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ISRAEL LAUNCHES INFORMATION CAMPAIGN TO EXPLAIN ITS MOVE ON THE GOLAN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (JTA) -- Israel launched a massive information campaign abroad today to head off mounting international criticism of yesterday's action by the Knesset and Cabinet to apply Israeli law on the Golan Heights, a move that amounts to annexation.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir dispatched letters to the foreign ministers of all countries with which Israel has diplomatic ties explaining the background and motives behind the move. Last night, the Ministry sent out information papers to Israeli legations and diplomatic missions all over the world replete with legal, strategic and political arguments.

A Ministry spokesman said this material had been prepared months ago at the instruction of Director General David Kimche, in view of the long-standing decision-in principle to extend Israeli law and administration to the Golan Heights.

Word 'Annexation' Not Used

In all of these papers and information guides, the Ministry has refrained from using the term "annexation." But neither is it making a point of differentiating between what Israel did and annexation. Israeli diplomats are instructed to stick precisely to the wording of the bill adopted by the Knesset last night: The application of "Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration" to the Golan Heights.

Privately, however, officials explained that Israel's action was a shade less than annexation inasmuch as it was not proposing to impose Israeli citizenship on the non-Jewish inhabitants of the Golan Heights, mainly Druze.

There was no indication today how the Israeli move would affect the pending decision by four European countries -- Britain, France, Italy and Holland -- to participate in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in Sinai. Israel is awaiting the response of those countries to its joint declaration with the U.S. affirming the Camp David agreements as the basis for the MFO. The response had been expected to be favorable. But Israeli circles now fear the Europeans might reconsider their offer to contribute to the MFO because the Arab countries are certain to view it as acquiescence in Israel's move on the Golan. (Related story P.2.)

Autonomy Talks Resume

On the other hand, Israeli government officials were relieved when it appeared that Egypt's protests against the Golan law would not lead to a disruption of the peace process. That became apparent when the working level autonomy talks resumed in Tel Aviv today with the Israeli, Egyptian and U.S. delegations participating.

In addition, the Egyptian Minister of Tourism, Gamal el-Nazer, arrived in Israel today via the overland Sinai route for a visit that had been arranged some time ago. He conferred with Shamir and according to Israeli sources, their conversation was limited to the normalization of relations and the Golan issue was not raised.

JEWISH SETTLERS ON GOLAN ARE EUPHORIC OVER ISRAEL'S MOVE

By Hugh Orgel and Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, Dec. 15 (JTA) -- The 7,000 Jewish settlers on the Golan Heights were euphoric today after the Knesset voted 63-21 last night to apply Israeli law in that territory captured from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War -- a move regarded as tantamount to annexation. The government's swift action took the settlers by surprise. Their stunned disbelief turned to jubilation and celebration parties which began yesterday afternoon lasted well into the night in the 30 Jewish settlements.

The reaction was different among the 13,500 Druze who comprise the majority of the population on the Golan Heights although they are concentrated in only four villages. There are also 900 Alawi Moslems on the Heights. Most of the Druze opposed the Israeli annexation but their protests were muted.

The Israeli military presence was highly visible as forces were deployed on the Golan for possible Syrian or terrorist retaliation. A minority of pro-Israeli Druze shared the settlers' satisfaction. Many of them had been under pressure from anti-Israel elements.

Justification For Golan Move

The annexation bill was rammed through the Knesset yesterday, passing all three readings required by law and gaining approval of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, a process that in the case of most other bills normally takes days or weeks. Premier Menachem Begin personally was the driving force behind the move and he easily carried Likud and its coalition partners with him.

Although Israel Radio reported yesterday that Begin exhorted his Cabinet to approve the annexation bill immediately because of the world's preoccupation with the crisis in Poland, Israeli officials vigorously denied that was the case. They justified the move on grounds of security, historical right and the unlikelihood that Syria would agree to negotiate with Israel at any time in the foreseeable future.

