

CABINET DEFERS ACTING ON EUROPEANS IN SINAI FORCE; APPROVES SHARON'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS U.S.-ISRAEL STRATEGIC COOPERATION

By David Landau and Gil Sedan (Jerusalem),
and David Friedman (Washington)

Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Israel's Cabinet decided today to defer, at least until tomorrow, a decision on European participation in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) for Sinai. It approved, however, the immediate departure for Washington of Defense Minister Ariel Sharon who is scheduled to begin discussions with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger tomorrow on a strategic cooperation agreement between the U.S. and Israel.

Although some Ministers demanded more time to study the draft of that agreement submitted by the U.S. last week, Sharon was dispatched on his mission at the urging of Premier Menachem Begin and was airborne this evening.

Today's Cabinet meeting was held under unusual circumstances in an unusual setting -- a ward at Hadassah Hospital here where Begin underwent surgery last Thursday night for a broken hip joint. His doctors said they were "very satisfied" with the progress of his recovery but limited the meeting to 90 minutes.

Background Of Shamir-Haig Meeting

The meeting began only hours after Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir returned from a 13-hour visit to Washington and a marathon 7 1/2 hours meeting with Secretary of State Alexander Haig Friday. Shamir's purpose was to convey to the American Administration Israel's bitter objections to participation in the Sinai peacekeeping force by Britain, France, Italy and The Netherlands on terms that the Israelis consider a negation of the Camp David accords.

The four West European powers announced last Monday that they would join the MFO on the basis of the European Economic Community's (EEC) Venice declaration of 1980 which calls for the association of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Middle East peace process. Israel was also disturbed by the distinction drawn by the European states between Israel's withdrawal from Sinai, which they approve, and the rest of the Camp David process, of which they are critical.

The U.S., which will contribute more than half of the 2,500-member MFO, is anxious for European participation. It is widely believed that Haig summoned Shamir to Washington when it appeared that the Cabinet would reject the Europeans unless they changed their terms. This was emphatically denied by Israeli officials.

Informed sources said that when the Cabinet reconvenes tomorrow it is likely to agree, at least in part, to a draft joint U.S.-Israeli statement worked out by Haig and Shamir. The statement is expected to declare that the nations joining the MFO do so on the basis of the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

It is far from certain that the four European powers would actively endorse such a statement, but

by keeping silent they could approve it by default. Haig is known to have been in contact with America's European allies on this issue before Shamir arrived in Washington.

Believes Crisis Was Averted

Shamir said in a radio interview this afternoon that he believed his whirlwind trip to Washington had averted a looming crisis in U.S.-Israeli relations.

Haig and Shamir began their talks at 10 a.m. Washington time, little more than two hours after the Israeli Foreign Minister landed. When they concluded the talks at 5:30 p.m., both men said they were optimistic.

Shamir stressed that there was no linkage between Israel's request for a broader strategic cooperation agreement and the issue of European participation in the MFO. Haig, for his part, stressed that inclusion of the European powers would enhance the international legitimacy of the Sinai peacekeeping force and the legitimacy of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and the Camp David accords.

Shamir emphasized that there was no problem between Israel and the U.S. over the MFO. The problem, he said, was with the Europeans. Both stressed that their meeting had been fruitful and was conducted in the most friendly atmosphere.

In a speech yesterday at Valley Forge, Pa., Haig said that while there were unresolved questions about the composition of the MFO, there was no doubt that the force would be in place on schedule and that Israel would complete its withdrawal from Sinai next April "in accordance with the Camp David accords." He spoke at the headquarters of the Freedom Foundation, a private group that promotes study of the U.S. Constitution.

In addition to the MFO issue, Haig's talks with Shamir covered the situation in Lebanon, the ongoing autonomy talks and the strategic cooperation agreement.

Cabinet Meeting Reportedly Stormy

Shamir briefed Begin this morning before the Cabinet gathered around his bedside. Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor said the Cabinet was not able to complete its deliberations on the MFO today because of the doctors' 90-minute limit on the meeting. The meeting, chaired by Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich, was reported to have been stormy. The differences arose over whether Sharon should delay his trip to Washington.

Several Ministers protested vigorously over what they thought was the undue haste with which they were required to examine and decide on the American proposals for strategic cooperation. Education Minister Zevulun Hammer demanded that Sharon delay his departure for a day. But Begin was determined to have the strategic cooperation agreement concluded as speedily as possible.

