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SHARON: ISRAEL HAS NO PLANS TO ATTACK SOUTHERN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18 (JTA) — Defense Minister Ariel Sharon affirmed last night that Israel had no plans to attack southern Lebanon but said it would react sharply to any threat from across the Lebanese border or Syria.

Sharon, in a television interview, defended Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich who has come under attack from both Likud and Labor MKs for allegedly leaking Israeli plans to invade Lebanon to Israeli reporters and claiming his intervention caused their cancellation.

Ehrlich could not have "leaked information about a government plan and claimed credit for having stopped it because there was no such plan," Sharon said. Ehrlich, who is also Agriculture Minister and a leader of the Liberal Party wing of Likud, vehemently denied leaking any plans and offered to take a lie detector test. Premier Menachem Begin has reportedly given Ehrlich his full support.

But both the coalition and opposition party whips, Ronni Milo of Likud and Moshe Shahal of the Labor Alignment, accused Ehrlich of leaking State secrets. Milo demanded that Ehrlich resign. Labor Party circles said Ehrlich made his remarks at an off-the-record meeting with Israeli reporters last week and called on the reporters to submit sworn statements to that effect.

Speculation About A Pre-Emptive Strike

Speculation that Israel planned a pre-emptive strike against Palestinian terrorists in south Lebanon increased two weeks ago when a band of terrorist infiltrators was captured on the West Bank. Although they had entered through Jordan, Israeli officials insisted this was a violation of the ceasefire which has been in effect along the Israel-Lebanese border since last July.

Israeli officials, including Sharon, have been providing the media with reports of a major Palestinian military build-up in south Lebanon. Last week Begin sent a personal emissary to Washington to convey Israel's grave concern over the build-up.

EGYPT, OMAN REACH AGREEMENT ON EGYPT'S MIDEAST PEACE MOVES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (JTA) — President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Sultan Qaboos of Oman reached an agreement on Egypt's Middle East peace moves and efforts to secure the rights of the Palestinians, according to a joint communique issued yesterday in Cairo and Muscat at the end of two days of talks between the two leaders?

Oman is one of three Arab states which defied the rest of the Arab world in refusing to break relations with Egypt over its peace treaty with Israel. The two other states are Sudan and Somalia.

The joint communique stated that the sultan "supports the efforts" of Mubarak "for securing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East that also guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people."

The communique added that Egypt "supports the role played by the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council" which met in Saudi Arabia last month "in preserving security and stability of the region and in developing its capabilities in the service of its people." The Council, which comprises Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar, is considering economic integration and plans to increase their defense and security capabilities.

During his visit to Oman, Sultan Qaboos accepted Mubarak's invitation to visit Egypt. This was Mubarak's first visit to an Arab country since he assumed power last October following the assassination of President Anwar Sadat. Last month he visited the United States and five West European countries.

KIRKPATRICK: U.S. FOREIGN POLICY NOT HARMED BY HAIG-WEINBERGER DIFFERENCES ON MIDEAST ISSUES

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (JTA) — Jeane Kirkpatrick, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, rejected charges today that the reported differences between Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger over the Middle East are harmful to the Reagan Administration's foreign policy.

She told reporters at a Newsmakers Breakfast at the National Press Club that while it is easy to "exaggerate" the desirability of an "absolutely, unanimously kind of stated foreign or domestic policy," such a situation, if it occurred, would result in a Cabinet of "absolute clones."

"What kind of policy would we get if we all thought exactly the same about everything all the time?" Kirkpatrick asked in response to questions. She noted that Haig, Weinberger and herself all have different responsibilities, answer to different demands and thus have "differences in emphasis" on particular issues.

Kirkpatrick said "there is more danger of exaggerating the negative effects of that cacophony" that comes from differences of views in the Administration than in "living with it. Living with it is the price of having strong people, distinctive points of views, examining our policies and trying to hammer out policies that make sense. It is the price of freedom," she said.