Labor In Total Disarray

The Labor Alignment was not only caught off guard but was in total disarray. Much of its affiliated kibbutz movement eagerly supported the government's action, though a few members expressed concern about the international repercussions over what they regarded as a provocative move.

The split in Labor was glaringly evident. Although Labor's Knesset faction voted 30-8 to boycott the session in protest against the government's unseemly haste, seven Laborites voted against the bill and 10 were for it.

The bill passed its first reading by a vote of 60-17. The majority included coalition and Labor members. Other Laborites, joined by the Communist Party and the Shinui faction, were opposed. Begin's Aguda Israel coalition partner did not participate in the first vote because its four-man faction had to consult the party's supreme authority, the Council of Sages.

Shortly before the vote, Labor Party Whip Moshe Shahal tried in vain to rally the faction to adhere to the boycott decision. "If we do not present a united stand today there will be no Alignment faction tomorrow," he warned.

During Labor's intra-party debate, former Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur accused Defense Minister Ariel Sharon of using the bill to create a national consensus for a war against Syria. Knesset doves Yossi Sarid and Yair Tzaban agreed with him. But the influential Labor veteran Shlomo Hillel, supported the government's measure. Both Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres and former Premier Yitzhak Rabin were abroad yesterday. Peres was in the United States and Rabin was in London.

Reaction From Damascus

The immediate reaction from Damascus was that the Israeli move was a "declaration of war" and a "violation of the United Nations Charter." According to Damascus Radio, the Syrian government said that Israel's decision "means an annexation of Syrian occupied lands and a declaration of war on Syria and the abrogation of the cease-fire" that went into effect after the Yom Kippur War with the establishment of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force. Only last month the mandate of the force was renewed by the Security Council for another six months. Damascus Radio also quoted the government saying that Syria "will defend its territories and its national interests."

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry also condemned the Israeli move yesterday as "a blatant violation" of the framework for peace in the Middle East based on the Camp David agreements and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Cairo's statement said Israel, by its action "increases the factors of tension in the area which Egypt is trying to remove."

Sinai West Bank Settlers Hopeful

Apart from the adverse reactions abroad which were beginning to mount today, the Golan move may increase the government's difficulties with settlers in northern Sinai protesting the return of that territory to Egypt next April. In Yamit, where residents are locked in a battle with the government over compensation to relocate, demands were raised that the government act in Sinai as it did on the Golan.

Jewish settlers on the West Bank were delighted by the annexation of the Golan Heights and expressed hope that annexation of the West Bank will follow shortly. Arab mayors and other leaders on the West Bank denounced the Golan move as yet another example of "Israeli expansionism" against which they have been warning for years.

EEC MINISTERS UNANIMOUSLY DENOUNCE ISRAEL'S GOLAN MOVE

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Dec. 15 (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministers of the 10 member-countries of the European Economic Community (EEC) today unanimously denounced Israel's move over the Golan Heights, saying it was in breach of international law and endangered the search for a Middle East peace.

Their statement was issued after the ministers met here for the last time under the present six-months' chairmanship of Lord Carrington. It said the ministers "strongly deplore" the move to extend Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration to "occupied Syrian territory," which was "tantamount to annexation and contrary to international law and therefore invalid in our eyes."

The statement added that it was also "prejudicial to the possibility of implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 242" and was "bound to complicate further the search for a comprehensive settlement to which we are committed."

WEINBERGER ASSAILS ISRAEL'S ACTION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 (JTA) -- Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights was sharply attacked today by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger who said that the move "is, I think, clearly a violation of the United Nations resolutions and therefore of the Camp David agreement."

Weinberger, interviewed on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" program also termed Israel's move on the Golan "necessarily very provocative and what I would characterize as destabilizing in that very volatile area." He noted that President Reagan feels "very strongly" that the Mideast peace process "should not be interfered with in any way. Any event of this kind ... casts some question about the whole process and therefore is something we have to be very unhappy about and very concerned about."

