

## 4 WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ANNOUNCE THEY WILL PARTICIPATE IN SINAI FORCE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Four Western European countries -- Britain, France, Italy and The Netherlands -- announced today that they will provide units for the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) which will patrol Sinai after Israel completes its withdrawal next April.

The announcement referred to the Camp David agreements, the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty and United Nations Security Council Resolution 242. It was accompanied by a joint declaration on behalf of the 10-member states of the European Economic Community (EEC) supporting the participation by the four but stressing at the same time that the EEC states "back a global agreement" in the Middle East with which the "Palestine Liberation Organization should be associated."

### Move Welcomed By Egypt

The announcement was promptly welcomed by Egypt. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali said in Cairo today that Egypt hoped the participation of the four European states would encourage other Western countries such as Canada, Australia and New Zealand to participate in the MFO as well. The U.S. is already committed to provide nearly half of the 2,500-member force and, according to Washington, commitments also have been made by Fiji, Uruguay and Colombia. (See related story from Washington, P.3.)

Israel, which has fiercely objected to any reference by the EEC to its Venice declaration of 1980 in connection with the MFO, has not yet announced whether it will accept the statement accompanying today's announcement. Israel is expected to ask each of the European participants for "clarification" of their position. Israel has threatened to disqualify any country that agreed to participate in the MFO on the basis of any formula other than the Camp David accords.

The joint text issued today was the subject of a month-long dispute between the EEC and Israel and among members of the EEC. Greece, the newest member, objected to any reference to Camp David. The Israelis oppose the Venice declaration because it calls for association of the PLO with the Mideast peace process.

### Elements Of The Statement

The announcement by the four European states stressed that they consider their participation in the MFO as "helping to implement UN Resolution 242." A subsequent paragraph explains that their decision "stems from their policy as defined in the Venice declaration."

The joint statement added: "While emphasizing guarantees for the security of the State of Israel, this policy also insists on justice for the Palestinian people and its right to self-determination. It also implies that the PLO should be associated with a peace process leading to global peace." The announcement and accompanying statement was relayed to Israel, Egypt and the U.S. yesterday

through diplomatic channels. The 10 EEC states stressed that Egypt needs stability and that its government should be encouraged to maintain the continuity of the peace process.

### Would Supply Medical Teams, Logistical Support

European sources said the four countries would supply medical teams and logistical support for the MFO but probably would not dispatch combat troops. French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson made it clear last week that France would not send combat forces and the Dutch have taken a similar stand. Italy and Britain are expected to follow suit.

If approved by Israel, Western European participation could open the way for Canadian, Australian and New Zealand troops. Israel is especially anxious to have those countries in the MFO along with the U.S.

According to a French spokesman, European participation rests on four basic principles, the first of which is "the security of all states in the region, including the future Palestinian state, which would be able to live in peace within mutually agreed borders." The three other points deal with the right "of the Palestinian people to forge its own destiny which will naturally aim at the creation of a state."

### Inclining Toward Fahd's Plan

Diplomatic sources in Brussels said today that the 10 EEC nations are increasingly favorable toward the eight-point plan proposed by Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia last August but flatly rejected by Israel. The sources said that, with slight variations, the EEC-member states believe the Saudi plan could and should serve as the basis for future negotiations for a global peace settlement in the Middle East.

But the Fahd plan has already run into trouble at the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Fez, Morocco where the PLO turned it down. The PLO representative and its foreign policy spokesman, Farouk Kaddoumi, called the plan "unacceptable and dangerous."

Diplomatic sources in Fez told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Saudi delegation, led by Foreign Minister Prince Saud, seemed shocked by the strong terms with which Kaddoumi rejected the plan. The PLO official said the decision to reject it was taken unanimously by the PLO's executive council at a secret meeting in Beirut over the weekend attended by PLO chief Yasir Arafat.

In view of that development, Arab sources in Fez said it is no longer certain that the Saudis will press ahead with their plan which has failed to gain support in most Arab states and was treated coolly by the U.S.