Basin For Mideast Peace

On the question of peace in the Middle East, Kirkpatrick said everybody says they want peace in the area but on their "own terms." She said the difficulty is to find peace "on terms that are compatible with the security of all nations in the Middle East."

She deplored what she said was a tendency of the Arab states to "de-emphasize" UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. She said those resolutions which call for Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories, secure borders for Israel and negotiations, are still the best basis for reaching peace in the area. Kirkpatrick said in the UN the purpose seems to be the "isolation, humiliation, delegitimation of Israel and to a lesser extent ... of the U.S."

LAWMAKER WARNS UN THAT RECENT CENSURE OF ISRAEL JEOPARDIZES AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE UN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (JTA) --

Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal (D. NY) has warned United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that the recent censure of Israel by the General Assembly has "critically jeopardized" American support for the UN, particularly among longtime supporters of the world body.

The February 5 resolution "and the broader atmosphere which produced it and allowed it to pass, are critically jeopardizing continued American support of the United Nations -- not just among those who have had doubts in the past, but among your very best friends," he said in a letter to Perez.

Rosenthal, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, noted that he has supported the UN during his 20 years in the House and served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the General Assembly in 1979. He said he has defended the UN "despite periodic differences with specific United Nations actions" because he believes that "daily communication among all nations is essential to world peace, whatever the frustrations."

'The American People Are Furious'

But now, Rosenthal stressed, "I am furious with the substance and procedures" of the resolution censuring Israel. "My colleagues are furious," he added. "The American people are furious. Sentiment to cut off financial support is growing significantly, even among those who in the past fought against such action. You would be grievously mistaken to dismiss this reaction as simply a short-term response to a single event."

"For me, and for many other long-standing American friends of the UN, this event has brought about a very considerable shift in our feeling and thought. We see it as the culmination of a process which has long distressed us. The United Nations is becoming a body of recrimination instead of an institution of reconciliation."

Rosenthal blamed this deterioration on "a lack of nerve among moderate and independent members and officials of the United Nations. They allow resolutions like this to pass and dismiss them as rhetoric or theater with no real bearing on issues of substance. They are wrong. And, in the end, they are self-destructive. For their own influence is ultimately every bit as much under attack as is the existence of a single state."

YIDDISH WEEKLY REAPPEARS IN POLAND

NEW YORK, Feb. 18 (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress reported today that after a six-week interruption, the Yiddish weekly "Folks Sztyme" has reappeared on Polish newsstands. The paper contains articles on the "normalization" of Jewish institutional life in Poland and reports on assurances from "the highest state authorities" that any anti-Semitic manifestations in the country would be opposed.

According to the paper, the activities of the Social and Cultural Association of Polish Jews were resumed on December 30 and the State Jewish Theater was reopened. On the same day, "Folks Sztyme" reports, the Polish Minister of Religious Affairs, Jerzy Kuberski, met with representatives of the Jewish Religious Union, the Social and Cultural Association, the Jewish

Historical Institute, and the State Jewish Theater. Kuberski stated on behalf of the Military Council on National Salvation that "the foregoing Jewish institutions can enjoy full support and understanding on the part of the (Communist) Party and the State authorities." He affirmed "the resolution of the highest authorities ... to fight all manifestations of anti-Semitism, no matter who and how expressed them."

Meanwhile, the London-based research arm of the WJC, the Institute of Jewish Affairs (IJA) indicated that veiled anti-Semitic references continue to surface in segments of the general Polish press. The IJA monitoring sources reported on published attacks accusing KOR and Solidarity as being "cosmopolitans" -- a term identified in Eastern Europe with Jews. They have also been charged with having "Zionist-Trotskyite" connections, the IJA stated.

ARENS MEETS WITH HAIG

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (JTA) -- Ambassador Moshe Arens of Israel today paid his first official call on Secretary of State Alexander Haig and said afterwards that he is to meet with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger tomorrow. Arens said that during his 45-minute meeting with Haig, he expressed the feeling that American arms sales in the Middle East would create dangers.