Asked if the Reagan Administration was considering any move against Israel, such as withholding military equipment as it did last June after Israel bombed Iraq's nuclear reactor, Weinberger replied: "I don't think there has been any full-scale consideration, certainly no decision as to what should be done."

Israel was also criticized yesterday by Secretary of State Alexander Haig. Speaking to reporters at Andrews Air Force Base after having returned from Brussels, he echoed the White House criticism, saying that the Israeli action "is not consistent with (UN Security Council Resolution) 242 which is the fundamental UN resolution underlying the peace process. We regret this very surprising announcement, which we learned about today (Monday)."

State Department Maintains Silence

Meanwhile, the State Department refused today to make any comment on Israel's Golan move until the United States completes consultations with Israel and other countries on the issue. Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Evron is scheduled to meet with Haig at the State Department this evening.

Department spokesman Dean Fischer would not comment on whether Haig agreed with the strong criticism of Israel by Weinberger. Fischer said the State Department will not go beyond the statement it made yesterday when it warned that Israel's annexation of the Golan would "violate international law" and "would be contrary" to Resolutions 242 and 338. Fischer also would not comment on whether the U.S. favors a UN Security Council meeting on the Israeli action as called for by Syria.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, meanwhile, at the request of the Reagan Administration, called off a hearing scheduled for this morning on the recently concluded U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation agreement. The Administration gave no reason for this move.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA ISRAELI OFFICIAL EXPLAINS BASIS FOR THE ACTION ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JTA) -- The mounting threat to Israel's security from Syria and the "vacuum" in civilian juridical matters on the Golan Heights were the two reasons for Israel's decision yesterday to apply Israeli law to that territory, captured from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War, according to Naphtali Lavie, the Israeli Consul General in New York.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today, Lavie said he did not think the Israeli action would lead to a crisis with the U.S. But he

cited the failure of U.S. diplomatic efforts to get Syria to remove its anti-aircraft missiles from Lebanon as another reason why Israel acted on the Golan Heights.

Lavie described Syria as a country that has consistently declared that it will not negotiate with Israel or recognize it and is committed not to reach a peace agreement with Israel. In that connection he quoted a Kuwait newspaper interview with Syrian President Hafez Assad who reportedly said that "even if the Palestine Liberation Organization recognizes Israel, we in Syria cannot recognize it."

"How," Lavie asked, "could the Syrians expect Israel to sit idly and not give its citizens and settlements on the Golan Heights the same civilian and juridical status that any other citizens now have?" He noted that Syria has been occupying a major part of Lebanon, thereby preventing any settlement of that country's crisis and posing "a constant threat on Israel from Lebanese territory."

Lavie said that "In addition to the Syrian front with Israel, the Syrians extended the confrontation front with Israel to the Lebanese front. They are supported there in addition to the Syrian forces in Lebanon, by the PLO forces under their control."

According to the Israeli official, the Druze and Jewish populations living on the Golan Heights needed the application of Israeli law to solve all kinds of civilian juridical problems which were so far solved by ad hoc legislation by the Israeli military authorities on the Heights. He said that this means that from now on the law on the Golan Heights in civilian matters will be the same as it is in Kiryat Shemona and Metullah inside Israel.

Does Not See U.S.-Israel Crisis

Asked about a possible crisis between Israel and the U.S. as a result of Israel's move, Lavie said: "I do not think that it is going to lead to a crisis. The U.S. is sensitive to Israel's problems on the northern borders and the difficulties it is facing. The U.S. probably also appreciates the sacrifices Israel made in the Sinai to Egypt. Israel's decision to apply its laws on the Golan Heights were made in an attempt to secure Israeli defenses in the north and we assume that the U.S. would recognize Israel's need to secure its border in the north."

The Israeli Consul General observed that it seems the Reagan Administration took upon itself "a mission impossible" when it sent special envoy Philip Habib to Lebanon in an effort to remove the Syrian missiles there. "The presence of the missiles and the helplessness of the diplomatic steps to remove the missiles from Lebanon were also a factor in Israel's consideration to apply its laws to the Golan Heights," Lavie said.

