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BEGIN REJECTS REASSESSMENT OF COMPENSATION TO SINAI SETTLERS

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin made it clear to his coalition partners today that there will be no reassessment of the 4.4 billion Shekel (\$250 million) compensation payment to the Sinai settlers, authorized by the Cabinet last week and that he expects speedy approval by the Knesset Finance Committee.

Begin summoned the heads of the coalition factions to his home to impress upon them that "the affair must be over and done fast" because "it is not only a matter of money, it is also the peace treaty with Egypt which is at stake." He acted after the Finance Committee balked at what several coalition members as well as the Labor opposition consider an excessive sum likely to touch off a new round of inflation.

The Cabinet approved the offer by a 5-4 vote last Thursday despite opposition by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor and Housing and Construction Minister David Levy. Begin cast the tie-breaking vote. The Finance Committee members who saw him today said they were impressed by his determination to pay the 4.4 billion Shekels without modifications or conditions.

Committee chairman Shlomo Lorincz said he expected approval within a week. But he indicated that the committee may insist that 20 percent of the payment be made in government index-linked bonds and at least part of the balance will be subject to income tax. He explained that the bonds would be non-negotiable for 5-10 years in order to cushion the inflationary impact of the payment.

Finance Committee Divided

The Finance Committee membership is divided evenly between the coalition and the opposition. The outcome of its vote may hinge on the Tami faction, one of Begin's coalition partners. The Tami representative on the committee, Deputy Absorption Minister Aharon Uzan, said he would vote against the compensation package. Begin reportedly had harsh words for Tami today. He warned the faction to respect the Cabinet's decision. "Even a one vote margin is a majority," he said.

The settlers in Yamit and other northern Sinai communities have not yet officially accepted the government's offer and some complained yesterday that the compensation would be unfairly distributed with farmers receiving larger sums than businessmen and householders. The settlements must be abandoned by the time the eastern third of Sinai is returned to Egypt next April.

While the settlers are still threatening civil disobedience, an added complication is the heavy infiltration of northern Sinai by Gush Emunim militants and their supporters who insist that the territory will never be given up.

Hundreds of young people, mainly yeshiva students, entered the Yamit area last night and began to reassemble green-houses just dismantled by Jewish Agency workers for transport to relocation areas inside Israel. Army units stood by but made no attempt to interfere.

Officers said they were reporting to "higher authority." They said the decision to take action would have to come from the politicians, not the army.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA ORTHODOX COALITION SAYS THOSE STUDYING FOR THE RABBINATE MUST ABIDE BY REAGAN'S DECISION TO CONTINUE DRAFT REGISTRATION

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (JTA) — The Orthodox Jewish Coalition on the Selective Service System has sent an advisory letter to officials of Jewish religious schools, stressing that while individuals studying for the rabbinate may, like all divinity students, claim deferment from military service, they must still abide by President Reagan's decision last week to continue draft registration, Rabbi Herman Neuberger, the coalition chairman, said today.

Neuberger said the letter was prompted by information that there is considerable confusion among both school administrators and divinity students stemming from the fact that the renewed registration procedures differ substantially from those of previous draft registrations.

The coalition comprises the major Orthodox Jewish organizations in the United States which participated, with a brief, in arguments before the Supreme Court which subsequently ruled, last June, that women were exempted from the draft.

The advisory letter was prepared for the coalition by its counsel, Dennis Rapps, executive director of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), who also wrote the coalition brief in the exemption of women hearings. Neuberger said the advisory letter outlines the procedures to be followed on registration and on the claiming of exemptions and deferments.

A Source Of Confusion

Rapps said one source of the current confusion is rooted in the on-again-off-again history of draft registration, which was reinstated by President Carter on July 2, 1980, after it was discontinued by President Nixon in 1973.

However, when Ronald Reagan, as Presidential candidate, declared he would not, if elected, continue draft registration, a substantial number of American men, reaching the draft age after that campaign pledge, decided not to register. Rapps said it was assumed that an unknown number of divinity students — including candidates for the rabbinate — were among those who interpreted candidate Reagan's promise as making registration unnecessary.