Naor told reporters afterwards that Sharon would not sign the accord "immediately." The Cabinet instructed him to insist on certain vital additions to the text but the consensus here is that the agreement will be signed sometime this week.

Begin is said to consider it a major political achievement for Israel even though it does not contain

all that Israel had hoped for. He regards it, moreover, as a personal triumph achieved during his meeting with President Reagan in Washington last September, and is said to feel that whatever is lacking now could be built into strategic cooperation once the agreement is in force.

Several Elements Emerge

One element Israel reluctantly agreed to forego is joint U.S.-Israeli military exercises on Israeli soil, similar to the joint exercises already twice conducted by the U.S. and Egypt on Egyptian soil. But the U.S. ruled that out for political reasons. It agreed, however, to joint sea and air exercises with Israel.

A new element welcomed here was the agreement with the Pentagon over the weekend that the pact would contain a secret addendum specifying cooperation in intelligence and other sensitive areas. Israel also secured American consent to have the agreement ratified officially by the two governments after it is signed, thus giving it more formal binding force.

Another improvement from Israel's viewpoint will have the accord spell out an element of "reciprocity," meaning that each side would help the other, not merely that Israel would cooperate with the U.S. against possible Soviet aggression in the Middle East. Some Ministers were uncomfortable with the emphasis the American draft placed on the anti-Soviet aims of the agreement and Sharon was instructed to try to broaden its scope.

Cabinet sources said today that Israel already has obtained U.S. consent to add a reference to Soviet satellites in the region so that the accord is perceived to be directed against aggression by Soviet surrogates and not merely at the less likely threat of Red Army action.

Protests Over Sabbath Trip

Shamir's seven hour-plus meeting with Haig is believed to have set a record for a single day's diplomatic conference. But the fact that Shamir was forced to fly home to Israel on Saturday drew fierce protests from the religious parties in Begin's coalition government.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg of the National Religious Party said the Sabbath trip was "a blatant deviation from the declared policy and attitude of the Begin government." Menachem Porush, a Knesset member of the Agudat Israel, said his party would demand a commitment that no similar Sabbath violation would occur in the future.

Shamir said he was "sorry" his mission had forced him to fly on the Sabbath. But he said it had been most urgent for him to return home immediately to convey the U.S. position to Begin.

REPORT SHARP INCREASE IN NEO-NAZI, RIGHTWING GROUPS IN WEST GERMANY

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- The sharp increase in neo-Nazi and extreme rightwing organizations prepared to resort to violence has been detailed by Andres Von Schoeler, Vice Minister for Interior Affairs. He said this phenomenon was dramatized by the discovery of scores of weapons caches in Lower Saxony last month belonging to such organizations.

In written replies to questions by Bundestag members, Von Schoeler noted that a single search among neo-Nazi groups this year netted 29 weapons and 6,000 books or other propaganda publications. In all of 1980 only 205 such publica-

tions were found, he said. He noted further that 304 rightwing extremists were found guilty by West German courts this year compared to 207 last year.

The centers of neo-Nazi activities are Hamburg, Bremen, Nuremberg, Munich and the Federal State of Lower Saxony, Von Schoeler reported. The organizations are funded mainly by donations. But since 1979 they have had contacts with similar groups in Belgium, Britain, the U.S., Canada and other countries. According to Von Schoeler, German neo-Nazis also have close contacts with Al Fatah, the military arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization, headed by PLO chief Yasir Arafat.

While the government is not considering a general ban on neo-Nazi activities, there is a limit of tolerance which was manifested last year, when the government outlawed the Wehrsportsgruppe Hoffmann, a neo-Nazi organization that masqueraded as a sports club.

200 PEOPLE RALLY AGAINST CLOSING OF WEST BANK UNIVERSITY; 49 ARRESTED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Security forces arrested 49 Israelis, most of them Jews, who demonstrated in Ramallah yesterday against the continued closure of Bir Zeit University. Most were released after spending the night in jail but six remained in custody at Jerusalem police headquarters today for further questioning.

