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MUBARAK SEEKING TO END DISPUTE OVER HIS PENDING VISIT TO ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 3 (JTA) — President Hosni Mubarak is seeking a quick end to the row that has erupted between himself and Premier Menachem Begin over his visit to Israel that had been scheduled for later this month. This was the impression of Begin's former press adviser, Dan Pattir, who met with Mubarak for 90 minutes in Cairo Monday.

Pattir, now on a fellowship to a Washington academic institute, met with Mubarak in connection with his research into aspects of the Israel-Egypt peace negotiations.

Speaking on Israel Radio this morning, Pattir said he would convey a message from Mubarak privately to the Israeli leadership and could not divulge its contents. But he was able to reveal that Mubarak was much perturbed by the fact that the discord over the visit had become a public wrangle, and definitely hoped it could be "resolved." Pattir's impression was that the visit itself was still open.

It is presently off because Mubarak has refused to visit Jerusalem and Begin has replied that in that case, he would prefer it if the Egyptian leader did not come to Israel at all.

Recalls Sadat's Visit To Jerusalem

In a speech to the Jewish Agency Board of Governors here Monday night, Begin recalled that President Anwar Sadat did not hesitate to come to Jerusalem in 1977.

Egyptian sources countered today that Sadat, subsequent to that historic and dramatic first visit, also refused to visit the Holy City and his later meetings with Begin on Israeli soil were at Beer-sheba, Haifa and Ophira (Sharm el-Sheikh).

Begin, in his speech, added that had Sadat lived, Israel and Egypt would have been making greater progress towards an agreement on Palestinian autonomy.

A round of those talks, on the technical level, is under way currently in Cairo, but reports from there today said that little progress was being made.

Pattir said Mubarak was closely following the internal Israeli drama over the evacuation of eastern Sinai and was greatly appreciative of the government's solid determination to stick to its treaty commitments in the face of domestic political opposition from the diehards.

Mubarak Cites Goal After April 26

Egypt for its part will take care to "lower the profile" of celebrations marking the return of Sinai on April 26, Mubarak informed Pattir.

The Egyptian President stressed repeatedly during the conversation that the withdrawal date would not mark a watershed in the relationship between the two countries or a turning point in their peace process.

He urged Pattir and the Israeli people not to think of it in that light but to look ahead with confidence beyond April without suspicion or trepidation. Mubarak emphasized — as he has re-

peatedly done in recent months — that his desire to mend Egypt's fences with the Arab world would not be undertaken at the expense of its peace treaty with Israel.

MITTERRAND ARRIVES IN ISRAEL WHERE HE IS GREETED BY NAVON AND BEGIN

By Hugh Orgel and Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, March 3 (JTA) — French President Francois Mitterrand's plane touched down at Ben Gurion Airport on the dot of the appointed time of two pm, as four Israeli-built Kfir jet fighters roared overhead after escorting the official party from some scores of miles out at sea.

Mitterrand, although he has visited Israel several times in a private capacity, is the first French head of state ever to visit Israel as French President. Indeed, one official with a sense of history remarked today it was the first time in 772 years that a French head of state had visited the Holy Land — the last being Crusader Saint Louis IX in the 13th Century.

Heading the waiting dignitaries on the red carpet at the foot of the aircraft staircase were President Yitzhak Navon and Prime Minister Menachem Begin, the latter in a wheel-chair pushed by an aide. Begin sat in his chair most of the time, but rose to his feet briefly during the playing of the national anthems and exchanges of salutes.

A thin rain was falling during the welcoming exercises, strengthening later to a full downpour as visitors and hosts were sheltered under large umbrellas.

Greeting the French President, Navon, speaking in Hebrew (later translated into French), noted that "you are no stranger to us, and we are no stranger to you," referring to the fact that Mitterrand had visited Israel frequently in a private capacity before. "But the official character of this visit makes it especially important," Navon added.

Words Of Friendship Exchanged

He noted that Mitterrand was coming to Israel at a time this country faced serious problems arising out of the Sinai withdrawal, which Israel was paying as part of the price for peace. Navon said Israel hoped that other Arab countries would join the peace process. He ended in French: "Welcome, Mr. President, You are at home here."