## ISRAEL REACTS CAUTIOUSLY TO ANNOUNCEMENT BY WEST EUROPEANS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- In a cautious initial reaction to the announcement that four Western European countries will participate in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) which will patrol the Sinai after Israel withdraws next April, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that the Cabinet would "discuss and decide on the complex



of problems linked to the participation" of Britain, France, Italy and Holland in the MFO.

The spokesman also added in response to questioning that "the statements made so far would seem to contradict the Camp David agreements." This was understood to refer not only to a statement today by British Deputy Foreign Secretary Humphrey Atkins in the House of Commons in which he sought to draw a "complete distinction" between the Israel-Egypt segment of the Camp David agreement and "the rest of the Camp David process," but also to the official statements by the four European countries and the 10-member European Economic Community (EEC).

Unofficially, Israeli sources seemed dismayed by the reference of the 10 EEC members to Palestinian self-determination in the context of the decision by the four countries to participate in the MFO. The Israeli sources saw this as gratuitous and as a potential trouble-spot for Israel in accepting the participation of the Europeans.

But Israeli sources stressed that the Foreign Ministry statement was "not intended to slam any doors." Plainly, the government wants to give careful thought to the EEC statements before taking a final stand.

EEC diplomats had said earlier that the statement by the four would be tailored to meet with Israeli approval; the statement by the 10 would be aimed at the same end but could contain awkward references; and the statements by the individual governments to their parliaments were not Israel's business and should not shape Israel's response.

#### ARAB MODERATE SHOT BY TERRORISTS DIES OF HIS WOUNDS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Yussuf Al-Khatib, an Arab moderate shot by terrorists last week, died of his wounds last night at the Hadasah Medical Center here. Al-Khatib, 60, was the chairman of the Ramallah Region Farmers Association which cooperated with Israeli authorities on the West Bank.

He was ambushed last Tuesday while driving to Ramallah with his son, Khazem, 23, who was killed instantly by a fusillade of bullets. The Palestine Liberation Organization in Beirut claimed responsibility for the act and repeated death threats to other Arab moderates.

Mustapha Doudin, head of the Hebron Region Farmers Association, has been under 24-hour guard since the assault on the Al-Khatibs. His colleague, Bishara Kawmissiya of Bethlehem, said today that the village associations would continue to function despite the assassination of Al-Khatib and the threats to others. The associations were established with the encouragement of the Israeli Military Government to counter pro-PLO elements on the West Bank.

Scattered incidents were reported on the West Bank yesterday. Security forces used tear gas to disperse youthful Arab demonstrators in Banina village near Hebron where tires were burned and rocks were thrown at Israeli vehicles. The demonstration followed complaints by villagers that Jewish settlers had smashed the headlights on their cars. Youths threw rocks at a vehicle passing the Dayaishe refugee camp yesterday slightly injuring a passenger.

Meanwhile, protests over the demolition of three houses in Beit Sahour and one in Bethlehem last week continued. Mayor Hanna Al-Atrash of Beit Sahour appeared at a Rakah (Communist) Party

sponsored press conference yesterday to demand compensation. The houses were blown up because members of the owning families allegedly threw gasoline bombs at Israeli vehicles.

#### EAST GERMANY TO HIKE ITS ARMS ASSISTANCE TO THE PLO

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization has been promised a substantial increase in military assistance from East Germany. According to well informed sources in West Berlin, the East Germans made that pledge to a PLO delegation now visiting East Berlin. East German military experts will be sent to Lebanon to train the PLO in the use of new weapons systems received from the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact countries, the sources said.

The sources noted that the PLO delegation, headed by Kahlil Al-Wazir, whose title is "Vice Chief Commander of the Armed Forces of the Palestinian Revolution," is receiving considerable attention in the government-controlled East German media. While East Germany has always been involved in the supply and training of PLO military units, it usually played down the military aspect while stressing solidarity with the Palestinian people in political terms.

