

JTA daily news bulletin

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Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, N.Y. 10036-2574

Vol. LX - 65th Year

Monday, January 11, 1982

No. 6

WEINBERGER CHARGES THAT ISRAEL, NOT THE U.S., CANCELLED THE STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger charged yesterday that it was Israel and not the United States which cancelled the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation signed November 30 between the two countries.

"I suppose it's a matter of semantics," Weinberger said on the Cable News Network's "Newsmaker Saturday" program. "But our first knowledge that it was no longer in effect came from Israel."

The Reagan Administration suspended the memorandum, signed by Weinberger and Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, following Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, an act the Administration contended violated the spirit of the accord because of Israel's failure to consult the U.S. prior to the Golan action.

Following the suspension, Premier Menachem Begin, in a scathing attack of Administration policies toward Israel, charged that the U.S. had "abrogated" the memorandum and that as far as he was concerned, it was "null and void."

(In Jerusalem, a Foreign Ministry official said Weinberger's charge was off the mark. He noted that the extension of Israel's law to the Golan had nothing whatsoever to do with the cooperation agreement.)

U.S. Unwilling To Reopen The Agreement

Meanwhile, the State Department issued a statement following the Weinberger interview declaring that the Administration remains unwilling to reopen the agreement.

"The President decided that we would not be able to go forward with the memorandum of understanding for the time being as the spirit in which the memo of understanding had been signed had not been upheld," the Department statement said.

But the statement added, "We hope for a restoration of a spirit of partnership which would include consideration by each of the broader policy interests of the other."

EITAN: SYRIA IS TAKING STEPS THAT COULD LEAD TO WAR WITH ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan said in a weekend press interview that Syria was taking steps which could lead to a war with Israel. He told Yediot Ahront that he did not think Syria wanted a war, but its activities could lead to warfare.

President Hafez Assad of Syria yesterday endorsed resolutions by the Arab League's Labor Organization calling for actions against American diplomatic missions and interests in the Mideast and the use of oil as a political weapon.

The Arab labor unions ended a three-day conference in Damascus, which met to discuss possible responses to Israel's annexation of the Golan

Heights, with resolutions calling for "a popular Arab action" against the U.S. in the Mideast.

At the same time, the Saudi newspaper, Al Medina, warned the U.S. and its European allies that they face "the gravest consequences" if they continue to block punitive measures against Israel in the United Nations Security Council which is debating a Syrian resolution for mandatory sanctions against Israel. The paper said yesterday:

"There is now a modern revival of the ancient Christian crusades against Islam, this time under the aegis of the United States in an unholy alliance with Zionism. This attitude should prompt the Palestine Liberation Organization to reassess its military strategy."

"This U.S. attitude, which puts a shameful brand on America's foreign policy, is neither in Western nor American interests," the paper said. "Europe should realize very well that it will be opening itself to the gravest of consequences by falling in with the U.S. Zionist wave."

Israel Will Fight To The End

Eitan said that if war were forced on Israel, Israel would this time "fight it to the end." He thought that if war were to break out, the entire eastern front might be involved. Eitan also said he thought it was possible that Iraq and Iran might yet come to terms in order to form a front against Israel, but added he saw no present signs of that happening because the two sides were so stubborn. "It is a pleasure to see them killing each other," he said.

The Chief of Staff said there was nothing urgent about the continued presence of Syrian missiles in Lebanon. The problem could be solved politically, but Israel could not wait forever for that to happen, he said.

ISRAEL STILL NOT READY TO AGREE TO ALLOW EAST JERUSALEM ARABS TO VOTE FOR AUTONOMY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- Israel is still not prepared to agree to East Jerusalem Arabs voting for autonomy, it was announced here today by Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who is the chief autonomy negotiator for Israel in the talks with Egypt and the United States. He spoke to reporters after a top level consultation at Premier Menachem Begin's home in preparation for U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's visit to Israel and Egypt this week.

Haig is expected to launch an energetic American effort to revive the autonomy talks and if possible achieve an agreed memorandum of principles before the April Sinai withdrawal date. Burg said the Americans fully knew Israel's position on this point of East Jerusalem voting.