During a Mideast trip last week, Weinberger created a furor in Israel when he talked about the possibility of selling F-16 warplanes and mobile anti-aircraft missiles to Jordan. President Reagan subsequently assured Israel that he is "determined to see that Israel's qualitative technological edge is maintained" and reiterated that "Israel remains America's friend and ally."

FAIRBANKS BEGINS MIDEAST VISIT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (JTA) -- Richard Fairbanks, Secretary of State Alexander Haig's special representative for the autonomy talks between Egypt and Israel, who arrived in Israel last night, today held his first meeting with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Interior Minister Yosef Burg, the chief Israeli autonomy negotiator. Fairbanks is scheduled to meet with Premier Menachem Begin tomorrow.

Fairbanks told reporters after his meeting that it was too early for him to make any statements. He said the purpose of his trip was "largely fact-finding and educational." But he expressed hope that the stalled autonomy negotiations would pick up momentum after Israeli and Egyptian officials meet February 28 to determine if there is sufficient agreement to schedule higher level talks of ministers from both countries. The talks have made no tangible progress since they began in mid-1979.

CHAGALL GETS WOLF PRIZE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (JTA) -- Marc Chagall, the world renowned French Jewish artist, is the winner of the Wolf Foundation Arts Award for 1981, the Ministry of Education and Culture announced here. The award is considered the Israeli equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

President Yitzhak Navon will attend the award ceremony March 23, at which time Wolf Foundation Awards will also be presented to 11 scientists from around the world. Each of the awards is \$50,000. This will be the first time a Wolf Award will be presented for achievement in the world of art. It was previously limited to scientific achievements.

Chagall, 94, will receive the award for being "the greatest, the most original, among the pioneers of modern painting living among us" as well as for being "a man of poetic vision and humanity," according

to an announcement by the awards committee. "His shiny colors and the human warmth in his paintings have a deep universal and personal significance."

AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCES ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE SINAI FORCE

By Sam Lipski

MELBOURNE, Feb. 18 (JTA) -- Australia has announced that its contribution to the multinational Sinai peacekeeping force will consist of about 120 men, eight helicopters, and support equipment.

In his first official comment on Australian participation since talks between the Australian government and American officials earlier this year, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tony Street, said the Australian contingent would be established at El Gorah in the northern Sinai by March 20. The peacekeeping force takes up duty on April 25 when Israel is scheduled to complete its withdrawal from the peninsula. The Australian commitment to the force was for two years.

Street said the Australian contingent would perform air traffic control functions for the peacekeeping force. In addition, Australia would supply some 10 staff officers for the force commander's headquarters and some members of the force's military police unit.

The details given by Street are in line with the Australian government's decision in principle first announced last October to participate in the peacekeeping force. At the time, Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser said that because of its support for the Camp David accords, Australia was prepared to participate provided there would be representatives from Britain, Canada or Western Europe.

The Australian decision aroused strong protest from the Labor Party which opposed any Australian involvement in the peacekeeping operations not under the supervision of the United Nations.

Objections From Some Labor MPs

During a heated debate in Parliament, the leader of the Labor opposition, Bill Hayden, said that participation in the peace-keeping force rewards Israel's "intransigence," and he described Israeli Premier Menachem Begin as "the greatest threat to world peace."

Some pro-Israel Labor MPs dissociated themselves from Hayden's views. But a number of the leftwing spokesmen for the Labor Party attacked Camp David as a failure. They warned of the danger of retaliation by Arab governments who trade with Australia and who would be displeased by Canberra's support for American policies in the Middle East.

Despite the lack of bipartisan support, opinion polls which showed public opposition to the move, and serious doubts within his own government, Prime Minister Fraser has consistently supported the need for Australian participation in trying to ensure the success of the Camp David accords.

