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REAGAN ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES SALE OF \$79 MILLION COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM TO ARAB CONSORTIUM WHICH INCLUDES LIBYA AND THE PLO

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Congress will have 30 days to review a proposal by the Reagan Administration to sell civilian communications equipment to an Arab consortium which includes the Palestine Liberation Organization and Libya, as well as Soviet client states as Syria and South Yemen but also pro-American states as Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

A detailed letter has been sent by the Administration to members of Congress assuring them that the \$79 million deal for the 22-member ARABSAT consortium did not mean that the U.S. was recognizing the PLO and that the equipment would not be used in an Arab satellite system which might have military capabilities. The deal was pulled back last November in the face of Congressional criticism that the equipment might have military capabilities.

The Administration notified Congress of the proposed sale last October 30 to comply with the Arms Export Control Act but Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on November 3 that he was not aware of it.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig, confronted with more Congressional questions about ARABSAT, said on November 4 that the proposal was being withdrawn pending further study. A State Department spokesman said yesterday that following "four consultations with Congress, we have no reason to believe that Congress will disapprove the case."

Will Issue License To Ford Aerospace

If Congress, after its 30-day review, approves of the sale, the Administration intends to issue an export license to Ford Aerospace, manufacturer of the communications equipment. Under the Arms Export Control Act, the license needed to ship the equipment abroad is subject to a Congressional veto. The equipment is actually being sold to the French firm Aerospatiale which is assembling three satellites for the consortium.

According to plans, the first satellite is to be launched in early 1984. It will provide the Arab world with more than 10,000 telephone circuits and a television channel. Negotiations have been under way for a second satellite to be launched by the U.S. space shuttle in mid-1984.

GOVERNMENT SURVIVES NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE ON ISSUE OF COMPENSATION PAYMENTS TO SETTLERS IN SINAI

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin's government narrowly survived a no-confidence vote today in a Knesset angered by what it declared to be excessive compensation payments to the settlers in northern Sinai.

The 55-52 vote against the no-confidence motion followed the adoption of a resolution by the Knesset last night describing as "scandalous waste" the government's offer to pay the settlers over a quarter billion dollars. The money is to compensate

them for the homes, farms and businesses they will have to leave behind when Israel completes its final withdrawal from Sinai next April 26.

The sum, proposed by Deputy Premier and Agriculture Minister Simcha Ehrlich and endorsed by Begin, split the Cabinet. Ministers supporting the deal argued that the high price was necessary to assure a peaceful evacuation of Sinai. But others, notably Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, warned that the payment would touch off a new round of inflation.

The settlers themselves have not yet accepted the offer. Businessmen in the Yamit region have called it unfair because they would receive less than farmers. The Knesset Finance Committee insists that the payments be made partly in long term government bonds and the cash balance subject to income tax. Begin so far has opposed those conditions.

SHARON: EGYPT WILL NOT END PEACE PROCESS AFTER APRIL 26 By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon assured Knesset members today that Egypt would not end the peace process with Israel after the evacuation of Sinai is completed next April 26.

Briefing the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee on his visit to Cairo last week, Sharon said that after the Sinai withdrawal, Egypt will press Israel for more concessions but will not launch war against Israel or break diplomatic relations. Therefore, Sharon recommended that Israel tone down its political declarations and not panic as the withdrawal date approaches.

Hawks and doves on the committee joined in a call for the immediate evacuation of the northern Sinai settlers, some of whom are quarreling with the government over compensation while others oppose withdrawal under any circumstances. Danny Rosolio of the Labor Alignment and Likud MKs Amnon Lin and Dror Seigerman agreed that upholding the law took precedence over any other considerations. Sharon promised to present their views to the Cabinet.

Sharon disagreed with former Premier Yitzhak Rabin of the Labor Party who proposed that if no autonomy agreement is reached with Egypt by the Sinai withdrawal deadline, Israel should give a "second thought" to the entire peace process. Sharon said, "I am not in favor of any second thought but had I been, it would have been a very difficult decision which should be based on a wide national consensus."