The army used tear gas to disperse the demonstrators, some 200 of whom gathered in the main square of the West Bank city to protest the Military Government's shut-down of the Arab university on Nov. 4 and the recent demolition of Arab homes in Bethlehem and Beit Sahour. The demonstration was organized by the Committee for Solidarity With Bir Zeit. The Israelis arrested were mostly university professors, lecturers and students accused of throwing stones at security forces.

A military spokesman said the demonstrators were warned to disperse before tear gas was used. Participants in the demonstration denied that any warning was given. The incident was the first in which Israeli forces used tear gas in a demonstration of this kind.

It began shortly before noon yesterday. The protestors shouted slogans such as "End the occupation" and "Open Bir Zeit." Some distributed pamphlets in Hebrew and Arabic. Local residents remained on the sidelines but encouraged the demonstrators.

Bir Zeit University, regarded as a hotbed of Palestinian nationalism by Israeli authorities, was shut down after several days of campus disorders. The homes demolished by Israeli forces belonged to families whose members were accused of throwing gasoline bombs at Israeli vehicles.

ISRAELI ENVOY, BRITISH LABOR PARTY LEADER, CLASH OVER BEGIN'S POLICIES

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Shlomo Argov, Israeli Ambassador to Britain, last night clashed with Eric Heffer, one of the most powerful politicians in the British Labor Party, who had savagely attacked the election campaign of Israel's ruling Likud bloc.

The clash took place after a speech by Israel's Labor Party leader, Shimon Peres, to a fund-raising dinner of the British Labor Friends of Israel. Peres was the key speaker but his remarks were largely overshadowed by Argov's defense of Premier Menachem Begin against Heffer's attack.

Heffer had harked back to the tumultuous scenes at some of Begin's election rallies which had been prominently screened on British television. He called them frightening signs of the intolerance being encour-

aged by the present Israeli government. Argov, who had been scheduled to give merely a brief message of greetings from his government, passionately rejected Heffer's complaints, and asked him whether he would like foreigners to judge Britain as a whole by some of the scenes which he had recently witnessed on television here.

Meeting Marked By Political Strains

Even before Argov's intervention, last night's dinner, at the House of Commons, had been marked by the political strains between the British and Israeli Labor Parties. Peres had started his own speech by playing down differences between Israel's government and opposition over foreign policy and bitterly attacked the policies of Britain and its European partners.

Heffer, however, said that while he supported Israel he could not support Begin, whom he called "not very helpful, to put it in the mildest terms."

Michael Foot, leader of the British Labor Party, also showed his distaste for the Begin government. In a message printed in the dinner brochure, he said that Labor Parties in Britain and Israel faced the same kind of domestic opponents:

"They seem wedded to a furious anti-Socialist market economy which could spread devastating results."

In his speech, Peres scoffed at the policies by British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington and his European partners and reiterated his own belief in linking the West Bank with Jordan. Expressing confidence in the Camp David peace process, he said he hoped that autonomy for the Palestinians would begin to become a reality -- "at least in the Gaza Strip" -- before next April's scheduled Israeli withdrawal from the rest of Sinai.

Heffer, who spoke after Peres, said British Labor was "praying" for Peres' party to return to power and also supported Palestinian self-determination. Thus, while Peres was in reality speaking for Begin, Heffer was effectively speaking for Carrington. Clearly, something has changed in the once intimate links between the Labor Parties of Israel and Britain, when both were in power.

The change was made more poignant by the fact that Sir Harold Wilson, under whose long leadership that friendship flowered, presided at last night's dinner. A weary and sick man, the former Prime Minister kept his own remarks to a bare minimum. His silence was more eloquent than words.

BROWN APPEALS TO REAGAN TO FIND OUT FATE OF WALLENBERG

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Governor Edmund Brown, Jr. has appealed to President Reagan to officially ask Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev for a report on Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved 100,000 Jews in Hungary from the Holocaust.

Brown made the appeal at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Center at the Yeshiva University of Los Angeles, commemorating Wallenberg and his role during the war years. Reagan recently awarded Wallenberg honorary U.S. citizenship for his heroic actions in issuing counterfeit Swedish passports to Jews in Hungary.

Wallenberg disappeared in Budapest in 1945 where he had been a representative of the American War Refugee Board attached to the Swedish Embassy. The Soviet Union has claimed that Wallenberg died in prison. However, former Soviet prisoners as well as many prominent individuals around the world believe that Wallenberg is still alive.

