

SHAMIR: HABIB UNSUCCESSFUL IN EFFORTS TO GET SYRIA TO REMOVE ITS MISSILES FROM LEBANON

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir told the Cabinet today that U.S. special envoy Philip Habib has made no progress in his efforts to persuade Syria to remove its SAM-6 anti-aircraft missiles from Lebanon.

Shamir, who met with Habib here last Friday, said he informed the American envoy that Israel would give him more time to pursue his mission but that its patience had limits. On a radio interview over the weekend, however, the Foreign Minister set no deadline beyond which Israel would take action to remove the missiles itself. "Habib is on his way, but the way is still long," Shamir said.

Habib went to Jordan after his stopover in Israel and was in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, today, apparently trying to re-enlist Saudi support to consolidate the shaky cease-fire in Lebanon.

Shamir indicated that he didn't think the American envoy would succeed in his broader objective of bringing peace to the area, but said he would be given every chance, at least by Israel. He said Habib's trip to Amman was connected with Jordanian efforts to prevent terrorists from acting against Israel from Jordan territory.

Syrians More Adamant Than Ever

The impasse with Syria remained unbroken. Habib was first sent to the region by President Reagan last May to prevent an outbreak of war over the missile deployment in Lebanon. He returned this month to try to convince the Syrians to offer some minor concessions to reduce the tension, such as replacing Syrian units in the Arab peacekeeping force in Lebanon with units from other Arab countries.

The Syrians refused and Israel, for its part, made it clear that it would not accept any more Arab troops in Lebanon, even if they replaced the Syrians.

The Syrians are, if anything, more adamant over the missiles since Israel signed its strategic cooperation agreement with the U.S. last week. Official organs in Damascus described the U.S. as "the number one enemy of the Arabs." They added that unless fundamental changes are made in American policy, Habib could make "a thousand futile trips to Damascus." The missiles, according to the Syrian sources, are not negotiable.

Denies Compromise In Joint Memo

Shamir, in his radio interview, denied that Israel had made any "compromise" when it agreed to a joint statement with the U.S. on European participation in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in Sinai. He said the agreement was a very important political achievement for Israel.

"It made clear to the Europeans and others as well that Israel was a factor to be taken into most serious consideration in any discussions on the Middle East," Shamir said. He said that the visit to Israel by French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, beginning tomorrow, was in preparation for

the visit by President Francois Mitterrand early next year. Both of those visits and scheduled visits by other European leaders indicated an improvement in Israeli-European relations, Shamir said.

He claimed that these developments reflected the foreign policy achievements of the Likud government during the past four years.

Defense Minister Ariel Sharon also met with Habib last Friday. He complained to the American that the terrorists have violated the Lebanese cease-fire 40 times since it went into effect last July.

GHORBAL URGES ISRAEL TO CHANGE ITS IMAGE AS 'AN UNHAPPY OCCUPIER' AND TO EXPAND ITS CEASE-FIRE WITH LEBANON INTO A PEACE TREATY

BOSTON, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- Ashraf Ghorbal, Egypt's Ambassador to the United States, said last night that Israel should "change its attitude, doing away with its image as an unhappy occupier and create a relaxed atmosphere that would induce Palestinians to join the autonomy talks."

Ghorbal said that "despite three decades of fears, doubts and misconceptions, Egypt can fill the role of bridge between Israel and the Palestinians." He also urged that the cease-fire across the Israel-Lebanon border be expanded into a peace treaty "as the first step toward mutual recognition by Israelis and Palestinians."

The Egyptian Ambassador's remarks were part of an address to 4,000 delegates attending the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) 56th biennial convention here. Ghorbal accepted a posthumous award from the UAHC to the late Egyptian President, Anwar Sadat, for "services to the world community."

Ghorbal called Sadat a "leader of great vision" and said Sadat's successor, President Hosni Mubarak, is a "man in Sadat's image" who is committed to strengthening relations with Israel while at the same time fulfilling the commitments of the Camp David agreements.