Now the emphasis is on the military relationship. Wazir's picture appeared on the front page of Neues Deutschland, official organ of the ruling Communist Party. Four generals of the East German Peoples Army posed with him, an unusual gesture for a foreign delegation.

#### KREISKY-BURG MEETING FAILS TO NARROW AUSTRIA, ISRAEL GAP

By Monika Brenner and Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and Israeli Interior Minister Yosef Burg met here last night for a discussion of the Middle East and other world developments. But there was no narrowing of the wide gap that separates Austria and Israel on the nature of a Middle East peace settlement and especially the Kreisky government's recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

After the meeting Burg said he and Kreisky dealt with the Middle East situation seriously and profoundly. Kreisky said no understanding was reached with respect to the Palestinian problem, though he thought that the differing positions could be bridged eventually.

He said Austria's position that the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people was discussed with the Israeli minister.

Burg, Israel's chief negotiator in the autonomy talks with Egypt, is in Vienna on a private visit. He said at a press conference today that talks are always important because peace is too vital to be hampered by petty disagreements. He did not elaborate.

He reiterated, however, that Israel is unalterably opposed to the eight-point Saudi Arabian plan as a basis for future negotiations. He noted that the plan, proposed by Crown Prince Fahd last August, mentions Israel only twice and only in connection with demands that it withdraw from all occupied Arab territory and dismantle its settlements on the West Bank.

Burg also denied that the Fahd plan hints at eventual recognition of Israel's right to exist. He noted that experts have pointed out that the text refers to the right of states, not of nations in the area, implying that while Jews may live in the region, there is no recognition of Israel.

Burg criticized some Western European politicians who react to acts of terror by the PLO by claiming



that the organization is a confederation of various Palestinian groups, implying that some of them act on their own, not necessarily with the sanction of PLO chief Yasir Arafat. Burg conceded however that there may have been terrorist attacks not carried out by the PLO but he gave no details.

Kreisky denied reports that he seeks a mediator's role in the Middle East. He said Austria had nothing to offer either side and that he is not accepted by both parties with equal friendship. Moreover, he said, he is overworked at the moment.

#### U.S. 'WARMLY WELCOMES' EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN SINAI FORCE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- The United States said today that it "warmly welcomes" the decision by four Western European countries to join the peacekeeping force that will patrol Sinai after Israel's final withdrawal next April.

Britain, France, Italy and The Netherlands announced in a joint statement released from their respective capitals, that they will participate in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO).

But at the same time, the four members of the European Economic Community (EEC) stressed that they still support the EEC's Venice declaration of 1980 which calls for the Palestine Liberation Organization to be associated with Middle East peace negotiations.

The State Department issued a statement today which said that the U.S. views the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty "as the first step toward a broader just and durable peace in the Middle East and remains convinced that negotiations based on the framework agreed to at Camp David can help realize that goal. The participation of four of our European allies in the MFO will inevitably strengthen that organization and will enhance its ability to carry out its functions as agreed between Egypt and Israel."

A Department spokesperson noted that both Israel and Egypt, which can veto any member of the MFO, agreed earlier on the participation of the European countries. But she had no comment as to whether Israel may now bar the Europeans because of their reaffirmation of the Venice declaration. Premier Menachem Begin had warned earlier that Israel would not accept any member which joins the MFO on the basis of anything but the Camp David accords.

The spokesperson noted that the statement by the four European countries today "reflected already well known positions" of their governments. The U.S. is expected to supply some 1,000 of the 2,500 military personnel and civilian observers that will make up the MFO. Now that the European countries have joined, Australia is also expected to announce its participation. Previously, Fiji, Colombia and Uruguay said they would join the force.

#### GERMANY MOVES TO TIGHTEN LAWS AGAINST NEO-NAZISM

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Draft legislation to tighten laws against neo-Nazi activities has been completed by Justice Minister Juergen Schmude and sent to all state governments in the Federal Republic and to various ministries and major social organizations for review. The

measures will be submitted to the Cabinet next April.