Replying in French (later translated into Hebrew) Mitterrand said he was happy to be in Israel, this time on an official visit representing the whole of France, after previous private visits.

He said he hoped that his visit would help strengthen the friendship between the two countries which was "irreversible."

"I have come to hold talks with you — and we have much to discuss," Mitterrand noted. "We cannot be satisfied as long as there are any peoples or areas which have not yet reached peace between them."

Pledging France's help in reaching peace, Mitterrand declared: "Be assured, Mr. President, that a true friend has come to you today — and I say that on behalf of the whole of the French people."

Upon his arrival in Jerusalem, Mitterrand was greeted by Mayor Teddy Kollek who offered him

the traditional biblical bread, salt and wine at a brief ceremony near the Binyani Ha'aoma complex.

A Busy Schedule For Mitterrand

Mitterrand will have a busy schedule during his 50-hour visit to Israel. Its highlight will be his address to the Knesset tomorrow morning, which will be followed by speeches by Begin and by Labor Alignment leader Shimon Peres.

Also, tomorrow he will have breakfast with Peres, an old friend and associate in the Socialist International, and will then visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial where he will officially open an amphitheater and museum dedicated to Jewish resistance fighters of World War II. That will be followed by a visit to Mt. Herzl and the grave of Theodor Herzl. Mitterrand's first political speech in Israel will be tonight at a State Dinner in his honor, hosted by Navon.

Following his Knesset speech, Mitterrand will meet with Begin and other senior ministers for a working lunch. He will visit the Hebrew University campus to receive an honorary doctorate and announce plans for a political science chair there in the name of the late Leon Blum, the pre-World War II Jewish Socialist Premier of France. Another working session with Begin will be followed by a joint press conference with the Israeli Premier. Mitterrand will be guest of honor at a dinner given by Navon and Begin tomorrow night at the King David Hotel.

Will Visit Various Sites

On Friday morning, Mitterrand will take a helicopter trip to Acre to visit the Hall of Knights where King Philip August of France met with Richard The Lion Hearted in 1191, during the Crusades. He will also visit the gallows there where Jewish underground fighters were hanged during the British mandatory regime and will visit the Jewish ghetto fighters kibbutz and its Holocaust museum.

Mitterrand will fly to Tel Aviv to attend a reception at the French Embassy for the 1,500 French citizens living in Israel. Following lunch, he will drive to Ben Gurion Airport for an official farewell ceremony before he departs for France.

According to his published schedule, Mitterrand will not meet with representatives of the Arab population during his stay in Israel. He will not visit East Jerusalem or the West Bank.

Mitterrand Impressed By Begin's Exposition

Shortly after his arrival in Jerusalem today, Mitterrand met with Begin and the Premier presented a lengthy and detailed exposition on the dangers of a Palestinian state to Israel. At one stage in their conversation the Premier called in the chief of army intelligence, Gen. Yehoshua Saguy to buttress the Israeli arguments on this key subject.

Begin's press spokesman, Uri Porat, said this had been Mitterrand's "first opportunity" to hear Israel's case at the highest level, and he had been "very impressed."

Porat said the conversation had focused on the Palestinian issue in both "negative" and "positive" ways. Begin had first explained why a separate Palestinian state was anathema for Israel, and had then spoken at length of Israel's autonomy proposal for the Palestinians, saying this held out the only practicable solution to the problem.

Porat said Mitterrand had "asked questions and sought to learn" and had not expressed his own views. The French President himself declined to talk to reporters after this opening session saying he preferred not to report on the talks in piecemeal fashion.

Meanwhile, at the Foreign Ministry, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel and Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson of France discussed plans to revise the joint commission between the two countries, which has not met for 10 years. It is to convene in the spring, and study, among other things, projects for joint industrial research.

ISRAELI SOLDIERS REMOVE 60 SQUATTERS FROM YAMIT AREA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 3 (JTA) -- Unarmed Israeli soldiers forcibly removed 60 resisting squatters from Hatzar Adar village in the Yamit area of northern Sinai this morning. The militants, all Orthodox Jews, were detained at an army camp near Beersheba but no charges have been filed against them.