REAGAN SAYS U.S. IS TRYING TO END MIDEAST ARMS RACE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (JTA) -- President Reagan said today that the U.S. was trying to end the arms race in the Middle East by continuing from where "Camp David left off and bring about a peace in the Middle East."

U.S. policy is "to try to persuade, particularly the more moderate Arab states, to join in the peace-keeping process with Israel," the President said in response to questions at a nationally televised press conference in the East Room of the White House.

Reagan maintained that if this peace was achieved, then the only weapons that would be needed by the Middle Eastern countries would be to meet an "external threat" from countries such as the Soviet Union. He rejected a claim by an un-named Saudi Arabian official that the U.S. was nothing but an "arms salesman" in the Middle East.

Reagan again stressed that there are "no differences in (Middle East) policy" between Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Secretary of State Alexander Haig. He said he had to "reassure" Israeli Premier Menachem Begin this week because of the "overblown way" in which Weinberger's trip to Jordan was "portrayed in (news) stories." Reagan reiterated that there was "no change" in the U.S. support of Israel.

CHEYSSON GOING TO BAGHDAD TO DISCUSS FUTURE FRANCO-IRAQI NUKE COOPERATION

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 18 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson is scheduled to be in Baghdad next Sunday to discuss the future of Franco-Iraqi nuclear cooperation. Cheysson, who is leaving tomorrow for Abu Dhabi, will meet Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Sunday to try and iron out differences between the two countries in the nuclear field.

Iraq, whose Tamuz reactor on the outskirts of Baghdad was destroyed last June by Israeli combat planes, wants France to rebuild the same installations and resume supplies of the same nuclear fuel as in the past. France, on the basis of President Francois Mitterrand's electoral promises, insists, however, on building a reactor geared to burn low grade uranium, known as "caramel" because of its color, which can not be used for military purposes.

Work at the site has been at a standstill since the debris were cleared away last summer. Iraq has since reportedly asked that the reactor be rebuilt at a new site far from the capital and buried below a mountain to make it bomb-proof. French technicians have reportedly surveyed the site but no work has been started because the two governments are in disagreement on the type of equipment and fuel to be supplied.

LATIN AMERICAN JEWS AIDING THE JNF'S DEVELOPMENT OF THE GALILEE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund's development projects in the Galilee has received a considerable boost through the work of Latin American Jewish communities, the JNF announced here.

Forests are being named after Latin American Jewish leaders and institutions, parks and picnic areas are being developed, long-established moshavim are being replanned and considerable funds are being directed at the establishment of new outposts in the Galilee.

The JNF especially noted the contribution of the 35,000-member Jewish community of Mexico, which undertook several important projects, including the replanning of the moshavim at Goren and Zurif which involves paving sidewalks, planting gardens, improving the exteriors of buildings and fixing outdoor lighting. The Mexican Jewish community also contributed funds for the planting of a 150,000-tree forest along the Acre-Safed road.

UNDERGROUND GUIDE TELLS SOVIET JEWS HOW TO DEAL WITH CATCH EMIGRATION 'RULES'

(WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (JTA) -- Soviet Jews must overcome a virtual crazy-quilt of Catch-22 regulations and dozens of other discouragingly menacing obstacles if they hope to succeed in leaving their homeland for Israel. This is made clear today in a guide written anonymously by a Jew who remains in the Soviet Union and published by the International Council of B'nai B'rith.

Formally titled "How to Emigrate to Israel From the USSR," it has also been published and distributed as a samizdat (underground) document by Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The extremely informative guide leads would-be emigrants step by step over and around the pitfalls and traps that make up the "official" Soviet procedure for emigration. Probably the worst of all pitfalls is not even an "official" procedure; it is that applicants are vulnerable to the whims of even the lowliest -- and frequently jealous and anti-Semitic -- clerk.

And because pitfalls and traps are everywhere, the author exhorts would-be emigrants to remain optimistic and cheerful; he even heads the final subchapter "Don't Lose Heart."

A Taste Of What To Expect

From the outset, the guide gives the would-be emigrant a taste of what to expect.

