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CHEYSSON: FRANCE WILL HELP ISRAEL RENEW DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH AFRICA

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson pledged here this week that his country would actively help Israel in its efforts to re-establish diplomatic ties with Africa.

Cheysson, who himself has wide-ranging personal connections with African leaders, told Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir that some of the African states now aligned with the pro-Soviet camp have indicated that they would like to restore relations with Israel now that the pullback from Sinai is about to be completed.

Disclosing this yesterday, Israeli officials added that Cheysson had been "very optimistic" and said it "should not be difficult now" for Israel to renew its ties with Africa. He said many key figures in Africa recall "with tears in their eyes" the goodwill and efficacy of Israeli experts who ran cooperation programs in their countries before the rupture of relations in 1973.

The officials were sharply critical of the publicity that attended Defence Minister Ariel Sharon's recent secret swing through a number of African countries. This publicity was "damaging" and was "a bad thing," the officials said. They hoped that the desire of several African states to restore full ties with Israel would "overcome their fears which were caused or compounded by this publicity."

The officials noted that Shamir met separately with six African Foreign Ministers during the UN General Assembly session this autumn but at their request he made sure that no word of the meetings leaked out.

UNREST SPREADING IN GAZA, WEST BANK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- Unrest spread like wildfire today from the strike-paralyzed Gaza Strip to the West Bank where youths burned tires, threw rocks at Israeli military vehicles and raised Palestinian flags. Israeli soldiers entered a Ramallah school and tore down a Palestinian flag.

A general strike was called in Gaza five days ago to protest the new Israeli policy of transferring authority from the military to a local civilian administrative body. Passions were further inflamed when Israeli troops killed a 16-year-old Arab youth and wounded three other teen-agers during a violent demonstration Monday in Rafah at the southern extremity of the Gaza Strip.

The military said the soldiers fired in self-defense when surrounded by a stone-throwing mob. The dead youth, Mohammed Sullieman Nahle, was buried this morning under tight security guard. Only members of his family were permitted to attend the funeral. A curfew imposed on Rafah was still in effect at the end of the day.

Yesterday, Israeli soldiers using welding torches, sealed off 170 shops in Gaza as a punitive measure against their owners who refused to open for business. The strike was supposed to have ended yesterday but the Arab municipal authorities extended it for two more days to protest the military's

action. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court handed down an interim order today barring the Military Government from linking the West Bank village of Salfit in the Hebron region to Israel's national electricity grid. The court gave the government 30 days to show cause why the change should be allowed.

The army claimed that it was intended only to improve service for the villagers who presently get their electricity from a local power station. The Mayor of Salfit and the town council said the local station had never malfunctioned and provided efficient service. They contended, in their appeal to the high court, that the Israeli move was a politically motivated step to further strengthen Israel's grip on the occupied territories.

In Response To Appeal From Begin: HIAS AGREES TO COOPERATE ON TRIAL BASIS WITH JEWISH AGENCY FOR HANDLING SOVIET JEWS IN VIENNA

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- In response to a personal appeal from Israeli Premier Menachem Begin, HIAS -- the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society -- today agreed to cooperate on a trial basis with a Jewish Agency plan for the handling of Soviet Jews arriving in Vienna. The plan, under which HIAS will assist Soviet Jewish emigrants only if they have first degree relatives in the U.S. or other Western countries, was introduced by the Jewish Agency last August.

HIAS participation, some terms of which are still to be negotiated, was approved by its board of directors and was announced by Edwin Shapiro, the organization's president.

Shapiro said HIAS would test the plan for a three-month period starting around Jan. 1 "in the hope that it will result in a heavier flow of Jews from the Soviet Union." He noted that only 1,136 Jews had left the USSR during the past three months -- "the lowest number in the last 10 years."

"At the end of three months," Shapiro said, "the results will be evaluated and a determination made about continuing the new policy." He disclosed that he and HIAS executive vice president Leonard Seidenman had met with Begin in Jerusalem Nov. 22. At that meeting the Israeli leader appealed to the organization to try out the plan.