Brown told the meeting that for 36 years "Jews all over the world have attempted to learn the fate of Raoul Wallenberg. Although all efforts have failed, many who have pursued this search believe that Wallenberg may still be alive. Dead or alive, Jewish people all over the world cry out for word of his fate Raoul Wallenberg, a non-Jew, is a symbol of world concern for the millions of Jews who died during the Holocaust."

Award Given To Wallenberg, In Absentia

In a related action, the Simon Wiesenthal Center paid tribute to the Swedish diplomat by presenting its Simon Wiesenthal Humanitarian Laureate, in absentia, to Wallenberg. Nina Lagergren, Wallenberg's sister, accepted the award on her brother's behalf. Wiesenthal, the Nazi-hunter, told the 1,200 national leaders from the arts and business communities attending the award ceremony, that Wallenberg is "one of the 36 Righteous," those "who by their deeds and way of life unknowingly help mankind not to despair of man and the world. They shine as the light in the darkness, they guard the world against doom."

Actor Jon Voight, who will portray the heroic diplomat in an upcoming motion picture, said: "Raoul's saga is not only about courage and heroism. It is about someone who cared about ethics and morals at a time when the world continued to place little emphasis on such virtues."

Other motion picture and television personalities who paid tribute to Wallenberg were Barbra Streisand, Milton Berle, Rod Steiger and Rita Moreno. Elizabeth Taylor, a Center trustee, was unable to attend due to laryngitis. Dinah Shore substituted for her.

BOOK EXTOLLING WAFEN SS SCORED AS A MENACE TO WEST GERMAN YOUTH

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- A book extolling the Waffen SS, written by a former member of the notorious Nazi security police, has been branded a menace to West German youth for spreading neo-Nazi ideas. Not surprisingly, it has been praised in neo-Nazi publications.

The angry controversy surrounding "Ich War Dabei" ("I Was At It") by Franz Schoenhuber has put it on the best seller list. The publisher, Langen-Mueller Verlag, said the first two editions have sold better than expected and a third edition is in preparation.

Public figures and journalists in Munich and elsewhere have attacked the book and have demanded that the author resign from his post as honorary chairman of the Bavarian Journalists Association. Schoenhuber has refused. Only a few weeks ago, he was reelected vice chief editor of the Bavarian State television and radio station.

The neo-Nazi newspaper National Zeitung called the work "The Book of the Year." But an organization of journalists associated with nationwide trade unions said it should be blacklisted because of its dangerous affect on German youth. They said the book propagates Nazi ideas, citing passages in which Schoenhuber praises the "Waffen SS as brave and sincere men who wanted to establish a system of 'real National Socialism.'"

Former members of the Waffen SS are still active. They organize regular meetings which have become scenes of anti-Nazi protests in recent years. They are also organized into an official political lobby with influence on government policy in the state-run pension fund and other areas.

AGUDATH ISRAEL LEADERS WARN ORTHODOX JEWRY TO AVOID ELITISM

PORT CHESTER, N.Y., Nov. 29 (JTA) -- A dean of a rabbinical seminary and two leading Orthodox rabbis warned "a rapidly growing American Orthodox Jewish community to avoid the attitude of elitism in its relationship with other Jews."

Addressing more than 3,000 Orthodox Jews from this country and abroad attending the three-day 59th convention of Agudath Israel of America at the Rye Town Hilton here, Rabbi A. Henoch Leibowitz, dean of the Chofetz Chaim Rabbinical Seminary in Queens, N.Y., called on Orthodox Jews to "attract unaffiliated Jews by setting an example of superior moral standards."

It is essential, he said, "to address our alienated brethren as our equals rather than talking down to them." At the same time, Leibowitz called on Orthodox Jews to "perfect their own religious observance before reaching out to others -- not as an act of self-centeredness, but as a means of being worthy of helping others."

The spiritual leaders of Agudath Israel chapters called on Orthodox Jews to re-examine their observance of such religious standards as kashruth and ethics in business. Rabbi Moshe Heineman of the Agudath Israel in Baltimore said that the Jewish community "should be applauded for its success in making kosher food so widely available," but he criticized those who "make summary judgments about the validity of kashruth supervision without knowing the facts." Heineman also congratulated rabbinical authorities in Israel for cracking down against fraudulent religious articles, such as tefillin and mezuzos exported to this country.