MCCLOSKEY URGES CONGRESS TO REJECT FOREIGN AID ISRAEL IS DUE TO RECEIVE
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 (JTA) -- Rep. Paul McCloskey (R. Calif.) condemned Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights as an "aggressive and imperialistic action" and urged Congress to reject the \$2.2 billion in foreign aid Israel is due to receive in 1982-83 unless the action is rescinded.

"Until Congress is willing to stand up to Israel, every time that we step back and deliver them F-16s, or accept the bombing of downtown Beirut, we will accept whatever they want to do,"

McCloskey said today at a press conference at his office here.

Calling the Israeli action a "mockery of Camp David," the Congressman compared various actions by Israel to Vietnam where, he said, step by step, the U.S. was led into war. He said he feared that Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights was another step which could eventually drag the U.S. into a nuclear war.

McCloskey said he had expected to vote for the \$11.4 billion foreign aid bill approved by a Senate-House conference committee last night. But now, he said, he has written to every member of the conference committee urging them not to sign the bill, and if that fails, as is expected, he will press for rejection of the foreign aid bill on the House floor.

Differentiates Between Begin And Israel

McCloskey differentiated support of Israel from support of the government of Premier Menachem Begin who, he said, since his re-election last June, has been pressing for annexation of the West Bank. If that happens, Camp David would be dead, McCloskey said.

The Congressman stressed that it is "entirely appropriate" for Begin to say Israel's foreign policy will not be dictated by the U.S. But it is also appropriate for the U.S. to say that if Israel violates UN Security Council Resolution 242, it cannot receive American funds. McCloskey said Resolution 242 calls for Israel to return the Golan Heights to Syria once it has been assured of its security.

McCloskey, who is seeking the Republican nomination for Senator next year, came under heavy fire from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith last July for publicly charging that American Jews "control the actions of Congress" with respect to the Middle East. He made that remark in a speech to retired naval officers in San Diego. He said today, however, that he did not believe his position on the Golan annexation would harm him with the Jewish community since he believes most American Jews oppose the annexation. However, he said, it is even more important to prevent a move that could lead to nuclear war.

OLON CLAIMS 'JEWISH FILE' STILL EXISTS IN FRANCE

PARIS, Dec. 15 (JTA) -- A French senator claimed today that the French gendarmerie has computerized tens of thousands of Jewish names as part of a special Jewish file. Senator Rene Caillavet, president of a human rights organization which aims at protecting the private lives of French citizens from electronic and computerized registration and surveillance, charged other Administrations with continuing to carry the word "Jews" in certain war-time files.

Caillavet said that the gendarmerie, a uniformed national police attached to the Ministry of Defense, might still have in its archives the "Jewish file" put together by the war-time Vichy Administration's Department for Jewish Affairs. The Senator told a press conference that he has not managed to find any trace that these files have been destroyed or relayed to another Administration. Caillavet charged certain Administrations with generally keeping special files on minority groups such as Jews, homosexuals and Masons.

Caillavet is a Centrist Senator known for his work on behalf of human rights and the protection of individuals and minority groups.

BACKGROUND REPORT ISRAEL AND BLACK AFRICAN NATIONS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 (JTA) -- Are the countries of Black Africa, which broke diplomatic relations with Israel in 1972 and 1973, moving toward restoring official ties with the Jewish State? There has been speculation about this from time to time in recent years. But two recent events have increased the suspicion that something is about to happen.

First, President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, while on a visit to Washington, told reporters his government was ready to resume relations with Israel "immediately" but would not act except in conjunction with other African countries.

Then it was disclosed that Defense Minister Ariel Sharon visited several African countries before going to Washington Nov. 30 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding implementing strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel against a Soviet threat to the Middle East. One of those countries was Zaire.