Background Of The Issue

In a statement issued today, HIAS explained that under a long-standing arrangement between the Jewish Agency and HIAS, Jewish refugees arriving in Vienna from the Soviet Union have been met by Jewish Agency workers and urged to continue on to Israel. Until last August, if they declined to do so, the Jewish Agency referred them to HIAS, which provided assistance in emigrating to lands other than Israel.

"In August, however, the Jewish Agency unilaterally announced it would no longer refer to HIAS those Soviet Jews who on their arrival in Vienna chose not to go to Israel," the HIAS statement said. "The only exceptions were those who had spouses, parents or children in the U.S."

HIAS responded at that time that it was "not prepared to refuse its services to Soviet Jewish emigrants who have not been specifically referred by the Jewish Agency." Since August, HIAS has been assisting such

emigrants who have sought its help on their own initiative.

Under the trial plan, the HIAS statement noted, it is expected that Soviet Jews who do not wish to go to Israel will seek the help of other refugee and resettlement organizations, both Jewish and non-Jewish. Funds for Soviet refugee resettlement to the U.S. are furnished largely by the U.S. government.

Dulzin Welcomes HIAS decision

(In Jerusalem, Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, welcomed the decision by HIAS to cooperate with the Jewish Agency plan. This arrangement had been in effect last August, but was then dropped by HIAS, he noted.

(During the time it was in effect many Soviet Jews who would have sought HIAS' aid went instead to the anti-Zionist Satmar Hasidic Rav Tov organization. Dulzin told Israel Radio today that even if fewer Soviet Jews sought Rav Tov's aid under the new HIAS arrangement, Jewish organizations in the United States should organize themselves against Rav Tov. "HIAS is part of the national (U.S.) Jewish organizations," Dulzin said. "Rav Tov is an anti-Zionist, anti-Israel organization.")

JDC BOARD ADOPTS 1982 BUDGET OF \$39.5 MILLION

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- A 1982 budget of \$39.5 million was adopted by the Board of Directors of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) at its annual meeting here today and Henry Taub, New Jersey businessman and communal leader, was re-elected JDC president for a second one-year term.

Ralph Goldman, who was re-elected JDC executive vice president, reviewed the achievements of JDC in 1981 and reported that more than 500,000 persons had been helped around the world with a total 1981 expenditure of \$39,523,000.

In his address Taub spoke of the "opening windows and closing doors of Eastern Europe." Most gratifying, he said, was the return of the JDC to Czechoslovakia and Poland in 1981 after an absence of 30 years in Czechoslovakia and fourteen years in Poland. Other windows, he said, were opened in previous years in Hungary, Rumania, and Yugoslavia.

"In all," Taub said, "some 130,000 to 150,000 Jews in East European countries are now back to direct contact with us. On the other hand," Taub continued, "a great big door has closed. Emigration from the Soviet Union has plummeted from over 4,000 a month to under 400."

Budget Items Presented

The largest item in the 1982 budget of \$39.5 million is for relief and welfare which, at \$13.7 million, constitutes 37.1 percent of the total. The second largest item in the budget, Jewish education, at \$9.4 million is 25.5 percent. Among the other budget items by category are services to the aged, \$4.2 million or 11.4 percent, and health services at \$3.4 million or 9.2 percent.

A geographic breakdown of the budget shows 30.4 percent or \$11.2 million expended in Israel; 23.9 percent or \$8.8 million for Relief-in-Transit (largely Eastern Europe); 15.8 percent or \$5.8 million in Eastern Europe; 14.4 percent or \$5.3 million in Moslem nations and 10.6 per-

cent or \$3.9 million in Western Europe. Ninety three cents of every JDC dollar is spent on programs, \$36.8 million out of \$39.5 million.

ISRAEL TO GO AHEAD WITH CANAL PLAN

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- Energy Minister Yitzhak Berman announced today that Israel intends to proceed with its plan to build a canal between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea despite a vote Monday in the United Nations General Assembly's Special Political Committee requesting Israel to stop all moves to build the canal.

The vote on the Arab-sponsored resolution was 114-2 with three abstentions. Israel and the United States cast the two negative votes. The Arabs contended that Israel, as an occupying power is not permitted by international law to change the physical nature of the territory it holds. Part of the canal is to be built on territory captured by Israel in the Six-Day War.

