product. Although it has fallen to 23 percent from 35 percent last year and a staggering 50 percent in 1975, it remains at a level unmatched anywhere else.

The Soviet Union and Syria come next. Their defense bills range from 12 to 14 percent of GNP. Most other countries are in low single digits.

In its introduction to the military balance, the Institute said it saw no slow-down in arms exports to the Middle East and other areas of the Third World from the Soviet Union, United States or Europe. "The sales of very high performance aircraft continue to provide a form of diplomatic currency in the Near East with a number of countries seeking primarily high performance American aircraft," the report said.

The net effect, the Institute observed, is to raise questions over the ability of some states to assimilate weapon systems. The military balance identifies no fewer than 60 major arms deals with Middle Eastern countries between July 1980 and June 1981.

ADL DEFENDS AMERICAN SOCIETY AGAINST IMPLICATION IT IS INNATELY RACIST

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has criticized the National Education Association's (NEA) new curriculum on the Ku Klux Klan on grounds that it unjustly indicts American society for being innately racist.

According to Kenneth J. Bialkin, chairman of ADL's National Executive Committee, "Violence, the Ku Klux Klan and the Struggle for Equality: An Informational and Instruction Kit" -- the curriculum being distributed by the NEA -- is predicated on the "untenable premise" that the KKK is not an aberration but "the tip of the iceberg ... of entrenched racism" in America.

Bialkin made a detailed report on the NEA curriculum at a recent session of the committee here. He told the ADL leaders that ADL had sought to express its concern about the curriculum's thrust with NEA in advance of publication. "Unfortunately," he said, "while we met with the authors and some minor changes were made in line with our suggestions, the basic philosophic premise that America is institutionally racist -- to which we remain diametrically opposed -- was not altered."

He said that "racist ideas, contrary to the NEA's basic theme, are antithetical to most Americans today. The nation's thrust is to achieve racial equality, undo past wrongs and ensure the growth of freedom." The Klan, he went on to say, is "regarded with scorn and distrust by most Americans."

Bialkin said that while ADL agrees that it is necessary to develop classroom material on the nature of the Klan, it finds the NEA approach "disturbing and troublesome."

He declared that ADL is preparing an "alternative curriculum" based on its long experience in monitoring and combatting the KKK. The publication, he said, "will contain much that is left out of the NEA kit about the nation's advances in overcoming past racism and will more accurately reflect the current attitudes of the overwhelming majority of Americans."

The ADL analysis of the NEA kit singled out the following statements as "presenting students with a false view of their country": -- "The violent nature of the Klan feeds on a climate of general social acceptance of racism; It is important to remember that the Klan is only the tip of the iceberg, the most visible and obvious manifestation of the entrenched racism in our society."

MOSCOW JEWISH ACTIVISTS SAY THEY FACE MAJOR PURGE

NEW YORK, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry (GNYCSJ) said this week that communications received from Moscow Jewish activists have confirmed that a major purge of their ranks by the authorities is currently underway. The activists characterized the new developments as "very serious" with new investigations and threats of imprisonment by Soviet officials having been undertaken within the past week.

According to activists, the refuseniks most seriously imperiled at the moment are Pavel Abramovich, Natasha Khassina and Yuli Kosharovsky, veteran leaders of the Moscow Jewish community. Dossiers are currently being assembled by the Moscow procurator's office and it is feared that a major charge may be filed against them.

There is also evidence that the authorities intend to reveal a "Zionist conspiracy" by announcing accusations against Abramovich, Kosharovsky, and Khassina. These three refuseniks have been among the Moscow Jewish community's most outspoken members. All three have been summoned to government offices and told that their cases are presently under scrutiny.

The activists said in their communication that they fear a plan to falsely incriminate them as fifth-columnists in order to discredit the entire Soviet Jewish movement. In this connection, a charge based on state defamation will most likely be lodged against them. They repeatedly stressed, however, that they do not condemn the Soviet system, but rather that they are seeking to repatriate through emigration to Israel.

FLORIDA RESIDENT CHARGED WITH HAVING BEEN NAZI COLLABORATOR

TAMPA, Fla., Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Jurgis Juodis, a 70-year-old Lithuanian-born naturalized citizen, has gone on trial in Federal District Court here on charges that he lied about his Nazi activities during World War II when he applied for entry into the United States 32 years ago. He would face deportation if convicted.

U.S. Attorney General Gary Betz said he filed a six count complaint against Juodis, an artist who lives in St. Petersburg Beach. He is accused of having been a member of the Nazi-sponsored Lithuanian police which collaborated in the killing of Jews and others.