Lewis: Threat Of Mideast War Has Receded

Meanwhile, Samuel Lewis, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, making a rare appearance before an American Jewish audience, told the UAHC convention that the "threat of war in the Middle East has receded" and that "the U.S. and Israel now enjoy an open, defacto relationship as symbolized by the signing of the memorandum of understanding" last week by U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon.

Lewis added that Israel was "more powerful than any time in her history thanks to the help of the United States." He said the Camp David process was the "only agreed upon solution to the problem of the Palestinians."

While acknowledging past differences because of "differing roles, responsibilities, assessments and expectations," Lewis said, "There has been no erosion in the deep historic, bipartisan American commitment to Israel's security and permanence."

Also addressing the UAHC, the central body of Reform Judaism in the U.S., was Ephraim Evron,

Israel's Ambassador to the United States. In one of his final appearances before retiring as the Israeli envoy, Evron said U.S.-Israel relations were even closer today than they were three years ago, when he assumed his post. He predicted that "this closeness will continue."

Citing Israel's growth and development, Evron said Israel's security and the chances of peace depend on four fundamental considerations: the strength of Israel's defense forces; Israel's economic viability and social cohesion; the commitment of world Jewry to Israel's security; and the special and unique relationship between Israel and the U.S.

PLO SEEKING PUBLIC SYMPATHY, RECOGNITION BY COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT

BOGOTA, Colombia, Dec. 6 (JTA)--The Palestine Liberation Organization, in a concerted effort to gain public sympathy and recognition by the Colombian government, carried out a major propaganda campaign last month using print and television media.

"El Tiempo," a major Bogota daily, ran a series of lengthy articles on the PLO, stressing children and suffering of Palestinians. The articles were written by a reporter who went to Lebanon at the invitation of the PLO, which also invited television reporters. An interview with PLO chief Yasir Arafat was shown, along with scenes of various peaceful PLO activities in Bogota. The United Nations-sponsored Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People was marked by a full-page ad in El Tiempo and a screening of a UN film on Palestinians.

According to Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, director of the Latin American Affairs Department of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, observers here believe the media blitz will have little impact in Colombia, a country traditionally supportive of Israel. Colombia has promised to provide a battalion of infantry troops for the international peacekeeping force in Sinai, more troops than any other Latin American country.

A second factor cited by Rosenthal is the anti-terrorist campaign currently being waged by the Colombian government against the M-19 and FARC guerrilla organizations. Seven guerrillas were killed in clashes with government troops last week.

LEADER OF TEMPLE SISTERHOODS URGES INTENSIFIED EFFORTS ON DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

BOSTON, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- The leader of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods (NFTS) urged the 1,000 delegates attending the organization's 33rd biennial convention to intensify their efforts on behalf of Israel's security, Soviet Jewry rights for women, church-state separation and freedom of choice in abortion.

Lillian Maltzer of Detroit described a meeting two weeks ago with President Reagan and his advisors in the White House, where she was a member of a delegation of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations: "We raised with the President our strong misgivings about public acts and statements of anti-Semitism" that emerged during the debate in Congress on the sale of AWACS planes and other sophisticated weaponry to Saudi Arabia, "the appearance of United States abandonment of the Camp David peace process and acceptance of the Fahd 'peace plan,' and our fears that reliance on Saudi Arabia as a peace-maker in the Middle East was a fragile reed on which to

build a secure peace." Mrs. Maltzer said the delegation was reassured by Reagan that he was committed to the Camp David accords, that he abhorred anti-Semitism, and that his Administration did not accept the proposals formulated by Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

Lesson Should Provide Incentive

"The lesson from this should give us the incentive to speak up forthrightly on issues which affect us, even though we may not always win the day," she said. "We could not prevent the AWACS sale, but we left a strong enough impression to create in the Administration the uneasy feeling that it had lost ground politically and that assurances were in order." Mrs. Maltzer emphasized that "Our silence would have been interpreted as acquiescence. Our protests were correctly heard."