The letter warned that the coalition had been informed by the Selective Service System that the "grace periods" of 30 to 60 days for registration without penalty applied only to those who did not register after candidate Reagan's pledge; and that it did not apply to those reaching the age of 18 after the President's announcement last week that registration was being continued, including divinity students.

The letter noted that, in previous registrations, young men were required to take physical and written tests and were classified soon after registration.

tering. Exemption and deferment claims were filed at that point. Accordingly, Neuberger said, both the students and their superiors were alert to the sequences of procedures.

Under the current systems, registration requires only the filling out of a form available at U.S. post offices. Under the present system, filing for deferment or exemption would take place only after inductees were chosen, as before, by lottery and called up for induction. But that would happen only if the President announced the existence of a national emergency, requiring mobilization.

The coalition members are the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada; Agudath Israel of America; National Council of Young Israel; Rabbinical Council of America; Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America; United Sathmar Organization; United Lubavitch Community; Central Rabbinical Congress of the United States and Canada; Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools; and COLPA.

DISPUTE OVER ROLE OF 'GREEN PATROLS' IN DEALING WITH BEDOUIN POPULATION By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- A Likud MK clashed with the head of the Nature Reserves Authority today over allegations that the so-called "Green Patrols" mistreated the Bedouin population in the Negev and Sinai. MK Dror Seigerman contended that harassment by the patrols caused the Bedouins to cooperate with terrorist organizations.

Abraham Yaffe, whose Nature Reserves Authority operates the patrols, denounced the charges as a "blood libel" against the Bedouins and the patrols. The Green Patrols were formed six years ago to prevent the misuse of State-owned lands. Much of their activity was aimed against Bedouin shepherds who graze their sheep at nature preserves, military training areas or other unauthorized lands. Yaffe said the patrols took action against anybody who violated the law, not just Bedouins.

Seigerman recently wrote to Agriculture Minister Simcha Ehrlich, who has final authority over the patrols, to freeze their activities until the matter is fully reviewed. According to Seigerman, the Bedouins' traditional loyalty to the State was eroded because they were persecuted by the patrols.

Yaffe conceded that many Bedouins have complained to the police about Green Patrol activity but none of the complaints was found to have merit, he said. He said that in every case brought before the Supreme Court, the Green Patrols were exonerated.

ABU-HATZEIRA DENIES CHARGES By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- Aharon Abu-Hatzeira took the witness stand this week to defend himself against charges that he misappropriated public funds while administering a charitable institution when he was Mayor of Ramle five years ago. Abu-Hatzeira, who is Minister of Labor and Social Welfare in Premier Menachem Begin's government, temporarily relinquished his Cabinet post when his trial opened two months ago.

He said, in his first day of testimony Sunday, that checks made out to him which the prosecution alleges were kick-backs were, in actuality, repayments of loans he had made to needy people out of his own pocket. He said checks made out to his wife had been loans to her and that he had arranged for repayment when he learned they were overdue.

According to Abu-Hatzeira, he was too busy to spend much time administering the fund and left the details to his aide, Moshe Gabai, who is a co-defendant.

ZAIRE SEEKS COMPROMISE IN UN DEBATE ON ISRAEL'S GOLAN ACTION By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- Behind the scene efforts continued here today by members of the Security Council to formulate a draft resolution that would be palatable, or at least acceptable, to both Syria and the United States, on the issue of Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

The latest effort is a working paper initiated by Zaire, a member of the Council, which calls on all countries to refrain from acts helping Israel in its annexation of the Golan. Zaire, which reportedly opposes the Syrian demand for mandatory sanctions against Israel, also urges member-states in its working paper "to consider applying effective and concrete measures," to force Israel to abrogate its annexation.

Meanwhile, Arab League members at the UN were scheduled to meet here this evening to formulate a united stand on a resolution concerning the Golan annexation.

