

ISRAEL APPEARS PLEASED WITH REAGAN ADMINISTRATION'S STATEMENTS REGARDING ARMS SALES TO JORDAN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- Political sources here said today that they were pleased with the Reagan Administration's clarifications and declarations regarding possible arms sales to Jordan.

Expressions of pleasure were focused on President Reagan's letter to Premier Menachem Begin in which he stated that American policy toward Israel has not changed and that he is "determined to see that Israel's qualitative technological edge is maintained." Reagan also stated: "There has been no change regarding our military supply relationship for Jordan and (Defense) Secretary (Caspar) Weinberger brought me no new requests."

Sources here noted that even statements by Weinberger yesterday sounded more in line with Reagan's policy. Appearing on the NBC-TV "Today" program, Weinberger said that Israel's military edge would be a factor in any discussion of arms requests by Jordan.

Following the display of bi-partisan unity in the Knesset Monday, when the ruling Likud coalition and the opposition Labor Alignment voted 88-3 opposing the sale of U.S. arms to Jordan, Israel has moved to adopt a milder tone in its statements about the Reagan Administration and to create an atmosphere of business-as-usual in its relations with Washington.

Meanwhile, Richard Fairbanks, who has been appointed as Secretary of State Alexander Haig's special representative for the autonomy talks between Israel and Egypt, was scheduled to arrive here today for a renewed effort to reach some progress in the negotiations before Israel completes withdrawal from Sinai by April 26.

SHAMIR SAYS DEMOCRATIC NATIONS SHOULD ESTABLISH A NEW ORGANIZATION PARALLEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir proposed here yesterday that the democratic nations of the world establish a new organization of their own, parallel to the United Nations which, he charged, no longer serves the purpose of world peace.

Shamir, invited to address an Israel Bonds dinner here tonight, spoke at a press conference for correspondents assigned to the UN in Geneva. He noted that the Arab states had their organization, as did the Eastern bloc countries, and claimed it was time the democratic nations had one, too.

According to Shamir, the UN, founded to maintain peace in the world, has erased that task from its agenda thanks to the automatic majority which, he claimed, has made the world organization an instrument against the democratic world in general and Israel in particular.

Shamir denounced the General Assembly resolution of February 5, which demanded punitive sanctions against Israel and branded it a non-peace-loving state, as "untrue, one-sided and scandalous."

He said: "It is a scandal to call Israel a nation that does not love peace when we are going to give back the Sinai in April." The resolution, adopted by a vote of 86-21, was backed almost entirely by the Arab, Soviet-bloc and Third World nations.

The Time Has Come

Shamir said that analyzing the situation at the UN it is apparent that the democratic countries are a minority, constituting only 30 of the 155 member states. Therefore, Israel believes the time has come for the democratic nations to organize themselves to protect liberty and democracy in the world, he said.

He proposed that the new organization be based on the same foundations as the Parliament of Europe. He also stressed Israel's determination to continue the peace process in the Middle East. But Shamir said his country was worried by the new supply of weapons to the region where there is already too much arms provided by the Soviet Union and the U.S.

Referring to recent proposals that the U.S. sell Jordan a mobile air defense system and F-16 jet fighters, Shamir said "Jordan does not need sophisticated ground to air missiles and advanced F-16 fighters. The leaders (of Jordan) have repeatedly claimed they could not fight Israel as they had no air force. So why should the U.S. supply them now with these weapons?"

DESPITE REAGAN'S ASSURANCES TO BEGIN, THERE IS STILL THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE U.S. WILL SELL ARMS TO JORDAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- President Reagan's letter to Premier Menachem Begin yesterday seeking to reassure Israel that the United States "has not changed" its policy toward Israel still leaves open the possibility that the U.S. will supply additional arms to Jordan and other Arab countries.

The President denied that Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger returned from Jordan with a request or proposal to sell the Hashemite Kingdom F-16 fighter jets and Hawk mobile missiles. But Weinberger has admitted that he discussed the weaponry with King Hussein and the Defense Secretary gave a clear impression while in the Middle East that he favored the sale.