DULZIN SAYS THERE IS A FEAR THAT SOVIET JEWS WILL ONCE AGAIN BECOME THE 'SILENT JEWRY' By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The presidium of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry, comprising 65 Jewish leaders from 14 countries, began a three-day meeting here today overshadowed by the concern that the Soviet government is cutting off emigration by Jews from the Soviet Union.

The meeting, the first of the presidium's semi-annual sessions to be held in Washington, will end Thursday afternoon with a meeting with Vice President George Bush.

There is a fear that the Soviet Jews will once again become the "silent Jewry," Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Conference, said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Jewish emigration, which rose to more than 51,000 in 1979, trickled down to only 9,447 last year. Dulzin noted that at the same time, there has been a sharp increase in the number of "hardcore" refuseniks, Jews who have been denied exit visas more than once and who have thus suffered the loss of jobs and have been subject to harassment of various kinds.

In January 1980, there were 2,984 refuseniks, Dulzin said. The number rose to 4,741 by January 1981 and 5,798 by last September. At the same time, he pointed out, the Soviet government is not allowing the necessary affidavits from Israel to reach Soviet Jews who want to apply for exit visas.

Aim Of The Meeting

Dulzin, who is also chairman of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency Executives, said that the meeting here this week is aimed at arousing public opinion again for the cause of Soviet Jewry. It is also to demonstrate to Soviet Jewry that "we are not neglecting them and will continue the struggle," he said.

One decision that is expected to come out of the meeting is to hold a third Brussels conference on Soviet Jewry either this year or early next year, Dulzin said. At the first conference in 1971, world public opinion on Soviet Jewry was coordinated. The second in 1976, was held after the Soviet government placed an "education tax" on emigrants. It was repealed later.

Dulzin said that since the first Brussels conference, some 260,000 Jews have emigrated from the USSR, 185,000 of them settling in Israel. But, he said, since 1979, the peak year for emigration, there has been a problem of Noshrim ("dropouts"). Last year 85 percent of the Jews who left the Soviet Union went to some other country than Israel, Dulzin said. He blamed the dropout problem in part for the Soviet clampdown on emigration since, he said, the USSR did not want the Jews to go to the United States.

Other Countries Where Jews Are In Danger

Beside the Soviet Union, Dulzin said there were three other countries where Jews were in danger -- Iran, Ethiopia and Syria. In Ethiopia, Dulzin said "we are doing everything possible to save" the Falashas who face extermination, and bring them to Israel.

In the other countries, there was little that could be done now, he said. He said the Iranian Jews were suffering along with the rest of the population of Iran. There is concern for the suffering of the 4,000 Jews left in Syria, Dulzin said, but the government there would not allow them to leave.

Dulzin said there was no Jewish problem in Poland despite the anti-Semitic attitude of the government because there were so few Jews left in the country. He said the Polish government's charges that Zionists were behind the opposition to the Communist rulers is proof that

anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism are the same thing. He said the Polish government was still using anti-Semitism "even if you don't have Jews there."

As for South America, Dulzin said that he did not believe that Jews there were in danger, at least in the short term. Of course, he added, "we would like the Jews of South America to come to Israel."

GENSCHER IS EXPECTED TO VISIT ISRAEL IN APRIL OR MAY

BONN, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher is expected to visit Israel in April or May, diplomatic sources here said today. They said his visit is no longer opposed in principle by the government, although Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has insisted it take place only after Israel completes its withdrawal from Sinai next April 26.

Schmidt himself shows no signs of accepting a seven-year-old standing invitation to visit Israel. According to one of his aides, he sees no reason to change his mind. But the Bonn government has obviously decided to maintain high-level contacts with Israel, especially after its two major partners in the European Economic Community (EEC), Britain and France, have been conducting a dialogue with Jerusalem on the foreign ministers level or have declared their intention to do so.