Saudi Envoy Demands Sanctions

The Security Council continued its meeting last night and today, hearing various speakers denouncing Israel and calling for action against it.

Ambassador Gaafar Allagany of Saudi Arabia told the Council last night that it must impose sanctions against Israel, including mandatory economic sanctions. He warned that Israel's annexation of the Golan poses serious dangers for peace in the Mideast.

Ambassador Emmanouel Ghikas of Greece said last night that Israel's annexation violated Security Council Resolution 242. Greece, he said, "condemned" the Israeli move. Although he called for "action" against Israel, Ghikas did not mention sanctions.

LAZAR WEINER DEAD AT 84

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- Lazar Weiner, a composer of hundreds of Yiddish art songs and liturgical music, cantatas and operas, including "The Golem," died here Sunday after a short illness at the age of 84.

A music teacher as well as a composer, Weiner was born in Cherkass, Russia, a small town near Kiev, and came to the United States in 1914. He taught seminars in the Yiddish art song at the Hebrew Union College, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the 92nd Street Y.

Weiner served as music director of the Central Synagogue for 44 years and directed the Workmen's Circle chorus. He was also honorary vice chairman of the JWB Jewish Music Council and for many years he was host of the weekly radio broadcast "The Message of Israel."

Weiner was regarded as the greatest exponent in the country of the Yiddish art song and as one who sought in his music to convey and preserve the accomplishments of Yiddish culture. Among his famous songs are "Nigun" and "Dos Gold fun Deine Oigen" (The Gold of Your Eyes).

NJCRC OFFICIAL SAYS FALASHAS FACE EXTINCTION FROM FAMINE AND VARIOUS FORMS OF PERSECUTION

HOUSTON, Jan. 12 (JTA) — The threat of annihilation that looms over the Jews of Ethiopia was the focus of an address here last night by Bennett Yanowitz, chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRC) at its annual plenary session here, attended by 400 Jewish leaders from 111 local and 11 national Jewish community relations organizations.

The Falashas, Ethiopian Jewry, "face extinction not merely from famine but from persecution in the form of pillaging, slavery, forced conversion and other deprivations," Yanowitz said. He noted that the area of the world they live in is one where whole populations face a slow death from starvation, where "refugees are numbered in the millions and are largely ignored by the world."

Notes Differences Of Opinion

But "the adequacy of world Jewry's response to the plight of Ethiopian Jewry is an issue that tends to invite differences between those who stress the complexity and risk involved in the rescue effort and others who focus on the peril to the survival of the Ethiopian Jews," Yanowitz said. He observed that those who focus on the peril "contend that the rescue efforts are minimal, as measured by the relatively few who have made their way out, and say that more needs to be done and therefore more can be done."

"While we know that there are differences among us within the Jewish community on many issues when it comes to saving lives we expect unity, not recriminations," Yanowitz declared.

Cites Volatile Situation

He warned however, that public condemnation of the Ethiopian government, mass protests and Entebbe-like operations were neither productive nor possible. He cited the volatile political situation in Soviet-influenced Ethiopia; the continuing war between Ethiopia and Somalia; the rabid anti-Israel stance of Ethiopia's Arab neighbors; the vast and forbidding geographical setting of the remote Falasha villages; and the confusion and massive privations in the refugee camps on the Ethiopian-Somalia border where Ethiopian Jews are intermingled with perhaps two million others.

Because of the difficulties facing rescue efforts, "neither we nor our Israeli friends are satisfied at the rate of emigration of Ethiopian Jews," Yanowitz said.

A Pledge To Save Falashas

He expressed confidence in the Israeli personnel and apparatus that engineered previous rescue efforts in other countries and is now working on Falasha rescue operations. In that connection, Yanowitz read a telegram from Israeli Premier Menachem Begin which stated:

"The government of the day in Israel took the momentous decision to bring home all our Falasha brethren and it is doing its utmost persistently without let-up, to carry out this historic task. Begin pledged that "We shall not rest until the last of our brethren will come back home and find a haven here for himself and his family."