Berman said today that Israel was willing to discuss the project with Jordan which has objected to the construction of the canal. However, Berman said, Israel would pursue the project even if Jordan declines to cooperate with Israel. He pledged that Jordan's facilities at the Dead Sea would not be damaged.

CANADA TO ACT ON WAR CRIMINALS

TORONTO, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- Justice Minister Jean Chretien said today that the Canadian government would accept requests for the extradition of Nazi war criminals but would not put such persons on trial in Canada.

"We'd be delighted to oblige an extradition request," he told the Parliamentary Justice Committee. "But I don't intend to introduce legislation for crimes committed 35 years ago in other nations," Chretien said. He added that a few cases are under discussion by his department, but would not elaborate.

STATE DEPARTMENT STUDYING EXTRADITION REQUEST BY ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- Deputy Secretary of State William Clark is studying the legal aspects of Israel's request for the extradition of a West Bank resident charged in a terrorist incident.

Israel reportedly has been pressing the State Department to make a decision in the case of Ziad Abu-Ein, 22, who is charged with participation in a bombing in Tiberias which took two lives and injured 36. Abu-Ein, who is from Ramallah, was arrested in Chicago more than two years ago. He has been held in prison without bail pending a decision on his extradition.

The decision fell to the State Department after the Supreme Court decided Oct. 13 not to review a lower court's ruling that Abu-Ein could be extradited.

REPORT 'EXPLOSIVE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON'

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- A Knesset panel was told today that there is an "explosive situation in southern Lebanon." The report, presented to the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee's Subcommittee on Lebanon, drew a request from the subcommittee's chairman, Labor MK Danny Rosolio, that the U.S. be asked to explain how it intends to implement its commitment to defuse the situation in Lebanon.

Rosolio noted that the escalation of dangerous situations was not uncommon in the region. But he expressed concern that U.S. special envoy Philip Habib has left and there is no word from Washington

when or if he would return. Habib just completed his fourth Middle East tour since last May when he was sent to the Middle East by President Reagan to resolve the Israeli-Syrian missile crisis in Lebanon.

Rosolio told reporters after the subcommittee meeting that "There is an extremely high accumulation of weaponry by the Palestine Liberation Organization" in Lebanon. "If we add to this fact that there are ceasefire violations, there can be an explosive situation."

Last Sunday an Irish soldier of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was wounded while on patrol. Shots were fired at another Irish soldier in a different sector of the front. UNIFIL troops have been involved in clashes with Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian militia in south Lebanon.

PERES: ISRAEL SHOULD TRY TO CONCLUDE AUTONOMY TALKS BY APRIL 1982

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- Shimon Peres, chairman of Israel's opposition Labor Party said today that Israel should continue the autonomy negotiations, presently underway between Israel, Egypt and the United States, and strive to conclude an agreement by April 1982, when Israel is to complete its withdrawal from Sinai.

Peres, addressing a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said that the future autonomy agreement could be implemented first in the Gaza Strip, since the problems there are less complex than the problems in the West Bank. He did not specify.

Peres said that Israel is not interested in creating "a rupture" between the United States and Saudi Arabia. But Israel, he said, is demanding that U.S.-Saudi relations should be based on the mutual goal of reaching a peaceful settlement of the Mideast conflict.

"If the Saudis are seriously interested in peace they would adopt (Security Council) Resolution 242, or would say: this is our position . . . instead of presenting a set of conditions such as the plan by Crown Prince Fahd, Peres said. He added that Israel is willing to negotiate, but will not accept pre-conditions.

The former Defense Minister said that Saudi Arabia is "not doing us a favor" by moving in a peaceful direction. He noted that the Saudis share the Red Sea with Israel, and once Saudi Arabia begins to fortify their side of the shore with military weapons -- Israel will do the same on its shore. "Israel will then be able to threaten the Saudi oil fields, but they cannot threaten our oil fields," Peres said to the laughter of the audience.