She also urged the delegates attending the five-day convention of the sisterhoods of Reform synagogues in the United States and 15 foreign countries, which is being held here in conjunction with the 56th biennial assembly of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, to intensify their activities on behalf of domestic concerns, including seeking the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and opposing "the proposed Constitutional amendment that would give each state the right to determine whether or not to allow freedom of choice in abortion."

ADMINISTRATION ASSESSES DOWNWARD TREND OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration warned that if the present downward trend of immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union continues, the rate this year will be the lowest "since the Soviet Union began to permit significant Jewish emigration in the early 1970s." The Administration also charged that along with this cut in emigration "Soviet authorities began a major crackdown on Jewish activists."

The charges were contained in the President's Eleventh Semi-Annual Report to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe on the Implementation of the Helsinki Final Act. The report, which covers the period June 1 to Nov. 30, was transmitted last week by Secretary of State Alexander Haig for President Reagan to the Congressional commission headed by Rep. Dante Fascell (D. Fla.).

"Only 8,047 (Jews) have left in the first nine months of 1981, as compared to 17,734 during the same period in 1980 and 38,678 in the first nine months of 1979," the report said. "Many Soviet Jews attribute this decline to the deterioration of East-West relations in the past several years and to Soviet reluctance to lose skilled manpower."

The report said that potential emigrants, "Jewish applicants, especially," have experienced difficulty in receiving the required letter of invitation from abroad needed to emigrate. The report noted that, in addition, Jewish sources estimate that more than 200,000 Soviet Jews already have the necessary letter from Israel. Some Jews have been waiting as long as eight years to emigrate.

The Presidential report noted that Max Kampelman, the chairman of the American delegation to the conference reviewing the Helsinki accord, has brought up all these violations during the spring session and when the conference reconvened in October in Madrid. In November, Kampelman raised the question of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who helped save 100,000 Hungarian Jews from the Nazis in World War II and who is believed to be in a Soviet prison since the end of the war. He was recently granted Ameri-

can citizenship. The Presidential report also noted a reduction in the rate of emigration from Rumania. It said that during the first nine months of 1981, 677 Rumanian Jews left for Israel, as compared to 778 during the same period in 1980. Several hundred applicants have waited three months or more to emigrate, the report said, and some cases are several years old.

"The Rumanian authorities maintain Jewish emigration is static due to the dwindling Jewish population in Rumania, which they state is substantially made up of elderly people who are reluctant to emigrate," the report said. "They point to the fact that several hundred thousand Jews have left Rumania since World War II, and only perhaps as few as 35,000 remain."

Situation In Poland

In a section on Poland, the report noted that the small Jewish minority there "maintains its traditions" and that the "government has permitted emigration to Israel. The Warsaw synagogue has been renovated and restoration of many unkept Jewish cemeteries has been promised."

But the report added that there is "one disturbing note" which "is the continuation of some previously reported anti-Semitism. The ultra-nationalistic Grunwald Patriotic Union, through its weekly publication, Reality, has led an isolated but sharp attack, blaming Polish Jews for everything of a tragic character which has occurred in Poland since 1945. The national Polish press on June 2 published a protest by the Social-Cultural Society of Jews in Poland against these anti-Semitic acts."

BEGIN TRANSFERS POWER, AUTHORITY OF HIS OFFICE TO EHRLICH

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin transferred the full powers and authority of his office to Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich last Monday, three days after he was hospitalized for a broken hip, it was disclosed in a lengthy letter the Premier dictated to Haaretz columnist Yoel Marcus published in that newspaper last Friday.

Ehrlich, a leader of Likud's Liberal Party wing, chaired today's Cabinet meeting. According to officials he remains in charge of the government for the present.

The unusual 3,000-word letter Begin dictated from his bed in Hadassah Hospital described in detail how his hip joint was fractured when he fell in his bathroom and the subsequent surgery and other treatment. He said he transferred his authority to Ehrlich because he was in too much pain to exercise his duties.

Truthful About His Ailments

But the point Begin stressed in his letter -- and the apparent reason he offered it for publication at the newspaper's discretion -- was that he has always been truthful with the public about his various ailments which included two heart attacks. He chided the press for criticizing past Israeli leaders for misleading the public on the subject of their health.