They were identified as members of two ultra-nationalist groups, Maaz and Kach, the latter headed by Rabbi Meir Kahane, which support the movement to halt Israel's withdrawal from Sinai.

The resisters had barricaded themselves in mobile homes and temporary buildings after setting fire to old tires outside. The soldiers, young recruits, stacked their weapons before entering the buildings and carried the kicking, struggling militants, one-by-one, to waiting buses.

Defense Minister Ariel Sharon told the Knesset yesterday that the army would begin removing squatters from northern Sinai today. Yesterday, soldiers removed a group of yeshiva students from Ophira in southern Sinai. The removal operation is being carried out systematically and in conformity with the government's policy of avoiding bloodshed. Troops are expected to move next against Maaz and Kach members who have settled themselves illegally in Azmoqa village in northern Sinai.

The militants have adopted tactics aimed at causing the greatest difficulty and embarrassment to the government. When soldiers approach, males barricade themselves in the local synagogue, leaving their wives and children in the homes they have occupied. The soldiers are thus shown on television to be moving against women and children whose husbands and fathers are praying or engaged in Torah study.

NEW U.S. ARMS FOR SAUDI ARABIA

WASHINGTON, March 3 (JTA) -- The Defense Department announced yesterday that it was planning a new \$350 million arms package sale to Saudi Arabia which includes 10 F-5E tactical reconnaissance aircraft and five F-5E jet fighters. Official notification of the sale was given to Congress today.

According to the Pentagon announcement, the package will also contain specialized multi-purpose cameras, specialized support equipment and spare parts to cover the needs of the next three years. The announcement indicated that the reconnaissance and fighter aircraft, manufactured by the California-based Northrop Corp., are intended mainly as replacements for the Saudis' ageing fleet of 100 F-5Es.

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ROME (JTA) -- Three Italian minesweepers which will patrol the Straits of Tiran as part of the Sinai peacekeeping force, were sent to La Spezia Monday to be adapted for their new duties. The vessels will each carry 25 sailors and 15 liaison men for shore missions, all of them volunteers.

REPORT LARGE-SCALE BUILD-UP BY THE PLO IN SOUTH LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 3 (JTA) — Israel's chief of military intelligence, Gen. Yehoshua Saguy, briefed the press on what he claimed was a large-scale military build-up by the Palestine Liberation Organization in south Lebanon and accused both Libya and Iraq of aiding the PLO there.

Saguy, who was dispatched secretly to Washington late last month to explain to American officials why Israel was seriously concerned over the situation in Lebanon, called military correspondents to a surprise press conference last night. Apparently, his intention was to respond to a State Department spokesman's recent denial of any "significant" PLO military build-up.

Significantly, Secretary of State Alexander Haig, only yesterday, appeared to refute his own State Department's assessment when he told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that the PLO build-up was "unsettling" for Israel. According to Haig, the PLO is being re-armed with artillery, sophisticated rocketry and some "antiquated" tanks.

Saguy claimed last night that the PLO has more than doubled the number of its cannon in Lebanon since the cease-fire went into effect last July, increased its tank strength by 50 percent and has added appreciably to its arsenal of Katyusha rocket-launchers and mortars. Saguy also said that Libya recently sent a 500-man battalion equipped with SAM-9 anti-aircraft missiles to bolster PLO forces in Lebanon.

Iraq Stepping Up Terrorist Activities

At the same time, he charged Iraq with stepping up terrorist warfare against Israel. He said Iraq established a new terrorist organization, known as "IS May" in 1980 which, last year, was responsible for eight major attacks aimed at Israel. These included, Saguy said, placing a fire bomb aboard the Greek passenger vessel Arion which burned in Haifa harbor last December, and attacks on the El Al offices in Rome and Istanbul.

He further accused the Iraqis of supporting the Abu Nidal and Wadiya Haddad terrorist groups. The Abu Nidal group has been implicated in an attack on the Jewish community center and synagogue in Vienna last August which took two lives, and in the assassination last May of Vienna City Council member Heinz Nittel, a friend of Israel. Nevertheless, the Reagan Administration has just removed Iraq from the list of countries that support international terrorism, making it eligible for U.S. economic and military aid.