The President, in his "Dear Menachem" letter, stressed that he is "determined to see that Israel's qualitative technological edge is maintained" and reiterated that "Israel remains America's friend and ally."

But he added, "I believe it is in the interest of both our countries for the United States to enhance its influence with other Arab states in the region." This position was stressed by both Weinberger and Secretary of State Alexander Haig in television appearances this week with the Defense Secretary putting it more bluntly by saying that the U.S. wants more than one friend in the Middle East.

In an appearance on the Public Broadcasting Service's "MacNeil/Lehrer Report" last night, Haig said that the U.S. takes the "requirement into consideration" to maintain Israel's "technological

superiority" in any arms deal it makes with an Arab state. He noted that Israel is a "front line state" in the Arab-Israel dispute and "their concerns about their security posture (is) longstanding, understandable and certainly must be listened to sympathetically."

Haig said that the Reagan letter was issued after the Administration saw the concern of Israel, as demonstrated by the Knesset resolution voicing deep concern Monday, which he said was heightened by exaggerated news reports from the Weinberger trip. Reagan may be asked to give a clearer explanation of U.S. arms policy at his news conference tomorrow.

But the Administration is also apparently worried that the Israeli concern over the U.S. policy might trigger reaction in Lebanon, perhaps with the Israel army crossing the border to wipe out the growing threat from Palestinian terrorist forces there. Reagan's letter yesterday ended by saying, "I recognize the unique bond between the U.S. and Israel and the serious responsibility which this bond imposes on us both." David Gergen, White House communications director interpreted this to be a call for restraint and consultation on both sides.

The Administration is so nervous about Lebanon that Reagan's special envoy to the Mideast, Philip Habib, is expected to be sent to the area soon to help maintain the cease-fire across the Israeli-Lebanese border which he helped establish last July.

Sees No Israeli Threat to Lebanon

Haig stressed last night that he doesn't see any immediate threat of an Israeli troop movement in Lebanon. He said that Israel has been restrained and he expects them to continue to be restrained. He said that Israel has "cause" for "legitimate concern" as a result of a Soviet rearming of the Palestine Liberation Organization and PLO incursions into Israel from Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. He said the PLO and other parties involved in Lebanon also "have an obligation" to show restraint.

Haig also seemed to go out of his way last night to express sympathy for Israel's growing concern as demonstrated in the flap over weapons for Jordan. He said any observer over the past few months "would understand that there is a growing sense of concern in Israel. After all, they joined the peace process at the time of Camp David in which both parties accepted risks. It's now time to pay for that in the return of the Sinai. In the interim period we have had a number of unprogrammed jolts to Middle Eastern stability."

Haig listed these as the assassination of President Anwar Sadat and two crises in Lebanon, none of which were the fault of either Israel or Egypt. "All of these things -- Western and worldwide and American reaction to the Iraq raid, the Golan annexation, have caused a great deal of concern in Israel which is both understandable and must be dealt with in an overall policy formulation from day-to-day," Haig said.

Reagan Stresses Common Bond

Meanwhile, Reagan in accepting the credentials of the new Israeli Ambassador, Moshe Arens, yesterday, like Arens in his statement, stressed the common bonds between Israel and the U.S. "The U.S. recognizes Israel's unique situation and is firmly dedicated to preserving Israel's security and well-being," Reagan declared.

"You may be assured that this commitment is a permanent part of U.S. policy in the Middle East, a fundamental tenet, unwavering and indestructible. We are also deeply aware of the many sacrifices Israel has made in the cause of peace. Israel's courage in undertaking risks in search of lasting peace strikes a responsive chord in American hearts. In this as in so much, we find common philosophy and shared purpose with the Israeli people."

LETTER BY SENATORS URGES REAGAN TO CONSULT CONGRESS BEFORE PROPOSING ANY ARMS SALE TO JORDAN By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- Sen. Gary Hart (D. Col.) has drafted a letter to President Reagan urging him not to propose any sale of arms to Jordan without consultations with Congress first. The letter, signed by at least 16 other Senators, was expected to go to the White House.

