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## MITTERRAND TELLS KNESSET THAT ISRAEL HAS A RIGHT TO LIVE, BUT THIS RIGHT CANNOT BE DENIED TO THE PALESTINIANS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA) -- President Francois Mitterrand told the Knesset today that the position of France in the Middle East is predicated on Israel's fundamental "right to live" but it is a right, he declared, which cannot be denied to the Palestinians. They cannot be expected to give up this right, he asserted.

Mitterrand's address to the Knesset, the highlight of his three-day visit to Israel which began yesterday, summarized both the point of his trip here and the course his Socialist government can be expected to follow in the Middle East. He came to Israel to end the coolness, often bordering on hostility, which had characterized Franco-Israeli relations during the administrations of Charles de Gaulle and his successors.

At the same time, he emphasized that while France does not presume to preach to the nations of the Middle East, which must work out their own solution, he believes the Palestinians must be given a homeland. (See related story P. 3.)

### Begin Offers Lengthy Response

Premier Menachem Begin offered a lengthy, emotional response. There is now a "basis for hope" that under Mitterrand the strains between France and Israel would end. "But there are obstacles... chief among them France's support for a Palestinian state," Begin declared.

He followed that statement with a bitter, scathing attack on Mitterrand's Foreign Minister, Claude Cheysson -- who is accompanying the President in Israel -- for having said on recent visits to Arab countries that he viewed the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Mitterrand-Begin exchange during the packed festive special session of the Knesset today echoed the differences expressed by the two leaders in their private conversation yesterday, shortly after Mitterrand arrived in Jerusalem. Despite claims by Israeli spokesmen that Begin's presentation of Israel's positions had left the French leader "very impressed," informed French sources insisted that Mitterrand, in his questions and remarks during their meeting, made clear to Begin his own belief that the autonomy proposal for the Palestinians, advanced by Israel, was "a non-starter" mainly because the West Bank and Gaza populations rejected it.

### Sharp Differences No Surprise

But the sharp differences between Mitterrand and his host over the Palestinian issue came as no surprise to either leader and were not allowed to mar the historic significance of the occasion. Mitterrand is the first French chief of state ever to visit Israel. Although he has been in Israel several times in the past, it was not in the capacity of President of France. He is regarded as a strong, sincere friend of the Jewish State.

As he declared in his Knesset speech, "The time has come after a too-long absence" for the dialogue to be resumed at the highest levels. After a period of "alienation," the two countries "must start afresh," he said.

Begin concurred, asserting that Mitterrand's visit marked an end to the period of "unilateral love" of France on Israel's part which was not reciprocated by Paris.

Mitterrand spoke to the Knesset in French, with simultaneous translation into Hebrew. To many observers, his speech recalled the historic address of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to the Knesset in November, 1977. Today, as then, there was an outpouring of warmth for the man coupled with deep-seated reservations over the solutions he proposed.

Mitterrand insisted that the Palestinians must be entitled to decide their own fate, provided that they respect the rights of others (Israel) and abandon violence in favor of dialogue. He said France did not intend "to come in place of the nations involved" in the conflict or to preach or praise or condemn. But France is certainly one of those states which, because of her status and historical ties to the region and friendship with its peoples, sought to study the core of the dispute with a view to being helpful in its solution, he said.

### Stresses Unwavering Friendship For Israel

Mitterrand stressed his unwavering friendship to Israel throughout his career and his sympathy for its aspirations. He observed that there was no inconsistency in his positions. He supported the Camp David accords in 1977, opposed the European Community's Venice declaration in 1980 which sought an "impracticable" solution. In 1981, as President, he was determined to end any French compliance with the Arab boycott of Israel. In 1982, he supports French participation in the Sinai peacekeeping force.

His visit to Israel is another link in the change of France's attitude, Mitterrand said. Noting that he spoke "in the same language" to all the parties, he declared: "That is why I am proposing a homeland for the West Bank and Gaza people... Because they cannot be asked to forgo that right." He urged, in effect, mutual recognition by Israel and the Palestinians. He added that it was not for him to determine who represented the Palestinians.

The PLO could hardly demand a place at the negotiating table while continuing to oppose Israel's right to exist, he said. He spoke against "unilateral actions" and "pre-determination of borders," an apparent reference to Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights last December. He recalled that when Sadat came to Jerusalem in 1977, Begin himself had declared that everything was negotiable.

Mitterrand warned that if the Palestinian problem remained unresolved, disaster could overtake the region because the superpowers naturally looked toward areas of instability and strife for opportunities to wield their own strength and influence and could thus trigger a world conflict.