"Emigration is one of the most closed areas of life in the USSR," the author writes. "As far as the mass media are concerned, it does not exist at all. Even in special publications, reference books and bulletins, you will find no information on emigration. There is nowhere and nobody from whom you will be able to get even the slightest piece of information on the essential aspects of this question."

What is that? The answer, the author notes, is that the Kremlin refuses to comprehend that anyone would want to leave "the workers' paradise." Thus, there is no legislation pertaining to emigration and directives which control it are kept secret.

By providing concrete advice on how to emigrate, the guide attempts to resolve the problem of government secrecy on the issue. "It is meant for those who have already taken the decision to emigrate to Israel from the USSR" and not as a stimulus for agitation, the author states.

The Most Serious Decision

Would-be emigrants are cautioned that a decision to leave the Soviet Union "is the most serious one in your whole life." The act of applying to leave also has a high price, one that includes loss of job, loss of friends and social isolation.

Emigration is considered by the government as not only extremely undesirable but also deeply political. Hence, the guide warns that would-be emigrants will be dealt with by the KGB, that they will be constantly and closely watched and will have to follow the strict letter of the law "for things which the authorities generally turn a blind eye."

Moreover, "there is no way (the applicant) can obtain protection or help from the powers that be" no matter how high the would-be emigrant's position is at the time of application.

"Any official in the USSR knows that an attempt to help or defend someone who is emigrating is a gross political blunder which will never be forgiven and will entail the loss of his official position."

Nevertheless, the author urges applicants to demand substantiation for any refusal in the application process. And "if you are accused of committing an antisocial act, treason or betrayal, protest; go as far as bringing a court case," he says, suggesting letters of complaint and appeal to officials on all levels, to newspapers, heads of state "and anybody else who seems suitable."

Warns Against Tactical Error

The applicant is advised again and again against thinking he can accomplish his mission quietly. "However logical and psychologically justified this kind of behavior might appear to be, when fighting for an exit permit, it is a tactical error," the author states. It plays into the hands of the authorities "who will feel you have done nothing to deserve a reward and that giving you a reward would serve no purpose."

The KGB, he adds, is likely to view it as "a sign of indecision; passivity or even fear and will use it as a basis for working out their attitude to you."

For those who may not be aware of economic and social conditions in Israel, the guide tells what emigrants can expect, including the possibility of further strife between Israel and its Arab neighbors and the requirement for military service.

Warns Against Deception

The guide admonishes those who wish to emigrate anywhere but Israel to refrain from seeking an Israeli visa. Such deception, he says, harms the entire emigration movement in the Soviet Union and "plays into the hands of those who seek to hamper it." It will serve as "more proof" to Soviet authorities that "the nationalistic motives for emigrating to Israel are merely a cover for fleeing the country."

In the face of all these disheartening words, the author appeals to applicants not to lose heart. "Do not break off the fight for a permit even for a minute," he declares. "It is just as dangerous to yield to illusions and persuasion."

"Whatever you undertake or intend undertaking, you must do it openly and without hesitation, fully conscious that you are in the right. Resolution and consistency will help bring you success. Keep on fighting and you will win through."

* * *

VIENNA (JTA) -- The District Attorney's office in Innsbruck has suspended an investigation of Franz Hausberger, the mayor of the skiing resort of Mayrhofen in the Tyrol, who had been a member of the infamous First SS Infantry Brigade. Last year the Austrian Resistance Movement mailed a leaflet to all households in Mayrhofen, in which Hausberger was denounced for his Nazi past. Now the mayor has sued the organization for libel. The District Attorney contends that there is not sufficient evidence against Hausberger.

* * *

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Israel is among the 10 Western nations where infant mortality is at a minimum, according to Prof. Baruch Modan, director general of the Health Ministry. When Israel was established in 1948, there were 50 deaths for every 1,000 births. Presently, there are only 10 deaths per 1,000 births.