Background Of Major Breaks

Mobutu, who received his paratroop training in Israel, was considered a staunch friend of Israel until he broke relations with Jerusalem two days before the outbreak of the 1973 Yom Kippur War. In a speech announcing his decision at the United Nations General Assembly, Mobutu explained he had to choose between a brother (Egypt) and a friend (Israel).

Zaire's break with Israel came at a time when the Black African countries were under heavy pressure from the Arab states to sever their ties with Jerusalem. The process started in March 1972, when Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, who also received his military training in Israel broke off relations after Israel refused to provide him with additional funds. It is believed that the funds were then provided by Libyan ruler Muammar Qaddafi. Financial aid from Libya was also believed to be the reason Chad broke relations with Israel a few months later.

But the major breaks came in the days before and after the Yom Kippur War and included such close friends as Ghana, Liberia, Kenya the Ivory Coast and Ethiopia, then still ruled by Emperor Haile Selassie, who claimed descent from the Biblical meeting between King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. By the end of 1973, 27 countries south of the Sahara had broken ties with Israel leaving Jerusalem with diplomatic relations only to Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi and Swaziland.

Program Of Development Aid

But more than diplomatic relations were broken. Israel since 1958 had a program of development aid to Africa. The program started in Ghana shortly after it became the first Black African state to achieve its independence. It soon was expanded to other African states, and eventually included some 80 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The African program, started by Golda Meir when she was Foreign Minister, was a combination of self-interest and altruism. Since Israel was rejected by its neighbors it could leapfrog over them and find friends among the countries just beyond the Arab borders, friends who would be good trading partners and might provide diplomatic support.

At the same time, Israel as a developing nation itself was accepted by the African countries as a country which could share its experiences in overcoming some of the same problems they faced. The Israeli programs were also designed to have the host country take over their operations as soon as possible.

The programs, which attracted many idealistic young Israelis in the same way the Peace Corps attracted Americans, were operated by the government, by the Histadrut and by private Israeli companies. Many Americans were also brought to Israel for training.

Much, though not all of these programs, were shattered when diplomatic relations were broken. The African countries were soon backing the Arabs in their diplomatic attacks on Israel in the various international forums.

Shift By Some African Countries

But in the last few years, some African countries have been moving away from this position as they saw that the UN General Assembly and other international forums were being dominated by Arab attacks on Israel while their concerns were given secondary treatment or ignored. At the same time, the Black African countries have gained little economic benefits from the oil-rich Arab countries and, instead, they and other underdeveloped countries have suffered on account of the oil price increases.

Of course, while diplomatic ties have not been renewed other relations, especially trade, have continued between Israel and many Black African countries and have grown in recent years.

Mobutu said in his Washington press conference that he broke relations with Israel to support a fellow African state in Cairo's effort to get the Sinai back. Now that Egypt has diplomatic relations with Israel and Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai is scheduled to be completed in April, "as far as we are concerned we could do it immediately," Mobutu said of restoring ties with Jerusalem. "But Zaire is not alone in Africa," he added. "For the time being I will wait to see what the other ones are going to do."

There have been other such comments in recent years. Shortly before the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was signed, a member of Kenya's Parliament who was touring the U.S. said his country would resume relations with Israel once Egypt had diplomatic relations with the Jewish State. At the UN in 1979, Ivory Coast Ambassador Amoakon Thiemele called for a renewal of relations between Black Africa and Israel. There have been other voices, both public and private.

However, the time may be ripe now. Israel is very concerned about the Soviet penetration in Africa, especially the Horn of Africa which is not too far from its own borders. Many African states, such as Zaire, share this view.

Jerusalem sources linked Sharon's visit to Africa to Israel's strategic cooperation with the U.S. The Reagan Administration's strategic consensus does not seem to have convinced many Arab states of the need for cooperating with Israel. But it may be the catalyst that will result in restoring diplomatic relations between Israel and Black Africa, relations that never should have been broken in the first place.

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AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- A Jewish women's monthly magazine, "Kolenu," has begun publication in Holland, the first Jewish women's periodical since the end of WW II.