They would empower state prosecutors to bring to trial any person who denies publicly that the Holocaust occurred or that the Nazis committed genocide. It would also ban the import and distribution of Nazi emblems and other propaganda material in West Germany.

The need to close loopholes in existing anti-Nazi laws was stressed in a statement by Schmude released Nov. 8 by the press service of the ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD). The release coincided with charges by Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Jewish community in West Berlin, that the Federal authorities were not taking sufficient measures to combat neo-Nazi activity.

The draft bill does not include a ban on the distribution and sale of Nazi books and records originating in Germany, such as Hitler's "Mein Kampf." The SPD wanted such a ban but dropped it under pressure from its junior coalition partner, the Free Democratic Party (FDP) and various lobbying groups.

#### UNITY GOVERNMENT REMAINS ELUSIVE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin said that he would like to invite the opposition Labor Party to discuss the possible formation of a national unity government but the conditions demanded by Labor were "unreasonable" and unacceptable.

Begin made his remarks at yesterday's Cabinet meeting after a flurry of speculation in recent weeks that a national coalition might be under consideration. The speculation was touched off by the activity of Education Minister Zevulun Hammer who raised the idea in private talks with Begin and Labor Party leaders and by former Premier Yitzhak Rabin who said, in a published interview last week, that he would favor a Labor-Likud alliance provided the government thus formed established new guidelines.

Begin said yesterday that it was "a pity" Hammer was unable to elicit a positive response from the Labor Alignment. He said Rabin's conditions -- that Labor have veto power over new settlements on the West Bank, that basic policy lines be revised and that all parties pledge to hold new elections in one year -- were absolutely unacceptable to Likud. Rabin, as "a serious politician" should have known this himself, Begin said.

He added, however, that he would like to see a unity government established and if Labor agreed to enter negotiations without pre-conditions, "I would be happy to invite them."

Begin has made such offers in the past. Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres told a press conference in Tel Aviv last week that Begin had no intention of forming a coalition with Labor as an equal partner and therefore Labor could not possibly consider such a move.

#### JNF TO LAUNCH LARGE-SCALE PROJECT

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund will this winter launch a large-scale afforestation operation on the eastern slopes of Jerusalem. The project, one of the largest afforestation tasks undertaken by the JNF in recent years, will spread over 2,500 acres on a mountainous terrain. It is scheduled to be completed in seven years. The new forest will extend along the eastern suburb of the capital, linking the existing Jerusalem forest on the western side of the city with a greenbelt encircling Jerusalem. Others involved in the project are the Israel Land Administration and the municipality of Jerusalem.



### AILING SHCHARANSKY TRANSFERRED FROM SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN A LABOR CAMP TO A NOTORIOUS PRISON

NEW YORK, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky has been sentenced by a labor camp court to three years of strict regime in Chistipol Prison, one of the harshest such institutions in the Soviet Gulag, and has already been transferred there, his wife Avital told the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ). Chistipol is some 550 miles east of Moscow.

The internal "trial" took place upon Shcharansky's release from 10 months in solitary confinement in the Perm labor camp where his health had deteriorated to a point where he collapsed early last summer. The authorities concealed the trial from his aged mother in Moscow for a month until they notified her a few days ago, the SSSJ and UCSJ reported.

Yosef Mendelevich, the recently released POC who had been with Shcharansky in Chistipol before both were moved to Perm in 1980, told SSSJ and UCSJ that "for three years Anatoly will be completely isolated from the outside world, with no meetings with his family, and able to write only one letter every two months. His food ration will be diminished to 1,700 calories a day."

Mendelevich said that Chistipol "houses what the Soviets call the 'most dangerous' inmates, those who demand to be acknowledged as political prisoners. Every prisoner is compelled to work the whole day and is punished if he refuses. Perm only by comparison -- was better than Chistipol. There, Anatoly could meet with his friends, when he was not in solitary, and could write letters. Now he will be punished for every small infraction of the regulations, for the regime in Chistipol is especially severe."