REPORT PLAN TO DESTABILIZE ITALY IS MASTERMINDED BY COMMUNIST BLOC EMPLOYING PALESTINIAN TERROR GANGS By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The Italian press featured reports yesterday of a sinister plan to destabilize Italy with terrorism and drugs, masterminded by the Communist bloc and employing Italian and Palestinian terrorist gangs, "Mideastern agents" from Syria and Lebanon, Libya and "the Egyptian faction which killed President Sadat." The plot is also said to involve the Mafia which controls the narcotics traffic and the kidnapping racket.

Corriere Della Sera reported that a Syrian agent of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, arrested in Rome, came to Italy to "establish contacts with Italian terrorist groups, furnish arms and explosives, with the aim of creating uncontrollable chaos."

The police in fact disclosed yesterday that the Syrian, identified as Nasry el-Tamj and a 25-year-old German woman, Brigitte Bagenoam, were apprehended at Fiumicino Airport on January 5 in possession of concealed explosives and false passports.

Investigating Possible Links

The police said news of the arrest was withheld until now to give West German authorities time to investigate a possible link between the pair and German neo-Nazis who may have been responsible for the bombing of an Israeli-owned restaurant in West Berlin on January 15. The suspects, Klaus Hubel and Franz-Joachim Bojarski, were arrested by Italian police in Avezzano last Tuesday.

Corriere Della Sera reported that another agent, Chady Ross Darviche, of Egyptian origin, is wanted for financing and arming leftist and neo-fascist extremists in Italy on orders "from a foreign power." Darviche's whereabouts are unknown.

Six Arabs, posing as students were expelled from Italy several days ago after they were discovered in Perugia with manuals on guerrilla warfare and the use of firearms and missiles. Although they had registered at the university, they attended no classes.

One of the six was identified as Mustafa Nasser, the official Palestine Liberation Organization repre-

sentative in Perugia. Another, Mohammed Fuad, had been expelled from Italy last June but returned with a visa stamped by the Italian Embassy in Amman, Jordan.

Judge Tries To Implicate Israel

Ironically, the cases of Italian terrorist links with Palestinian and other Arab terrorists are being investigated by an Italian Magistrate, Ferdinando Imposimato, who was quoted in an interview in *Il Messaggero* last week as saying that Israel was trying to destabilize Italy so that the United States would have to rely on Israel as its only stable ally in the Mediterranean area.

Imposimato claimed that Israeli agents had offered to collaborate with the terrorist Red Brigade for that purpose. He said he had his information from two Red Brigade defectors who turned informers. Foreign government sources dismissed the story as "too ridiculous to bear comment," and an angry editorial in the Israeli daily *Maariv* was quoted by the Italian media. The judge's allegations subsequently disappeared from the press.

REFORM CONGREGATION IN WALES TO START SPECIAL PRAYER FOR WALES TO BE RECITED IN THE WELSH LANGUAGE

CARDIFF, Wales, Jan. 26 (JTA)—The New Synagogue here, a Reform congregation, will inaugurate a special prayer for Wales, to be recited in the Welsh language, at its Sabbath morning service on February 13. It will be a permanent part of the service thereafter, according to Rabbi Kenneth Cohen, minister of the 140-year-old New Synagogue.

The prayer was composed by Cohen and by Rev. Noel Davies, General Secretary of the Council of Churches for Wales, who translated it into Welsh. According to Cohen, an American who came here a year ago, "The concept of such a prayer is ancient in origin and is sanctioned by Biblical authority."

He cited the message sent by Jeremiah to the Jewish captives in Babylon in which he told them (29:7) "Seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray unto the Lord for it; for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace."

Cohen noted: "We recite a prayer for the welfare of the Royal Family and government in English, after which we recite a prayer for the State of Israel in Hebrew. It only seems right that we, the sole Reform Synagogue in Wales, should pray for this country and that this prayer should be in the language of the land."

The prayer reads: "Our God and God of our fathers, we pray also for Wales. We thank you for the beauty of her land, the wealth of her traditions and the fellowship of her peoples. May all inhabitants of Wales be united in their love of you and respect for their common humanity, so that justice may roll down as waters and righteousness as a mighty stream."