Saudis Are No. 2 On Peace List

He said that the Labor Party still considers the "Jordanian option" to be the most realistic option for the future of the West Bank. "The Jordanian option is the Israeli option," Peres said, claiming that negotiations between Israel and Jordan on the future of the West Bank is the best guarantee against the establishment of a PLO state. He said that in the past he considered Jordan to be the second--after Egypt -- on the peace list, but today Jordan is the third after Saudi Arabia.

Peres also said that the conversion of Israel "to a bi-national state," presumably by annexing the West Bank, "will be a tragic mistake." Israel, he declared "must stay a Jewish State."

Replying to a question on his party's opposition to the recent strategic cooperation agreement signed by the United States and Israel, Peres said the opposition was on a number of points. He said the agreement was not clear about "what Israel should do" in a crisis and did not treat equally Israel and the U.S. "since any U.S. undertaking must be approved by Congress."

In addition, Peres said, "we are unhappy that Soviet Russia was mentioned by name," contrary to all other international agreements the U.S. had signed. He contended that mentioning the Soviet Union might harm the position of Soviet Jews.

"We would like to see," Peres said, "a strategic agreement (between Israel and the U.S.) coupled with a political agreement" that would address itself to solving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

FRANCE REACTS WARILY TO CHEYSSON STATEMENT ON EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- French Presidential spokesman Pierre Berezgouvoy said today that Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson's visit to Israel has enabled the two countries "to normalize their relations" and to make it clear that "France is Israel's friend" though it intends to be "a friend of the Arabs as well." Other French officials, however, were trying to play down some of the Minister's promises and commitments given during his 24-hour stay in Israel.

Officials, who did not want their identity disclosed -- the normal practice in France -- said that Cheysson's promise that there will be no more European initiatives on the Middle East in the near future should be taken to mean "that neither France nor West Europe should try and impose its will but should support locally produced initiatives."

The officials also said that the 1980 Venice declaration "is by now outdated." According to these officials "Europe now favors the creation of a Palestinian state" and the Venice joint statement by the 10 European Economic Community (EEC) Ministers was only an intermediary step in this direction.

All officials questioned by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency stressed, however, Cheysson's and President Francois Mitterrand's determination to improve relations with Israel, back its need for security, facilitate its economic ties with the EEC and strengthen France's relations with the Jewish State.

Clarifying Cheysson's statement on the Venice declaration, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said "The principles remain true but their application has changed."

The spokesman also reiterated France's "deep commitment" to the Camp David agreements as outlined by Cheysson during his visit to Jerusalem. He said that this does not exclude other peace processes which could run parallel with the Camp David agreement or continue after its termination.

The general mood in France, whether in official circles or the general public, is one of optimism that relations between the two countries have definitely taken a great step forward.

It is not clear yet how France's other European partners will react. The test will come tonight when Cheysson meets for dinner in Brussels with British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, who spearheaded the joint European initiative, and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of West Germany. Carrington will hold a press conference tomorrow to clarify the position of the EEC.

PROFILE

BERMAN FIGHTS TO RETAIN LIBERAL IMAGE

By Uzi Benziman

(Editor's note: This is another profile in a series on new Ministers in Israel's government.)

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- If the Liberal Party expresses, and is identified with, views similar to that held by Herut, it shall eventually lose its identity and uniqueness, says Energy Minister Yitzhak Berman (Likud-Liberal). Berman is one of the new Ministers in Premier Menachem Begin's second Cabinet, and one of the six Liberal Party Ministers in the 17-member Cabinet team.

The Liberals' alliance with Begin's Herut (first as Gahal, now as the Likud) goes back to the mid-sixties. Periodically, and increasingly of late, the Liberals have come under criticism for kowtowing to the hardline Herut on foreign and defense policy issues and thereby betraying their tradition as moderate rightwingers.

Berman says he is very aware of this widespread sentiment -- and he seems to agree with it. He warns Herut to respect the different style and approach of the Liberal Party, and not seek to blur or overshadow it. Otherwise, he says, the Likud will lose the electoral support of an important sector of its constituency.

Became A Public Figure In 1977

Berman, who at 68 still sticks doggedly to his bachelorhood, became a public figure only in 1977. Until then, he confined himself to his well-established law practice in Tel Aviv -- and confined his political activities to marginal work in the Liberal Party.