With respect to Jerusalem, the French President noted that in Hebrew the name meant city of peace.

His hope, he said, was that "one day all disunited brothers will come together in this city." He closed his address in Hebrew, wishing long life to Israel and all nations of the area, and "Shalom."

#### Begin Sees Basis For Hope

Begin opened his response -- speaking in Hebrew which was translated into French -- with a lengthy discourse on the Dreyfus affair which, he said came to be regarded by Jews and Zionists as an epic struggle between the forces of good and evil in France. Had Mitterrand been alive then, he would surely have "marched alongside Zola and Clemenceau" in that fight.

He traced the ups and downs of French-Jewish relationships, dwelling on the "black days" of the Vichy regime during World War II and the prolonged freeze that followed the Six-Day War. Now there is "a basis for hope" that under Mitterrand "the situation will be fundamentally changed" for he was a long-time friend "and he will surely strive for a renewal of the friendship and alliance," Begin said.

But the Israeli Premier dwelt at length on the "obstacle" -- French support for a Palestinian state -- and passionately defended Israel's offer of autonomy to the Palestinians which Mitterrand had characterized as a dead end.

#### Warns Against A Palestinian State

"I ask, what is wrong with the proposal for full autonomy?" Begin said. He enumerated the areas of civic responsibility which the Israeli plan would confer on the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Under this plan, he declared, they would enjoy self-rule such as they never had under Turkish, British, Jordanian or Egyptian governance.

He warned that a Palestinian state posed a mortal danger "to our existence" as it would be a Soviet satellite with Russian cannons and rockets in possession of the PLO. "Will France, champion of justice, support this proposal that threatens our elimination?" Begin asked.

He maintained that there was neither "justice nor symmetry" in the idea that the Palestinians should have a state because the Jews have one. There are 21 sovereign Arab states over 12 million square kilometers. "Do we need a 22nd that will seek to spill our blood day and night?" he thundered.

Begin said he was deliberately asking rhetorical questions which, he hoped, would "echo in the French Parliament, in the media, in the press and in the Elysee Palace, residence of our dear friend, President Francois Mitterrand." The Premier added that "our faith is that justice will triumph" and the "obstacles will be removed from the friendship between France and Israel that is so very dear to us."

#### Peres Responds To Mitterrand

Also responding to Mitterrand in the Knesset was Shimon Peres, leader of the opposition Labor Alignment, a close friend of the French President and a comrade in the Socialist International. Mitterrand, Peres said, was not locked into any particular solution for the Middle East and knew, moreover, that a one-step solution was unrealistic.

There were differences, of course, Peres acknowledged, over the PLO, for example, which the Labor leader called a disaster for the Palestin-

ians themselves. But these differences need not cause "a short-circuit in the dialogue" with Mitterrand, a dialogue which Israeli Socialists have participated in for years, he said.

Peres outlined the Labor Party's program, which includes a desire not to rule over another nation and not to evolve into a binational state which annexation would lead to.

"Tell your people," Peres said addressing Mitterrand, "that we are by no means indifferent to the fate of the Palestinians ... But they, too, must find an honorable compromise ..." He urged the Jordanians and the West Bank and Gaza inhabitants to join the peace talks. He said Mitterrand's visit, hopefully, would open a "new page" in France's relationship with Israel. It is no ordinary diplomatic act but perhaps "a return to the golden days," Peres said.

#### ARMY CONTINUES TO REMOVE ILLEGAL SQUATTERS FROM NORTHERN SINAI

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA) -- The army continued its forcible removal of illegal squatters from villages in northern Sinai today. The militants, who hope by their presence to prevent the government from carrying out its final withdrawal from Sinai April 25, offered only passive resistance. The soldiers, unarmed, carried the protestors bodily to waiting buses for transportation out of the area.

At dawn today, 22 families comprising some 50 men, women and children, were removed from barricaded huts at Talmi Yosef, a settlement inland from Yamit which lies on the coast. The families, all Orthodox Jews, were allowed to complete their morning prayers and were physically removed only after they refused to leave voluntarily.

Later in the day, three families were evacuated in a similar manner from Maaz Hayam and 12 from Nir Avraham. Many of the squatters are members of Kach, an ultra-nationalist movement headed by Rabbi Meir Kahane. Kahane, who has established himself in Yamit, complained today that the squatters reacted "too gently" to the army.

Although the removal operation has proceeded without incident so far, many of those evacuated told reporters that they would re-infiltrate Sinai after they are released by the authorities. Several score militants were said to have evaded roadblocks and entered Yamit last night.