UN PANEL PLACES ISRAELI ATHLETES ON A BLACKLIST

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 3 (JTA) — The United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid has placed Israeli tennis star Shlomo Glickstein and other Israeli athletes on a blacklist of 350 sportsmen who compete in South Africa. The list includes athletes from 30 countries.

The Committee, in a report issued here this week, named the following Israeli athletes and teams as collaborating with South Africa: Limor Friedman, in gymnastics; the Petah Tikva soccer team; and the Alpha-Beton volleyball team. Tennis players, in addition to Glickstein who were

named only with their first initials and last names are: J. Shenish, O. Jacob, A. Green and T. Fischer.

The Committee accused the U.S. and Britain of being "the main collaborators" in the field of sports with South Africa, where Blacks and whites are segregated by law. The Committee did not call for any measures to be applied against the athletes who played in South Africa, but said that "those who profess to abhor apartheid, and continue to collaborate with South Africa, must be exposed."

STATE DEPARTMENT SEEMS TO BE BACK-TRACKING ON TERRORIST VIOLATION OF ISRAEL-LEBANON BORDER CEASE-FIRE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 3 (JTA) — While Secretary of State Alexander Haig said yesterday that the United States understood Israel's concern with terrorist infiltration from Jordan, a State Department spokesman refused to say today whether this was a violation of the cease-fire.

"The basic element of the understanding of the cessation of hostilities was that there should be no hostile action from Lebanon into Israel or from Israel into Lebanon," the spokesman, Dean Fischer, said.

Haig, answering questions from the House Foreign Affairs Committee yesterday, noted that terrorists were going from Lebanon through Syria and then to Jordan in order to infiltrate into the West Bank.

Fischer said today that "it would not be fruitful for me to get into details of what constitutes a cease fire" while President Reagan's special envoy Philip Habib is in the Middle East now discussing violations of the cease-fire of which he helped establish last July. "We continue to believe the continuation of the cessation of hostilities is essential," Fischer stressed.

Habib, who was in Beirut and Jerusalem earlier this week, met with Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus this morning and later today went to Jordan. Fischer said that no details of Habib's discussion would be given until he returns to Washington and reports to Reagan. He added that, therefore, any news reports, such as one today that Habib was seeking to get Persian Gulf states to convince Syria to reduce its forces in Lebanon, were "misleading by their very nature."

However, Fischer seemed to backtrack on his statement last Friday that the "infusion of arms" to the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon could not be "construed as significantly altering the balance of force."

Haig, in his testimony to the Congressional Committee yesterday, said the PLO has received artillery, sophisticated rocketry, and some "antiquated" tanks. "We oppose any military build-up of armaments that would significantly alter the military situation in the region of southern Lebanon," Fischer said today. "We are aware, as the Secretary acknowledged, that equipment has been added to the PLO inventories in Lebanon within the past eight months." But Fischer refused to add the statement he made Friday that this increase in arms has not changed the balance of force.

On another subject, Fischer refused to comment on the controversy over Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's refusal to visit Jerusalem when he makes his first official visit to Israel and the Israeli warning that if he does not go to Jerusalem, he should stay home. "We don't think it appropriate for the United States to take a position on what we regard as a bilateral issue," Fischer said today.

BACKGROUND REPORT THE EVENT OF THE YEAR

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 3 (JTA) -- President Francois Mitterrand's trip to Israel, where he arrived today, is France's "event of the year." Some claim it is the most important development that has happened in France since Charles de Gaulle resigned as President in 1969 and the electoral victory of the Socialist Party last May.

No other presidential visit abroad, no royal wedding, no summit conference with an American President or a top-level meeting with France's European partners has stirred such deep interest and aroused such passionate emotions.

Last week, for the first time, all French weekly papers devoted their front pages to the visit. The center-right L'Express called it "35 years of passion." The leftwing Le Nouvel Observateur printed its front page in white and blue with the Hebrew and Arabic words "Shalom" and "Salam" and a banner headline "Mitterrand on a Tightrope."