In 1977 his name appeared on the Likud Knesset slate -- and the "May earthquake" swept him into Parliament. He quickly made his name as a solid and serious legislator.

In March, 1980 he was elected Speaker of the Knesset -- a post that suddenly elevated him to the top rank of public life. (Constitutionally, the Speaker comes second only to the President of the State in protocol hierarchy.)

During the recent election campaign Berman made it clear that he had had enough of the pomp and ceremony of the Speakership -- and his party elected him as one of its representatives in the Cabinet.

Striving To Fulfill Liberal Tenets

In an interview with this reporter Berman said the Liberal Party must strive to fulfill the classical tenets of liberalism that have always been the core of its platform. In that way it will continue to respond, he said, to the desires and expectations of Israel's middle class, which has traditionally been the backbone of its support. (The Liberals were the General Zionists in their earlier incarnation -- representing a liberal-bourgeois opposition to Ben Gurion's all-powerful socialist alliance.)

In order to preserve the Liberals' special identity and separate image, Berman is ready, if necessary, for head-on confrontation with Herut leaders. In fact, he himself was recently involved in something of a confrontation with Begin when he publicly differed with the Premier over Saudi Arabia's plan for the Israel-Arab conflict.

Begin rejected the Saudi proposals outright, describing them as dangerous to Israel's longterm survival. But Berman insisted that the plan had a significantly positive element to it, because it

expressed Saudi readiness to recognize Israel. In another demonstration of liberalism and independence, Berman published a statement of sharp criticism against Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren over the City of David excavation controversy.

Says Many Share Liberals Demands

Berman says he is convinced that large segments of Israeli society today endorse liberal principles and would back a more forthright and energetic application of those principles by the Liberals in Likud. Most people agree with the liberals' long-held demand for a reduction of government interference in everyday life of individual citizens, for less economic controls and for less red tape.

Asked how the Likud Liberals square their principles with the present coalition agreement -- in which Likud made far-reaching concessions to the Orthodox parties -- Berman maintained that most of the coalition clauses that had aroused criticism in secular circles represented in fact the fulfillment of previous promises given to the religious parties by Labor-led Administrations.

Indeed, Berman adds, Labor would have paid precisely the same price to the religious parties as the Likud paid -- if Labor could in that way have set up a coalition after the elections last June. At any rate, he adds, the Liberals in the Cabinet and in the Knesset will stand firm on their right -- enshrined in the Likud agreement with Herut -- to express their independent views on such issues as annexation of Judea and Samaria.

LEADER OF NEO-NAZI GROUP IN GERMANY SURRENDERS TO POLICE

By David Kantor

BONN, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- The leader of a neo-Nazi organization surrendered to police yesterday after an intensive manhunt that began with the discovery of 30 arms caches used by violence-prone neo-Nazi and extreme rightwing groups in the state of Lower Saxony several weeks ago.

The object of the manhunt was Volker Heidel, 27, described by police as leader of the Peoples Socialist Movement which has been agitating for years against Jews and foreign workers in West Germany. Two members of the group were killed in a gun battle with police near Munich last month and several others were arrested. One of the latter had received training in terrorist tactics by El Fatah in Lebanon. The gang was on its way to rob a bank when waylaid by the police.

Heidel went underground. Police searched his home in Lueneburg, Lower Saxony in the course of a crackdown on neo-Nazi groups after the arms caches were discovered. A score of books and pamphlets containing Nazi propaganda material was confiscated.

Heidel, who publishes a neo-Nazi newspaper, The Observer of Lower Saxony, has a long record of arrests for violent acts. Most recently he drew a two year and nine month sentence for attacks on court buildings in Hannover and Flensburg. He appeared at his trial dressed in black shirt and trousers, a facsimile of the Nazi SS uniform. He was released from prison last March.

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- HIAS is seeking to locate Jews who lived in Zaporozhe (Zaporozhye), Ukraine, during 1941-1944, about a matter of utmost importance. Call or write Joseph Edelman of HIAS about this matter at 200 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10003, or telephone (212) 674-6800.