Rabbi Nissan Alpert of the Agudath Israel of Far Rockaway, N.Y. condemned the "abuse of specific religious laws pertaining to business ethics." He added: "We cannot accept that Jewish businessmen should conduct their business in an atmosphere where a word is not a word and a promise is not a promise."

Goal Of Orthodox Jews

At a session marking the 60th anniversary of Agudath Israel of America, a leader of the organization's Council of Torah Sages and the president of the organization agreed that Orthodoxy's goal was "nothing short of a complete revival of its pre-Holocaust strength."

Rabbi Mordechai Gifter, dean of the Telshe Yeshiva in Wickliffe, Ohio called America "the last Torah station," adding: "We must seek to introduce Torah values to all Jews as a guide for their lives." He criticized "the synthetic Judaism promulgated by some secular Jewish leaders."

Picking up on this theme was Rabbi Moshe Sherer, president of Agudath Israel of America and chairman of its world organization. Calling "the trauma of the three wings of Judaism" the biggest problem for world Jewry, he urged Orthodox groups to leave religious umbrella groups which include Reform and Conservative representation. He added: "How much longer will they continue to sin by being part of this soap bubble of synthetic Judaism?"

The Agudath Israel convention applauded the promise by President Reagan to work for tuition tax credits for parents of private schools. In a message to the convention, the President wrote: "I welcome this opportunity to express my contin-

uing high regard for your organization, which for so many years has worked to preserve the historical continuity of Judaic culture and history and contribute to the moral and religious fiber of our nation ... I firmly believe that the role of government in the field of education is to assist parents, to make their burden easier, not to interfere with them. Government's proper role is to ensure that parents have freedom of choice in selecting those schools which best reflect their own moral and cultural values.

"As I have said, let there be no misunderstanding. This Administration will keep its pledge to work with this Congress to formulate the kind of legislation which provides tax relief to those families which pay tuition in addition to supporting their public schools."

ADL CRITICIZES SOVIET FILM ON BABI YAR AS DISTORTION OF HISTORY

NEW YORK, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- A new Soviet documentary film on the Nazi massacre at Babi Yar "distorts history" by virtually ignoring the murder of approximately 100,000 Jews, according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. ADL associate director Abraham Foxman said the 70-minute film, like the Soviet memorial at the massacre site near Kiev, neglects the principal victims of the World War II slaughter.

The Ukrainian-produced documentary -- a description of the 1941-42 German invasion of the Ukraine, which focuses on Babi Yar -- was screened recently for an audience of diplomats at the United Nations. Prepared for Soviet television, it may also be exhibited throughout Western Europe and entered in film festivals in the United States according to Ukrainian officials.

Foxman said the "documentary" not only glosses over Jewish martyrdom but rejects the Jewish role in the resistance to Hitler, concentrating instead on Ukrainian and Soviet partisan fighters.

The film dishonors the memory of the victims of Babi Yar, the ADL official said, by including a propaganda message that equates present-day Zionism with Nazism. Furthermore, he asserted, it intersperses film clips of American neo-Nazi and Ku Klux Klan rallies in an attempt to link the U.S. with Nazism.

Tragedy Dismissed In One Sentence

Foxman said that what happened to the Jews at Babi Yar is dismissed in one sentence: "For the first five days, those who were killed were mostly Jews."

"While the sentence is accurate," Foxman declared, "the time limitation conveys the impression that Jews were only a small part of the total murdered by the Nazis. Actually, the killings were part of Hitler's Final Solution and comparatively few other than Jews are buried in the mass grave." The film refers to the Babi Yar massacre as "political murder" instead of genocide.

The only other references to Jews in the film, Foxman said, are a fleeting glimpse of a sign ordering them to assemble at a certain time and place, and a listing of the victims -- "Ukrainians, Gypsies, Jews, Russians, and Khazars" -- of Nazi death camps. The most flagrant omission, according to Foxman, occurs in the film's portrayal of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. "The narrator manages to describe the heroic revolt of the Jews without mentioning Jews," he said.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Ben Gurion Airport, plagued by strikes, was again hit by a strike Sunday, but it did not immediately affect flights. Workers refueling aircraft protested the refusal of the local oil supply firm to increase their wages.