Reports out of Washington over the weekend have said that the U.S. would pressure Israel on this point. Arguing that the East Jerusalem Arabs ought to be able to vote for the West Bank-Gaza autonomy council (self-governing authority), Israel holds that to allow this would be to weaken its claim of sovereignty over the city.

Burg noted in this connection that "the U.S., too, holds that Jerusalem is indivisible." He said the Cabinet Ministers had instructed the experts working group under Interior Ministry Director General Haim Kubersky to

prepare a document reformulating Israel's positions in the autonomy negotiations prior to Haig's arrival.

Burg indicated there were no major changes in the basic positions. Last night he was quoted by Israel Radio as saying the long held Israeli positions were "good and helpful." The ministers, he said, had discussed the "tactics" of how to proceed in the talks.

LEADING CONGRESSMAN RAPS U.S. POLICY IN THE MIDEAST

DALLAS, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- Rep. Clarence Long (D. Md.), chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and the initiator of the bill in the House to stop the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia, warned here today that the Saudis have "an extremely delicate regime and could be easily overthrown."

He also told several hundred Zionist Organization of America leaders from throughout the country attending a special National Executive Committee meeting that "in recent years, American foreign policy has been wrong in the Middle East, for while trying to protect Israel, the sale of sophisticated weapons to Israel's enemies is counter to helping Israel."

The Congressman said that since the passage of the bill in the Senate to sell the AWACS, "the Administration has lost standing with the American people and that a couple more 'victories' like that, and the Administration is dead." Long said "the Israelis are a gallant people who had the guts to stand up to the poison of the world around them."

Urges Separation Of Personalities From Politics

Ivan Novick, ZOA president, who said the special meeting had been called to express "great concern regarding U.S. Administration actions toward Israel," called for separating personalities from politics in Israel as well as in the United States.

"A sense of fairness and responsibility demands that personal attitudes or reactions to Prime Minister (Menachem) Begin, and even his negotiating and rhetorical style, should not divert attention from the basic position and policies of the State of Israel. At the same time, personal political preferences should not influence Americans to determine the validity of the Administration's decisions. Policy must be assessed on the basis of merit, taking into consideration Israel's security and economic needs as a viable nation, which are completely compatible with the best interests of the United States."

Novick also said that "if Prime Minister Begin were not in office, basic differences between Israel's position and that of the Administration would still exist." He cited the failure of the U.S. to move its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as an example.

Cites A Fundamental Difference

But Novick also warned that "if we set recent rhetoric aside, and even discount Israeli action and the Administration's reaction, what remains appears to be a fundamental difference in basic approach between Israel and the Administration. We must accept the possibility that in spite of our best efforts, these differences may not be completely reconcilable."

Essence Of Real Statesmanship

The ZOA leader added that "it is important" to note that following Begin's sharp attack on the Administration for suspending its memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation after Israel annexed the Golan Heights, Secretary of State Alexander Haig and other Administration officials, sought to smooth over Israel-U.S. difficulties.

Haig, in particular, said in a television interview December 20, hours after Begin's sharply worded statement, that President Reagan understood the "vital importance of our obligations to the people of Israel and guarantees to the survival of that state."

Novick said Administration officials "demonstrated, in their public television appearances, the essence of real statesmanship. In public view, they expressed a desire for reconciliation. Thus, Jewish leaders have a responsibility to show equal statesmanship and leadership."

BEGIN ENDORSES IN PRINCIPLE MODAI'S DEMAND FOR INQUIRY COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- Minister-Without-Portfolio Yitzhak Modai's demand for a commission of inquiry to look into the publication of allegations against him last week has been endorsed in principle by Premier Menachem Begin. There will be ministerial level consultations this week on the precise format of the commission.

Government sources explained over the weekend that what was envisaged was not a full-scale commission of inquiry chaired by a Supreme Court Justice (like the post-Yom Kippur War Agranat Commission) but a more modest panel, termed an "investigating committee," which is also provided for under the law.