Begin noted that often a politician became indisposed by ill health but felt he would recover with time and be able to carry on. However, political enemies often wanted to use the health issue against him, thus a measure of reticence was justified.

Begin said that he had known that former Premier Golda Meir was suffering from cancer 15-20 years before she died but despite their deep political differences he never used that knowledge to undermine her, although there were some who had urged him "to bring an end to her political career."

JACOBSON ELECTED JNF PRESIDENT

NEW YORK, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- Charlotte Jacobson, a leading American Zionist, has been elected president of the Jewish National Fund, succeeding Rabbi William Berkowitz. She is the first woman to head the 80-year-old Zionist afforestation and land development agency. Prior to her election by the JNF Board of Directors at its biennial meeting here, Mrs. Jacobson was chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section. Her two-year term in office as JNF leader begins immediately.

A native of New York City, Mrs. Jacobson has been active in Zionist activities for more than 30 years in various posts in numerous organizations. In Hadassah, she was its national vice president and national treasurer before serving as president from 1964 to 1968. She served as chairman of the Medical Building and Development Campaign until 1976 and was responsible for the rebuilding of the Hadassah Hospital on Mt. Scopus after the Six-Day War.

She was elected to the Jewish Agency Executive in 1968 and is a member of the Board of Governors of the reconstituted Jewish Agency for Israel. As chairman of its Commission on Higher Education, Mrs. Jacobson supervises its allocations for the seven institutions of higher learning in Israel that it supports. In 1970 she was co-chairman of a committee that resulted in the founding of the American Zionist Federation. She also served on the committee for the reorganization of the Jewish Agency.

She has visited many countries in her capacity as a Zionist leader and as an expert in international health and social development programs.

Her visits included the Soviet Union in 1966 where she led a special Hadassah mission to study at first hand the condition of Jews there; Egypt, where she led a group to survey medical and social services; and the People's Republic of China in 1979 to survey that country's social and medical programs.

THREE JEWISH CANDIDATES ELECTED

TORONTO, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- Three Jewish candidates were elected to the legislature of Manitoba in the recent elections there. These were Brian Corrin in Winnipeg, of the New Democratic Party (NDP) and Henry Carroll of Brandon, Manitoba, also of the NDP; and Ed Covnatz of Winnipeg of the Conservative Party. The NDP defeated the Conservative Party in the elections.

Saul Miller and Saul Cherniack, Cabinet Ministers in a previous NDP government, had withdrawn from the contest before the election was called. Sydney Green, also a member of an earlier NDP Cabinet, started a new party, the Progressives, which elected no members. Sidney Spivak, a former Conservative leader and Cabinet Minister did not run for re-election.

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WASHINGTON (JTA) -- Libyan ruler Muammar Qaddafi said Sunday that "Zionist propaganda" was "behind many of the allegations about us in America." He made his remarks in an interview from Tripoli broadcast on ABC-TV's "This Week With David Brinkley" program.

BACKGROUND REPORT FRANCE IS SEEKING TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- France's new Socialist Administration is moving fast ahead to improve France's relations with both Israel and the Arab states on the basis of an even-handed policy in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson is scheduled to arrive in Israel tomorrow to lay the groundwork for the first visit ever made by a French President. Francois Mitterrand is expected to arrive in Israel in February to symbolize France's new relationship with Israel.

Since his election last May, Mitterrand has tried and, up till now, succeeded in what seemed an impossible task: renew France's former friendship with Israel while continuing the former Administration's policy of close ties with the Arab countries and its backing of a Palestinian state.

Upon his election, Mitterrand was viewed with unconcealed suspicion by practically all the Arab world. He was known as a warm friend of Israel and a fervent backer of its right to ensure its security. The new President's first meetings were with King Khaled of Saudi Arabia and the presidents of half a dozen Arab states.

During these meetings, he said some things which Israel did not appreciate, but adamantly stuck to his basic approach concerning Israel's rights. He never varied one iota from this stand, not even during his recent visit to Algeria where he reiterated, while addressing the Parliament, Israel's right to secure borders.