### YOUNG ISRAEL LEADERS DEMAND PROBE OF ANTI-ISRAEL CUSTOMS RULING

NEW YORK, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Two leaders of the international Young Israel movement, Harold Jacobs, president of the National Council of Young Israel, and Martin Lasher, chairman of the National Council of Young Israel public affairs committee, have called for a Congressional investigation of an Oct. 27 U.S. Customs Service ruling changing the identification of goods made in Judaea and Samaria from "made in Israel" to "made in Israeli-occupied West Bank."

Jacobs and Lasher described the designation change as "symbolic of a clear shift of American foreign policy away from its traditional support of Israel and the Camp David peace process. While official Administration spokesmen pay lip service to the Camp David process and the security of Israel, actual American foreign policy continues to tilt toward the so-called 'Saudi peace plan,' which demands that Israel withdraw from Judaea and Samaria."

The two Young Israel leaders stated that "This shift in U.S. Customs regulations would seem to substantiate such a shift in the American attitude away from the administrative solution proposed by the Camp David treaty and closer to the 'rejectionist' demands for the partition and eventual dissolution of the State of Israel." They added that actions such as the Customs Service ruling "which unilaterally and implicitly" deny "Israel's legitimate claim to sovereignty" over Judaea and

Samaria "hurt the peace process and Israel's confidence in the good will of this country in the pursuit of peace."

### ISRAELI AUTHOR RECEIVES ONE OF FRANCE'S HIGHEST LITERARY AWARDS

PARIS, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- David Shahar, a 55-year-old Israeli author, was awarded here today the Medicis Prize for Foreign Literature, one of France's best known literary awards. The jury singled out one of his books, "The Day of the Countess," which has appeared in French translation, to pay tribute to the literary quality and poetic style of the Jerusalem-born writer.

"The Day of the Countess" is a story of a group of Jews, Christians and Moslems, all former friends, caught in the turmoil of the Arab riots of 1936 in Jerusalem. The story spans a week in the lives of the group torn apart by the events. Shahar, who teaches literature at the Hebrew University, has published 15 books, five of which have appeared in English and French translations.

### UNDOF MANDATE EXTENDED FOR 6 MONTHS

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- The Security Council today approved a six-month extension of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) separating Israeli and Syrian armies on the Golan Heights. The current mandate expires Nov. 30. The vote was 14-0 in favor and no abstentions. The People's Republic of China, which opposes UN peacekeeping operations, did not take part in the vote, as usual. UNDOF, established by the Council in May, 1974, comprises nearly 1,300 troops from Austria, Canada, Finland and Poland.

### ABU-HATZEIRA PLEADS NOT GUILTY AT THE OPENING OF HIS TRIAL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Aharon Abu-Hatzeira, the Minister of Absorption and Welfare, pleaded not guilty in Tel Aviv district court yesterday, at the opening of his trial for alleged embezzlement and fraud. The same plea was entered by his co-defendant and former aide, Moshe Gabay. The trial is expected to last until the end of the year during which time the prosecution intends to call about 61 witnesses.

State Attorney Gavriel Bach said at the opening session that he would prove that Abu-Hatzeira had misappropriated public funds amounting to millions of Pounds between the years 1973-1977 when he served as Mayor of Ramle. He allegedly took the money from a charitable fund which had received it from the Interior Ministry to establish scholarships for yeshiva and other students among Israel's Sephardic community. Abu-Hatzeira was administrator of the fund set up in the name of his late father who had been Chief Rabbi of Morocco.

The Welfare Minister, who heads the Tami faction, a coalition partner in Premier Menachem Begin's Likud-led government, took a leave of absence from his Cabinet duties yesterday after trying in vain to have the trial postponed. Abu-Hatzeira was acquitted of charges of bribe-taking in a trial held earlier this year. Those charges stemmed from alleged wrong-doings when he served as Religious Affairs Minister in the first Begin government. At that time he was a member of the National Religious Party. He is currently charged on 10 counts of fraud, betrayal of trust and conspiracy to commit a crime.

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated Nov. 26 due to Thanksgiving, a postal holiday.