A spokesman for Hart, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said that the Senator did not want U.S. arms sales to be announced in the Amman Airport, a reference to Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's discussion of the sale of F-16 fighters and Hawk mobile missiles to Jordan while visiting Amman. The Hart letter said that any arms sale should not be approved without first consulting with Congress and U.S. allies. The letter also noted that such a sale would be escalation of the arms race.

President Reagan in a letter to Israeli Premier Menachem Begin yesterday, said that the U.S. has not made such an offer and that Weinberger did not bring any new requests from Jordan back with him.

Kennedy Says Israel Is Threatened

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.) also denounced the reported sale. He said selling F-16s and Hawks to Jordan "will represent a serious and unacceptable threat to the security of Israel, our most reliable ally in the Middle East. Such sales would violate clear Congressional restrictions imposed in 1975 and President Reagan's pledge last fall to retain Israel's qualitative military edge in the region."

Kennedy noted that Jordan is opposed to the Camp David peace process and has "joined forces with Iraq, whose government is committed to the destruction of Israel." He urged the President "to end his Administration's practice of pursuing an arms policy at the expense of a coherent peace policy for the Middle East."

Meanwhile, Sen. Larry Pressler (R. S.D.) said he was drawing up a resolution to block any sale of F-16s and Hawks to Jordan. He said he was preparing a letter to be circulated for more congressional signatures, telling the President he shouldn't propose any such sale.

Jewish Leaders React Warily

American Jewish leaders reacted, meanwhile, to Reagan's letter. Hyman Bookbinder, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, said that while the President's "reassurances on the durability of the U.S.-Israel special relationship are of course, most welcome ... does it (his letter to Begin) tell Mr. Weinberger that he must not again go around offering sophisticated lethal equipment to countries like Jordan without Presidential authority to do so?"

Bookbinder also questioned whether the door was "still open to a Jordanian request for the kind of equipment that Weinberger is reported to have discussed with Hussein" and whether "the Reagan reassurance on qualitative edge for Israel include higher U.S. economic and military assistance."

Maxwell Greenberg, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, commended Reagan's reaffirmation of the U.S. commitment to Israel's qualitative superiority. He also observed, in a letter to the President today, that "Your sensitivity to the quantitative balance by which the numerical superiority of Israel's neighbors does not become overwhelming is a common sense approach to the maintenance of peace in the Middle East."

Cause To Be Vigilant

Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, congratulated Reagan for pinpointing the relations between Israel and the U.S. in his letter to Begin. "If his future deeds are as good as his words, we can all heave a proverbial sigh of relief," she said. "But the quixotic turns of his Administration's Mideast foreign policy, and its seductive cozying up to the Arabs with lethal armaments, gives us cause to be wary and vigilant."

Mrs. Jacobson referred to Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger as "the super arms salesman of the Reagan Administration who 'now proposes to detonate' Reagan's pledge last September that he would preserve Israel's 'qualitative edge' of her defensive strength in relation to her enemies."

Rabbi Walter Wurzbarger, president of the Synagogue Council of America, expressed that organization's opposition to the sale of American arms to Jordan. "We are alarmed that a high official of the United States government can discuss the sale of sophisticated lethal weapons to countries who refuse to join the Camp David peace process and still consider themselves at war with Israel," he said.

Julius Berman, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, urged Reagan to "establish and adhere to a competent, consistent and coherent Middle East policy to avoid continued capricious and contradicting actions and statements by his Cabinet officials," Berman added. "The absence of a definitive U.S. Middle East policy has permitted Secretary Weinberger to lead America by the nose several times in his Middle East diplomatic missions."

CAPUCCI SAYS HE HOPES TO RETURN TO JERUSALEM NEXT YEAR

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, Feb. 17 (JTA) — Msgr. Hilarion Capucci, convicted in Israel in 1974 for smuggling arms to Palestinian terrorists, says he "hopes" to return to Jerusalem next year. He coupled that wish with a series of anti-Israel statements in an interview published in *La Domenica Del Corriere*, the weekly magazine of the newspaper *Corriere Della Sera*.

The much interviewed Capucci, who still styles himself "Bishop of Jerusalem," said, "I was condemned to 12 years of imprisonment and according to the law I can return a free man after nine." His 12-year sentence was commuted by President Ephraim Katzir of Israel in 1977 on the personal intervention of Pope Paul VI.