The committee will be appointed by Justice Minister Moshe Nissim, who will consult with both Interior Minister Yosef Burg (who has responsibility for the police) and Education Minister Ze'evulun Hammer (who has statutory responsibility for the Broadcasting Authority). Modai wants both the police and the television news department to be looked into with a view to preventing in the future publication of allegations that are later proved groundless.

Story Made Headlines

In Modai's case, Israel TV last Monday night published as its headline story a report based on a police statement that the police fraud squad was "gathering intelligence data" about accusations that Modai had taken kickbacks from state oil deals during his term as Minister of Energy (1977-81).

Modai claims that the police statement was inaccurate and that the TV news desk played it tendentiously. Two days later Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir and the police issued subsequent statements totally clearing Modai by explaining that the "data" in the hands of the police contained no substantive material.

The "data" was apparently given to the police by Labor MK Yehuda Hoshal who three months ago submitted a Knesset question to the Prime Minister on the same subject. Modai has said he would sue Hoshal for libel were it not for his parliamentary immunity.

Over the weekend Modai criticized Zamir's handling of the affair, charging him with "insensitivity." Modai said in an interview that Zamir need not have waited 48 hours before publicly clearing him, since he knew all along that Hoshal's "data" was unsubstantiated.

On another aspect of the affair, Modai is still at daggers drawn with his fellow Liberal minister and successor as the Energy Minister, Yitzhak Berman, although Liberal Party leader Simcha Ehrlich has pledged to try and make peace between them.

Their animosity was on public show at a Liberal Party Central Committee meeting last Thursday. Modai was warmly cheered and Berman booed by delegates. But Berman took the rostrum, to say that he would not forgive Modai for having besmirched him on a TV peak-hour talk show the night before. Modai hit out at Berman for his Ministry's having announced the creation of a committee to examine Israel's oil-buying procedure just during the days when the allegations against Modai were headline news.

Berman said the announcement was coincidental and was not in fact initiated by his Ministry, and the actual decision to set up the committee was taken a month ago.

KREISKY REJECTS JEWISH AGENCY CHARGES THAT AUSTRIA IS INTERFERING IN THE PROCESSING OF SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 10 (JTA) — Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria has rejected charges by the Jewish Agency of Israel that the Austrian government violated the Agency's contract with the Austrian Red Cross which granted it exclusive use of a facility in Vienna which processes Jews who have left the Soviet Union, according to the Austrian press and information service office here.

Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Executives, said last Wednesday in Jerusalem that the Austrian government "decided unexpectedly" to allow Jewish and non-Jewish groups, including church organizations, to enter the facility "and operate among Soviet Jews for immigration to countries other than Israel, despite the fact that these people emigrated (from the Soviet Union) with visas for Israel only."

Kreisky, according to the Austrian press office, said that Austria would continue to insist that any person entering the country had an inalienable right to choose his or her country of destination. Austria, he said, would continue to give other organizations working in the field of immigration the right to contact Soviet Jews and assist them in finding a permanent home. The Chancellor noted that Austria had carried out this policy for 10 years at considerable security risk and cost to the country.

Temporary Compromise Is Reached

Austria's Interior Minister Erwin Lang pointed out that the agreement with the Jewish Agency, that it had exclusive use of the facility, was binding only with regard to those Soviet Jews who expressed a willingness to go to Israel, the Austrian press office reported. The percentage of Soviet Jews willing to go to Israel has decreased steadily and presently stands at 20 percent, Lang said.

After a meeting Friday afternoon in Vienna between Austrian government officials, Jewish Agency personnel and Ambassador Yissachar Ben-Yaacov of Israel, it was agreed, for the time being, that posters in the facility informing immigrants of aid offered by various Jewish and non-Jewish organizations to help them settle in the United States would be taken down, the Austrian press office said.

However, each arriving Soviet Jew would have to sign, in the presence of an Austrian official, a slip of paper written in Russian that he or she is aware of other immigration possibilities and that he or she was going to Israel without any coercion. A further meeting was set for this week.