L.A. POLICE CHIEF REBUKED FOR REPORT THAT THE USSR IS SENDING TERRORISTS TO CITY DISGUISED AS JEWS

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 26 (JTA)—Police Chief Daryl Gates has been sharply rebuked by the President of the Los Angeles Police Commission, Reva Tooley, for releasing a report suggesting that the Soviet Union is sending criminals into the Los Angeles area, posing as Russian Jewish emigres, with the intention to increase crime and disrupt the 1984 Olympic Games.

Tooley said that on the basis of a briefing by Assistant Police Chief Marvin Iannone she found "no basis for such speculation" and accused Gates of "unnecessarily whipping up fear," *Los Angeles Times* staff writers Kenneth Reich and Joel Sappell reported.

The Soviet Jewish emigre community here has already demanded that Gates apologize to the Jewish community for releasing a 42-page pamphlet prepared by his detectives which alleged among other things that 20 Soviet emigres in the Los Angeles area are involved in criminal activities and that this could be part of a plot engineered by the KGB.

The pamphlet was given to a group of media and business executives at a briefing by Gates last Friday. The Police Chief subsequently acknowledged that the allegations were "speculations" and "suppositions" but maintained that "worst case" scenarios had to be anticipated. He added that if there is a threat, it comes from Soviet emigrants posing as Jews, not from Jews.

Si Frumkin, chairman of the Southern California Council for Soviet Jews, observed that Soviet Jewish emigrants here are "a well adjusted community of good Americans who do not cooperate with the KGB." He noted that more than 20 police officers have been indicted for various offenses, yet no one linked them to an international plot.

The report by Gates' detectives contained a section titled "Soviet Emigre Mafia" which claimed that about 20 emigres have been involved in "murder, theft, fraud, forgery, counterfeiting, extortion, receiving stolen property and various vice activities."

It added: "It is readily foreseeable that the crime problem involving Soviets will increase in size and severity as the Soviet emigrant population increases."

AYATOLLAH DENOUNCES FAHD PLAN By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Jan. 26 (JTA)—The Iranian delegation to the United Nations issued a scathing denunciation yesterday of the plan proposed by Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia last August. The statement, by the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, declared: "It is a disgrace for Arabs who rule because of their own interests to accept this plan. If all of us die, it is better than to be displaced at the hands of Zionists and Americans."

Although the Fahd plan no more than implied acceptance of Israel by the Arab world if it withdraws from all occupied Arab territories, including East Jerusalem, and allows the establishment of a Palestinian state, the Iranian statement asserted that "One of the points of the plan is that Israel should be recognized." The statement added, "If all the points were positive, this point in itself would be enough to negate the whole plan."

The Iranian statement interpreted "peace with Israel" as meaning "that should any country or man decide to do anything against these plunderers, then all Moslems in the region must attack other Moslems to preserve Israel."

According to the Iranians, even if Israel would withdraw from some of the land it occupies it "can keep what it got as if it belongs to itself. The plan provides that the rest of the land will remain under the sovereignty of Israel. It seeks the domination of Israel over the Arab and Islamic armies." The statement concluded with a warning to "the Moslem people that if this plan is accepted, tomorrow Israel will annex even Mecca and Medina."

SPECIAL INTERVIEW ARENS PONDERES HIS FUTURE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) — Prof. Moshe Arens (Likud-Herut MK), Israel's new Ambassador to Washington, quotes Samuel Goldwyn when asked how his diplomatic assignment will affect his political future. "Forecasting is very difficult," the legendary movie maker is reported to have said, "especially about the future ..."

A still rising star in the Herut firmament, Arens, 56, says he cannot now speculate how his career will shape up in the years ahead. He stresses though that he certainly does not look upon the Ambassadorship as a sort of stepping-stone to higher political office.

"I daresay all successful politicians harbor the ambition to reach the top of the greasy pole, to become Prime Minister. Well, I don't. In that respect I'm not a successful politician..."

What he will look for in the Ambassadorship is "satisfaction in a good job well done" — just as he achieved satisfaction from chairing the powerful and prestigious Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee over the past five years.