The Vatican promised at the time that Capucci would not be allowed to return to the Middle East, that he would not involve himself in politics and would never be permitted to engage in activities "detrimental to the State of Israel."

But Capucci apparently views his expulsion from the Middle East as an "exile" with a time limit. He has returned to the region several times, in violation of the Vatican's pledge. He used the *La Domenica* interview to claim that the Palestine Liberation Organization does not resort to terrorism and to repeat an unsubstantiated charge by an Italian magistrate recently that Israel's secret service was attempting to destabilize Italy so that the United States would have to rely solely on Israel as an ally in the Mediterranean region.

According to Capucci, the PLO has no cause to resort to terrorism because it has won impressive diplomatic victories, having offices in 45 countries and gaining recognition by three. "Would it be in the interests of the PLO to have this de facto recognition questioned?" he asked.

NEW JERSEY SENATE HONORS LATE JERSEY CITY RABBI

TRENTON, Feb. 17 (JTA) — Rabbi Benjamin Plotkin, the late founder and spiritual leader of Congregation Emanu-El in Jersey City for 51 years, has been honored in a State Assembly resolution for his accomplishments in fighting fascism and for promoting brotherhood.

The resolution, introduced by Sen. Matthew Feldman, Democrat of Bergen County, cited Plotkin, who died on May 9, 1981 at the age of 83, as a champion of civil liberties, as "a fighter against fascism and the Nazi movement" and as the founder of the American Jewish Alliance which was "dedicated to peace and justice."

Born in New York City, he graduated from City College and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America with highest honors. Plotkin was a member of the Robbinical Assembly of America and a pioneer in the social action movement of Conservative Judaism in America. He was also a member of the Northern New Jersey United Synagogue of America and served on its national executive committee.

Plotkin was the first president of the Jersey City chapter of the Zionist Organization of America and was a member of the Citywide Clergy Coalition. Prior to founding Congregation Emanu-El, he was associated with Temple Emanu-El in Bayonne, and also served in a synagogue in Rhode Island.

A master of several languages, Plotkin was the recipient of numerous awards given for brotherhood, humanitarian activities and ecumenical endeavors. The State Senate resolution referred to this by stating that he "deeply impressed all who knew him with his principled stands in favor of freedom, liberty and democracy."

JEWISH HERITAGE WEEK APRIL 25-MAY 2

NEW YORK, Feb. 17 (JTA) — The sixth annual national celebration of Jewish Heritage Week has been set for the week of April 25 - May 2. Last year's celebration, involving more than 750,000 students and tens of thousands of adults in communities throughout the metropolitan area, was also marked in more than 20 cities across the country. A Presidential Proclamation and Congressional Resolutions designated Jewish Heritage Week as a national event and called on all governmental and private agencies to participate.

Jewish Heritage Week, initiated by the JCRC in 1976, has become an annual celebration in the metropolitan area, and is co-sponsored by the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York and the Board of Education. Among the highlights of this year's program will be a City Hall ceremony event launching the week's intensive activities, a major citywide competition for students in the public high schools on the theme "What Jerusalem Means to Me."

ISRAELI AUTHORITIES SHUT DOWN BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY FOR TWO MONTHS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- Bir Zeit University on the West Bank north of Jerusalem has been closed down again for two months, a bare six weeks after reopening from a previous two-months closure.

Acting university president Dr. Gabi Baranki, told the military commander of the area he planned to shut down studies for the rest of the week to defuse the situation following a clash Monday between students and an official of the Israeli civil administration's education department. But the military responded by saying the situation was too serious and ordered a complete shut down for two months.

A number of Bir Zeit students have been detained for this week's clash in which education official Zion Gabai was injured. Students said that he had been wearing a skullcap and wind-breaker similar to those worn by religious Gush Emunim residents of the West Bank and they therefore had mistaken him for a troublemaker come to upset the campus and had tried to hustle him away.