The daily press, radio and television devoted thousands of words and hours of program time to a review of Franco-Israeli relations from Israel's birth in 1948 to the Suez campaign in 1956 and the subsequent souring of relations under de Gaulle and President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

Visit Was Carefully Prepared

On the official level, at the Elysee Palace and at the Quai D'Orsay, rarely has a presidential visit abroad been so carefully prepared. Mitterrand personally wrote the speech he is to deliver in the Knesset tomorrow and also prepared his responses to toasts, and to press conference questions.

Dozens of officials, including four Cabinet Ministers and four presidential advisors, have been briefed for hours on Franco-Israeli history, Middle East problems, Mitterrand's own stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the chances for peace.

The excitement over the trip, which is basically a state visit, and over what most French people consider as the "big Franco-Israeli reconciliation," shows that the flames of the Franco-Israel "love affair," by now half forgotten in Israel, still simmer in France.

Ambivalent Feelings Among The French

But the passionate interest in Israel, and everything connected with it, does not mean that all of France is ardently pro-Israel. Many French people are, but for others Israel is a strange mixture of love, contrition, bad conscience and even animosity. The young are pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian at the same time.

For the older generation, which lived through Vichy and often cooperated with this regime during World War II, there is an admiration for Israel's "European and even Aryan" achievements. But this admiration is tinged with a spot of anti-Semitism and bad conscience, a relic of the past.

Even within Mitterrand's ruling Socialist Party, militants and party leaders are torn between pro-Israel sentiments and a sense of "justice for the Palestinian people."

While international relations are generally based on cold, calculated pragmatic grounds, Franco-Israeli relations are the exception, a mic-

rocosm of human passions and emotions. Officially, the French stress that Mitterrand's trip is intended to demonstrate his support for Israel and to give France a more even-handed approach in order to redress the pro-Arab tilt which had existed since the days of de Gaulle.

The Aim Of The Trip

Presidential aides stress that the trip aims at convincing Israel that Mitterrand is "a genuine and reliable friend." Once this is ensured, these aides say, France will be able to influence Israel, without provoking any ill-founded suspicions "that Israel's ultimate security lies in negotiating with the PLO and making a deal with it providing for the creation of a Palestinian state."

Mitterrand "for Israel's own sake" plans to promote, in diplomatic terms and veiled references, the idea of negotiations with the Palestinians, or as the French say in vaguer terms, "the recognition of the other side's rights."

Nobody in France believes that Mitterrand will be able to convince Israel of the wisdom of this thesis and yet, most French people, ministers, senior government officials, and even journalists who know Israel well and should know better, conclude their conversations by stressing that "he (Mitterrand) might succeed to give Israel and (Premier Menachem) Begin food for thought."

Mitterrand needs a political success in Israel for internal reasons. The "paradise" promised by his party before the elections has failed to materialize. Unemployment is on a dramatic rise. The Franc is falling, and the balance of payments in January was worse than ever.

Must Seek To Mollify The Arabs

In foreign affairs, Mitterrand must convince the Arab states that his support for Israel is not contrary to their interests. France depends more than ever before on the Arab states for imported oil and for Arab industrial and arms contracts to maintain employment and the stability of the Franc.

French diplomats and Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson have said repeatedly during the last few weeks, in all the Arab capitals, that France's pro-Israel policy and Mitterrand's trip can best serve their own interests. The gist of their message has been that only friendly persuasion can convince Israel to negotiate with the Arab states and the Palestinians and no man is better equipped than Mitterrand, who is considered by the Israelis themselves as their best friend abroad.

Few of the Arabs have been convinced. Only President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia and to a lesser degree King Hassan of Morocco have discreetly welcomed Mitterrand's trip. Even a partial Israeli response to Mitterrand's overtures would greatly enhance France's prestige and interests in the Arab world.

But behind the hard political realities, hopes and aspirations there is another reality, equally strong. The French are like the Israelis, emotional people who respond to symbols and words. Mitterrand's trip might, after all, turn out to be an impressive and moving symbol but more of a "Latin fiesta" than a concrete political gesture.

CORRECTION: Due to an error in transmission from Jerusalem, the vote in the Knesset on a motion of no confidence Tuesday was reported as 58-3. It should have been 58-4, the three members of Tehiya and Rabbi Haim Druckman of the National Religious Party.