Expresses Self-Confidence

"Not that I'm a man lacking in ambition," Arens continues. As an aeronautical engineer he was driven with the urge to get to the top — and indeed by the time he left that field for politics he was director of projects for the Israel Aircraft Industries.

"I have great confidence in my ability to design planes and missiles," Arens still says of himself today. He keeps fully in touch with professional developments and still dreams of returning to the drawing-board "before I'm too old."

In fact, says Arens, had the Israel government made a firm decision to build the second generation "Lavie" warplane a few months ago, he (Arens) would have eagerly given up his political career and lobbied to get the job of director of that project "because I see it as the most important contribution I could make."

In the U.S., Arens intends to keep his hand in still — especially by urging American high-technology industries (including aerospace industries) to seriously investigate investment opportunities in Israel. This, he says, is a vital part of the Ambassador's role.

Views Role Of Ambassador

Being an active (and powerful) politician in Israel's ruling party will positively help him in his work as Ambassador, Arens says with conviction. His American interlocutors will know "that I have many contacts and a certain degree of influence" back in Jerusalem, that he has a following within Herut, that he has "a close relationship" both with Premier Menachem Begin and with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Sometimes, Arens notes, countries send special high-level emissaries to foreign capitals to take care of specific problems. "In many ways I shall be like a special emissary — only I'll be there permanently," he states.

He scoffs at the predictions of some Israeli pundits that the Administration will seek to deliberately "bypass" him and deal with Israel through U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis in Tel

Aviv because of his well known hardline views. That would be, Arens says, for the U.S. to cut off its nose to spite its face — and therefore Washington is very unlikely to act that way. The American interest, like the Israeli interest, is to keep both channels of communication — the Tel Aviv Embassy and the Washington Embassy — open and operating.

Arens sees the primary task of an Ambassador as being a channel of consistent and accurate communication — in order to ensure that the host government and his own government never misunderstand one another. If he can bring about a situation of positive understanding, whereby each understands the other's motives — that is a higher step, Arens muses. If he can produce agreement on issues — that is the highest goal.

Will Serve The State, Not Any Party

While Arens does not intend to sever his party-political ties while serving as Ambassador, he vows to be "the Ambassador of the State of Israel — not the Ambassador of any party." By the same token, he will not favor politically sympathetic Jewish leaders or groups in the U.S. at the expense of others.

He is acutely aware, and does not attempt to minimize, the extent of dissent within the American Jewish community over aspects of Israel's policy. In this respect, he says, the American community reflects Israel itself where the same differences over the same issues rend the political community asunder.

U.S., Israeli Interests Converge

Arens is not daunted, however. His basic approach, he says, is that American and Israeli interests in the Mideast largely converge: the problems arise only over "perceptions" of how to further those interests.

Thus, he lists the U.S. strategic goals in the area as: stemming Soviet advances, maintaining peace, ensuring Western oil supplies, and keeping oil prices stable. "These are all Israeli interests, too, every one of them," the future envoy observes.

There was dramatic proof, he says, of this convergence of interests during the AWACS debate, when it was clear that many American opponents of the sale opposed it for purely American reasons.

Arens is treading carefully in everything to do with his concrete plans as Ambassador. He will take over in less than a month, but says he has so far made no specific requests for staff changes.

A Remarkable Success Story

Last Tuesday night, his last evening of membership of the Knesset, Arens was seen sitting long and late in the members dining room, chatting with all and sundry. "He's having a tough time leaving this place," an observer commented.

For, despite his diffidence and talk of himself as something less than a "successful politician," Arens in fact is a remarkable success story in Israeli politics. A relative late-comer, he has already made it to the next-to-top level of policy making. He was seriously considered as a candidate for Defense Minister when Ezer Weizman resigned in 1980. And, his career, which now takes a diplomatic turn, is still in full flush.

PARIS (JTA) — President Francois Mitterrand, who is due to pay an official visit to Israel March 3-5, will avoid the old city of Jerusalem and the West Bank. French sources said that Mitterrand does not want to visit any of the territories Israel occupied after the Six-Day War.