The Israeli army and civilian administration authorities do not tend to accept the explanations of the Bir Zeit students, whom they regard as fomenters of dissent on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The university, with a student population of 1,900 and a faculty of 170, is known as a center for Palestinian nationalism and receives financial support from Arab countries.

The students and members of the faculty detained this week are reported to include several American citizens who were found in possession of PLO literature from Beirut. The Israeli authorities are considering deporting them.

ANTIQUE MAHZOR RESTORED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- Restoration work has recently been completed on the first volume of the handwritten "Mahzor of Worms," the High Holy Days prayerbook from Worms, Germany, which is now located at the Hebrew University's Jewish National Library.

The Mahzor of Worms, one of the oldest known Ashkenazic High Holy Days prayer books in existence, is considered one of the most important, rare and beautiful Mahzorim of Ashkenazic Jewry. It was written in its entirety during the Middle Ages and was saved from destruction by the Nazis on Kristallnacht, November 9, 1938.

Over the centuries its binding deteriorated and its pages were loosened. In addition, the margins of the pages were worn and some of the pictures were damaged. It was decided to restore the book.

The work of restoration was given to Raphael Pede, of the restoration and preservation laboratory of the Hebrew University's library. Last October, 10 decorative pages that particularly needed professional attention were sent to be restored in Vienna in care of Prof. Otto Waechter, director of the restoration department of the National Library there.

The work, partly financed by Jewish philanthropist Max Berger, was completed a few weeks ago and the restored pages were returned to Jerusalem where the Mahzor is now being diligently bound.

The Mahzor is considered an important source for the study of Jewish art, liturgy, the

vocalization and pronunciation of the Hebrew language in medieval Germany, and also for the study of ancient writing and the study of the technology of handwritten books.

UNIVERSITY REBUKED FOR REJECTING NAMING INSTITUTION AFTER HEINE

By David Kantor

BONN, Feb. 17 (JTA) -- The decision by the University of Duesseldorf not to rename the institution after the poet Heinrich Heine has triggered a public discussion throughout West Germany. Last week the university's Council voted 44-41 to reject proposals to rename the university as a way of honoring the German poet of Jewish origin, thus ending, for the time being, an 18-year-old debate on the issue.

One of the leading literary critics in West Germany, Marcel Reich-Ranickie of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, wrote that the University of Duesseldorf did not deserve the name of the Rhine city's most famous son. The Frankfurter Rundschau, in an editorial, alluded to Heine's Jewish identity as a probable reason for the university's decision.

The conservative Die Welt said the decision was taken despite major pressures from outside the university to rename the institution, and defended the decision as consistent with Heine's own non-conformist attitudes. In Duesseldorf, a public protest was organized by supporters of re-naming the university. A local poet wrote a poem in Heine's style to deplore the decision.

West German commentators are concerned that the university's decision will expose the Federal Republic to criticism from abroad. Die Welt predicted that when the university is attacked within Germany itself, the rest of the world is likely to follow suit.

Heine Was Never Fully Accepted

Although Heine sought to dissociate himself from his Jewish identity, he was never fully accepted by the German literary and political establishment. He incurred their wrath because he identified himself with political movements which tried to liberalize the political order and to remove privileges and abuse. Despite the fact that he embraced Christianity at the age of 28, Heine continued to profess his kinship with Judaism.

In 1897, when a memorial to him was sculptured and offered to his native city of Duesseldorf, the German government refused permission to place it there, and it was finally set up in the New York City borough of The Bronx. Heine died at the age of 59 in Paris. In 1941, it was reported that the Nazi invaders of Paris desecrated and demolished Heine's grave.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Lt. Avraham Goren, son of Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren, was found guilty by a military court of conduct unbecoming an officer and absence without leave. He was reduced to the rank of private, sentenced to 35 days in a military prison and received a three month suspended sentence. The young Goren, whose father was for years Chief Chaplain of Israel's military forces with the rank of general, has two weeks to appeal the sentence. His lawyers claimed he was "framed" for political reasons on the basis of allegations contained in newspaper stories and that the evidence against him was obtained by coercion and other illegal means. According to the court, Goren obtained his commission as a military chaplain although he was not an ordained rabbi and lacked the necessary academic background.