Yanowitz cited the role of the NJCRC Committee on Ethiopian Jewry which, he said, is to measure the effectiveness of efforts being made in light of the needs and circumstances. He noted that the committee includes all of NJCRC's national member agencies, the Council of Jewish Federations

(CJF), the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and the United Israel Appeal.

He said that it serves in fact as a committee on oversight on this issue. Yanowitz promised to continue NJCRC's role of bringing together all groups concerned with saving Ethiopian Jews until the job is done.

JDL Stages Protest Action

Last Thursday, the Jewish Defense League staged a 90-minute sit-in at the offices of NJCRC in New York City to protest their "indifference and quiet resignation to the murder and torture of Ethiopian Jews." Meir Jolowitz, chairman of the JDL, said the 50 JDL members who took part in the sit-in demanded to know "how many more must die before the so-called respectable Jewish organizations learn that it was quiet diplomacy that already cost our people six million lives. Wasn't one Holocaust enough?"

Jolowitz, noting that the Ethiopian Jewish population "once numbering several hundred thousand has been reduced to some 20,000," said the JDL action last week was to demand of NJCRC officials that the organization "make a priority in practice, not in lip service, to rescue Jews being oppressed in Ethiopia and refugee camps in the Sudan." According to Jolowitz, NJCRC spokesmen said they would continue to make it a priority issue.

ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN TENNIS PLAYERS GET ALONG WELL

By Haskell Cohen

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (JTA) — While the consequences of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty are still tenuous in a number of areas, the relationship between the two countries in the field of tennis has become more apparent as the months pass. The latest sign of good will, on the tennis courts, at least, was indicated recently.

Towards the end of the 1981 indoor tennis season Ricky Meyer of Long Island, New York, teamed up with El Shafel, Egypt's best player, in doubles at the \$75,000 Sofia Grand Prix court festival in Bulgaria and they reached the doubles final before they were knocked out.

This tournament marked the first time that Meyer won an accredited Tennis Association tourney and he pulled down \$12,000. In addition, he picked up a handsome fee for going to the final round with the Egyptian in the doubles competition.

Meyer reports that Shafel and the other Egyptian tennis performers are more than happy to meet with and play the Israeli stars. Right now Shlomo Glickstein is Israel's top rated player and has worked his way in to the top 50 court performers in the world's rankings so that sooner or later he will be playing with and against Egyptian tennis stars.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel Television's radio monitor reported Monday night that Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko said in an interview on Radio Kinshasa that he was determined to restore diplomatic relations with Israel. He was quoted as saying that Zaire was an independent country and would not give in to pressure or dictates against any decision he might take to resume relations with Israel.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The trustees of Al-Najah Arab University in Nablus have decided to close the institution following bloody clashes between rival groups of students on the campus last weekend. Eighteen students were injured and a lecturer was thrown from a third-floor window.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE SEMANTICS OF THE VATICAN

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, Jan. 12 (JTA) -- When Jewish and/or Israeli delegations come to Rome to visit the Pope they are inevitably surprised by the cordial reception extended to them. The shadow of history seems to fall on today's reality, almost as if the spectre of past humiliations and discriminations were a constant traveling companion.

For those who have been following Vatican diplomacy in Rome for the past two decades, the profound transformation in the Vatican's attitude towards the entire non-Catholic world (and not just Jewish or Israeli) ever since the Second Ecumenical Council, is obvious, and easy to observe, from the broad directives to the very fine details in whose context the Roman Catholic Church expresses itself.

In the halls of Vatican City, Israeli visitors will always be greeted with a smiling "Shalom" by Pope John Paul II, as they were by Pope Paul VI; and Arab representatives will also be greeted with a friendly "Saalam." (The Pope reads out his "Good Christmas" greeting every year in 30 or more languages, including various dialects of India and Africa.)

The Vatican, the only religious state to have survived for nearly 2000 years, today bases its every nuance in international diplomacy on its aspirations towards universality.