MEMORIAL TO HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

THE HAGUE, Jan. 10 (JTA) — A replica of The Netherlands pavilion sent to Auschwitz last year will be erected as a permanent memorial at the site of a former

concentration camp for Jews at Westerbork in northeastern Holland. Westerbork was the main transit camp through which some 150,000 Dutch Jews were deported by the Nazis during World War II to the death camps in Eastern Europe.

During the 1950s it was used as a barracks for immigrants from the South Moluccas, Indonesia. The planned memorial was unanimously approved by the Dutch Parliament last year on a motion by a Communist Party member. The government will contribute one million Guilders and the province of Crenthe, where Westerbork is located, will also make a contribution.

BARLEV FIRES BLAST AT SHARON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 10 (JTA) — Labor Party Secretary General Haim Barlev says he finds it difficult to sleep soundly at night while Ariel Sharon is Defense Minister, because he is an "irresponsible and unbalanced person who tries to play the part of a quiet and poised statesman" but is unsuccessful in hiding his "instability."

A report on these remarks by Barlev, which appear in an article in the Labor Party monthly Migvan due to appear shortly, were censored by Premier Menachem Begin personally who barred their repetition on Israel Radio.

Barlev gave as examples of Sharon's "instability" recent unrest in the Defense Ministry because of the Minister's unilateral revamping of its staff and duties; the recent episode in which Sharon angered his staff by appointing a former Israeli, now an American citizen to a senior position; and what Barlev described as "sudden resolutions on policy in the occupied territories."

A report on the forthcoming article was broadcast by Israel Radio at noon yesterday. It was heard by Begin, who immediately phoned his Director General with instructions to order Prof. Reuven Yaron, a Herut member of the Broadcasting Authority Council, to get Israel Radio director Yosef Lapid to ensure that the item was not repeated on any further newscasts.

Lapid had the item removed and told reporters he thought an "advance notice of an item yet to appear in a political party magazine, designed to draw attention to it and increase its circulation, did not warrant use as a news item on a radio newscast."

Barlev said that from his personal knowledge of Sharon — who was commanding officer when Barlev was Chief of Staff and Sharon a senior field general under him — he thought there was a theoretical danger that Sharon might take military steps which could endanger Israel. He said that "in certain circumstances he (Sharon) might take unnecessary military actions. It has not happened so far, but the danger does exist."

BONN (JTA) — The small Jewish community of Braunschweig has begun renovating and restoring its community center. The construction of the two million Mark project will probably last almost three years. But a major problem is still raising the necessary funds. The town of Braunschweig has announced it would make available one million Marks. As to the remaining one million Marks, the community hopes for donations and for support from various government agencies. A major part of the additional sum needed might be financed through a public program supporting cultural projects.

REFORM RABBI SAYS ISRAELI LEADERS MUST PAY ATTENTION TO CHANGING MOOD IN U.S. JEWISH COMMUNITY

NEW YORK, Jan. 10 (JTA) — A noted Zionist and Reform leader, Rabbi David Polish of Chicago, warned here today that "there is a changing mood in the American Jewish community" and that "Israeli leaders must pay attention to it."

Addressing the opening session of the 25th national convention of the Labor Zionist Alliance at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, Polish declared that "Jews are not yet openly critical, but in contrast to their former unyielding assent, they are strongly dissenting in private."

Polish, a past president of the Central Conference of American rabbis, the rabbinic organization of Reform Judaism, told the several hundred delegates from throughout the country that "there is no proper forum for the discussion of controversial issues in our communities and on a national level." Several times during his address Polish said that the argument that diaspora Jews have no right to be critical of Israel's internal affairs no longer holds, "if it ever did."

He added that "this is an inverted way of stating that diaspora Jews must always approve of Israel's policies, even when they are being bitterly fought in Israel. The case for this position has become threadbare and discredited. It can be argued persuasively that this course can, and has in fact, resulted in growing divisions within American Jewish life. Those divisions can lead to growing alienation. The alienation is due, not so much to honest differences of opinion, but rather to the silencing and discrediting of those who entertain different judgments." Cites A Swing To The Right

Polish pointed to a swing to the right not only in American politics, but in Israeli affairs as well as in the Jewish community. The currents in Jewish life, he said, "are running with a tide of Jewish nationalism that reflects the growing retrogression in the world, a retrogression which in the U.S. takes the form of a frenzied effort to tear up by the roots a half century of social achievements."