Will Try To Balance The Approach

Both Cheysson and Mitterrand, during their forthcoming trips to Israel, will most probably balance this approach by calling for Palestinian participation in future peace talks and for the creation of a Palestinian state. Mitterrand's goodwill has seemed so convincing up till now that Israel has accepted from him views and suggestions which would have been considered openly hostile coming from anyone else.

Both Premier Menachem Begin and some Labor Party leaders have tried to disassociate Mitterrand from the pro-Palestinian statements made by Cheysson. Last week Begin said in an interview with French television that "Mitterrand is our friend," adding "the same cannot be said about his Foreign Minister."

Whatever the French Foreign Minister's own views might be, Cheysson only carries out presidential directives. If anything, Mitterrand has an even stronger grip on foreign affairs than his two predecessors, Presidents Valery Giscard d'Estaing and Georges Pompidou.

During Mitterrand's visit to Israel and his forthcoming talks with Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, he plans to make it clear, French sources say, that Cheysson only carries out the policies laid down by the Elysee.

Mitterrand's trump card up till now has been his intimate knowledge of how Israel reacts and how the Jewish mind works. His old association with various Israeli leaders and his many Jewish friends have taught him the importance of symbols -- the irritation caused by certain terms and gestures and the Jewish sensitivity to certain associations.

The new Socialist Administration, with the exception of Cheysson's statements in Beirut last

August has up till now avoided the pitfalls into which former Gaullist Administrations have fallen and which cost Giscard his electoral defeat. During his visit to Beirut, Cheysson called for Palestine Liberation Organization participation in future Mideast peace talks and affirmed that the Palestinians should be given the opportunity for self-determination. Also during his visit, Cheysson met with PLO chief Yasir Arafat.

In spite of the new "Mitterrand manner," France's policy remains basically the same. It is warmer towards Israel and more understanding of Israel's needs but, as it became apparent in last month's joint declaration with Britain, Holland and Italy over the Sinai peacekeeping force, it continues to subscribe to the Venice Declaration issued by the Europeans in June 1980 which calls for the PLO's inclusion in future peace talks and the eventual creation of a Palestinian state.

What both Mitterrand and Cheysson plan to say, in varying terms -- Mitterrand more tactfully, Cheysson more harshly -- is that France continues to support the Camp David agreements but believes that these accords will soon reach the end of the road and new avenues should then be explored.

Serious Differences Will Develop

In spite of Mitterrand's warm words and sincere friendship, it is at this stage that serious differences will develop in the relations between the two countries as Israel is convinced that the Camp David agreements should be the basis for all future peace developments and adamantly refuses to consider a PLO role in the process.

France, together with practically all of Western Europe, is already calling for the opening of a new diplomatic chapter after Israel's withdrawal from Sinai next April. It will be Cheysson's task, during his visit to Israel, to explain that France's backing for this policy is not hostile to Israel.

But, as the Minister said in an interview with *Le Monde*, "motivated by the belief that Israel's future depends on peace with all the Arab forces in the region (including the Palestinians) and its integration within the area," it seems highly unlikely that Cheysson will succeed in convincing either Begin or the opposition.

CABINET DEFERS DECISION ON MEMO

JERUSALEM, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- The Cabinet today postponed final approval of the U.S.-Israel memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation until the Ministers have more time to study the document. The Cabinet decided to discuss the issue at next week's session.

Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich, who chaired the weekly Cabinet session in the absence of Premier Menachem Begin who is recovering from a broken hip, wanted immediate approval, but Education Minister Zevulun Hammer objected.

The joint U.S.-Israel document was signed by Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger last Monday in Washington. The agreement includes joint military maneuvers between the two countries and sets up a U.S.-Israel coordinating council. The memorandum sparked a bitter dispute between the Israel government coalition and opposition parties over its consequences for Israel.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Jerusalem Post is marking its 50th anniversary by sponsoring a Jewish National Fund forest in the city's suburb of Neve Yaacov.