All non-Catholics are considered by the Vatican hierarchy as "spiritual children," with a professedly "special relationship," towards the "monotheistic children" who are also Catholicism's ancestors, to be dealt with by a myriad of official Vatican commissions and secretariats created by the Second Ecumenical Council expressly for this purpose.

Form And Content

Jewish and Israeli representatives sometimes fail to perceive that while the forms taken by Vatican communications will always be marked by impeccable civility, the contents will vary according to a logical desire to keep all parties at points of equidistance, clearly defined in previous documents issued by the Vatican on the various issues involved.

Thus, there is nothing new in the Vatican's demand for "a special statute with international guarantees" for Jerusalem. The Vatican has long ceased demanding an "internationalization" of the city, but neither is it about to accept a "unilateral" (or not "agreed upon") action on Jerusalem's destiny.

Nor can it officially accept Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights because this means Israel is not "sticking to international conventions," as was noted in the long Vatican press communication released after Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's audience with the Pope last Thursday.

Dealing With A Specific Encounter

The length of that communique and its prompt appearance in the official Vatican press organ, *Osservatore Romano*, are both signs of the exceptional importance given to the encounter. Within the very carefully chosen and moderate summing-up of both sides' views in the Vatican's version of the audience, several points emerge.

The Vatican apparently took in the "information briefing" on Israel's positions given by Shamir with good grace, and in return, made several demands of Israel. In addition to its request that Israel

make no further "one-sided moves" of annexation, it is asking Israel to extend "the peace negotiation process to all interested parties" and to improve the quality of its relationship to its Palestinian population.

The exact words are: "An efficient contribution would be for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to enjoy conditions of serenity in full respect of all rights." "Moderation" is demanded of Israel in regard to Lebanon, to help, along with "all parties," to give their "contributions for extending and consolidating the truce that has been achieved for several months in that region..."

For those ever on the alert for fine points in the Vatican's selection of words, it is noted that while the Vatican has not yet officially recognized Israel it freely speaks of "The State of Israel." This press release which makes reference to a "just and fair solution" to the Palestinian problem also "takes into account the problem of the security of the State of Israel."

Getting Around Difficulties

By the same token, the belabored preference of one verb over another in reporting Shamir's outline of Israel's position on Jerusalem reveals the Vatican's difficulty in accepting Israel's "one-sided" claim on Jerusalem. The text states that Minister Shamir "pointed out that the present situation in the Holy City reflects its particular significance in the history of the Jewish people..." The verb "reflects" was obviously typed into a blank space left in the previously printed text. Reportedly the verb actually used by Shamir was "does justice to."

The communique also takes note of Israel's concern over "the massive influx of arms in the region and the grave problems of terrorism," of "the safeguarding and free access to the holy places of all faiths and their self-management" and "Israel's efforts to assure the well-being of the different communities."

Israel's "commitment to reaching a global and just solution to the conflict while safeguarding the security of Israel" and "the efforts and concessions made by Israel" were published as being among the main points of Shamir's message.

Doubtlessly, Israel's recent Golan annexation poses a diplomatic problem for the Vatican's relations with the Arab world. But the Vatican is no longer willing to interrupt its flow of dialogue with Israel and world Jewry, just as it is not willing to interrupt good relations with the Arab world, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

It will continue to practice the fine art of diplomatic equidistance, summoning up all its ancient intellectual know-how, but it will never again regress to pre-ecumenical positions or forms.

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) -- More than 3,000 youths attended the first Latin American festival of Israeli songs and dances. Zionist youth movement groups from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico performed in the program which was held last month in Sao Paulo's Jewish Center, the Hebraica.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Three policemen were injured Tuesday in a clash in the Israeli Arab village of Taibe near Kfar Saba, when income tax inspectors tried to collect taxes from delinquent shopkeepers and merchants. Police took advantage of the enforcement activity to round up people suspected of drug trafficking and illegal activities.