The consequences of "this crusade to reverse the clock are already painfully evident," Polish declared. "The emergence to their fullest dimensions of two Israels has assumed threatening proportions. The confrontation of Sephardi versus Ashkenazi became frighteningly apparent during the last (Israeli) national election."

According to Polish, "one of the changes of a renewed Zionism in the U.S. will have to affect is to bring the diaspora and Israel more closely together. To the unperceptive, Israel and the diaspora have never been closer. But that has been more apparent than real. A relationship based on unquestioned support is not a healthy relationship. A relationship based on consultation and authentic discourse, even when punctuated by disagreement, is ultimately stronger and more enduring than a contrived unity which collapses in time of stress."

SHCHARANSKY DESCRIBED AS BEING IN POOR PHYSICAL CONDITION

TEL AVIV, Jan. 10 (JTA) — Members of Anatoly Shcharansky's family were allowed to see the Jewish Prisoner of Conscience last week for the first time in 18 months, his brother Leonid told Anatoly's wife Avital by phone from Moscow last Thursday night. Leonid said that his brother's physical condition had worsened and that the KGB was trying to break him.

Their objective, he said, was to try and get Anatoly to confess that he was really an American spy, the charge on which he was found guilty by a Soviet court and sentenced to 13 years in prison and labor camps. The 33-year-old Anatoly had been in a labor camp where he had collapsed from hunger and was hospitalized for 33 days. Last November he was transferred to the notorious Chistopol Prison, 500 miles east of Moscow, where conditions are more severe than in the labor camps.

Avital said her husband's condition was "critical," after having spent the past half year in solitary confinement on a starvation diet in the labor camp. She said the only way to save Anatoly, according to what Leonid had told her, was for "everybody throughout the world to scream out loud and get the Soviet authorities to listen."

WAXMAN ASKS USSR TO PERMIT HIS COUSIN TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10 (JTA) — Rep. Henry Waxman (D. Calif.) has asked the Soviet government to permit his cousin, David Vaksman, a Soviet Jewish refusenik who lives in Kishinev, to emigrate to Israel. Waxman was joined last week by 72 other members of the House in a plea to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev and Anatoly Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador to the United States.

Waxman, whose grandparents emigrated from Kishinev in 1905, learned the fate of his cousin last summer in a report published by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jewry. Last May 30, Vaksman participated in a demonstration in Kishinev to protest the treatment of Jewish refuseniks. The Union of Councils learned that Vaksman has been barred by the Soviet authorities from emigrating to Israel since September 1, 1973, because of his previous service in the Soviet army.

YITZHAK TUNIK APPROVED BY KNESSET UNIT AS THE NEW STATE COMPTROLLER

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10 (JTA) — Yitzhak Tunik, a 70-year-old lawyer from Tel Aviv, has been approved by the Knesset's House Committee to be State Comptroller, succeeding Yitzhak Nebenzahl who retired last month after serving four five-year terms. His formal appointment by President Yitzhak Navon is expected shortly.

The State Comptroller is the principal supervisor of efficiency and ethics in all branches and agencies of government. Though Tunik was endorsed by seven of the Knesset committee's 13 members, his appointment was the subject of intense debate within Likud and among opposition factions.

The Labor Alignment and Tami favored former Mayor Eliahu Nawi of Beersheba for the office. Some members of Likud's Liberal Party wing backed Uriel Linn, a high-level Treasury official and argued that Tunik is too old for the watchdog post. But they were brought into line by the party bosses who had agreed earlier to support Tunik.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Gen. Arye Ben-Eliezer, former army commander on the West Bank, has been named secretary general of the Tami world organization. Tami is a Knesset faction founded last year by Aharon Abu-Hatzela, the Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, after he defected from the National Religious Party. It plans to nominate delegates for election to the 30th World Zionist Congress to be held in Jerusalem later this year.