#### JDC LEADERS SAY POLISH GOVERNMENT TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA) -- Poland's Deputy Prime Minister Mirosław Rakowski and Religious Affairs Minister Jerzy Kubersky have pledged their government's efforts to combat any outbreaks of anti-Semitism in their country, it was reported here yesterday by American Joint Distribution Committee president Henry Taub and JDC executive vice president Ralph Goldman. They said the two Polish officials told them during their visit to Poland last week that "the welfare of the Jewish community is our concern and that of all Polish citizens."

Taub and Goldman held a press conference to report on the reopening of direct JDC efforts to aid Poland's estimated 6,000 Jews after a 14-year break. The direct aid program was cut off following the Six-Day War. The JDC leaders said nearly 2,000 Polish Jews, most of them aged, subsist on JDC aid and indicated that the martial law regime was cooperating with the JDC in its work. Taub said he felt that Jews in Poland were not suffering

more from anti-Semitism today than before martial law was imposed on the country last December. He and Goldman said the Polish leadership had also promised efforts to encourage "cultural" life for the country's Jews. The government was making plans to mark officially the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising this year and there would be government efforts to rehabilitate ancient Jewish synagogues in Warsaw and Lodz, the JDC officials said.

They reported that the JDC was able to send into Poland, for Jews there, 925 aid packages via Frankfurt during January and another 925 packages were scheduled shortly to go to Jews in Katowice and Wroclaw. The JDC officials said this aid was financed by Jewish communities in Western Europe.

#### REAGAN ADMINISTRATION WILL NO LONGER BAR SYRIA, SOUTH YEMEN FROM BUYING U.S. CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 4 (JTA) — The Reagan Administration announced today that it will no longer bar Syria and South Yemen from buying civilian aircraft from the U.S. even though the two countries are still on the list of four nations the U.S. considers to be supporters of international terrorism.

However, any sale must include assurances that the planes will not be used for military purposes, State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said. The sale would apply only to aircraft to be used on "scheduled civil airlines" in the two countries, Fischer added. He acknowledged that the civilian airlines in both countries are owned by their respective governments. At the same time, he stressed that there are no pending applications from either country to purchase such planes in the U.S.

"This determination, while it eliminates controls over such sales based on terrorism criteria, in no way alters existing controls on such sales based on (U.S.) national security criteria," Fischer said, reading a prepared statement. The State Department, only this week, announced that Syria and South Yemen, along with Libya are still on the list of countries that aid terrorism, Iraq, however, was removed from the list and replaced by Cuba.

#### Request Would Be Reviewed

The 1979 Export Administration Act requires that the Departments of Commerce and State issue a list of countries annually which support terrorism and therefore cannot be sold certain material and equipment. The statement read by Fischer today stressed that if either Syria or South Yemen asked to buy civil aircraft here, the request "would continue to be reviewed carefully in the light of national security criteria and, if found to be contrary to our national security, would be denied."

One element that would be considered would be assurances that the planes not be used for military purposes, the statement said. Fischer said that Syria and South Yemen have never diverted planes used for their scheduled air service for military purposes while Libya has "repeatedly disregarded" such assurances.

The statement stressed that the decision announced today "does not constitute either a softening of the Administration's fight against terrorism or a gesture toward Syria and South Yemen. Our concern with the support of these two

countries for international terrorism continues unabated." The statement added that the decision "simply reflects" the Administration's view that "there is no link between international terrorism and the sale of civil aircraft to legitimate civil-end users."

#### BEGIN AND MITTERRAND EXPRESS DEEP DIFFERENCES ON THE ISSUES OF THE PALESTINIANS AND AUTONOMY

By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA) — Neither Premier Menachem Begin nor President Francois Mitterrand of France broke new ground in their joint press conference here today, following their appearances in the Knesset. But their replies to questions by Israeli and French correspondents disclosed very deep differences on the issues of a solution to the Palestinian question and autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Replying to questions about Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat, Mitterrand said that, like anybody else, he was entitled to visit France but that Mitterrand, as President of France, would not receive him for negotiations.

Asked about his reactions to Begin's views and approach to the question of the Palestinians, Mitterrand said he had known of Begin's approach before, but was interested to hear at close quarters the passion and enthusiasm with which Begin expounded his feeling.

"There are basic differences between us, and as there has been a public discussion I have answered in as frank a manner as possible, within the bounds of diplomacy," Mitterrand said.

Begin intervened to say that he had "not criticized French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson (about his remarks during a recent visit to Arab countries) but merely quoted him. Begin said the question of a Palestinian state was not for anybody else to discuss as it was a matter of life and death for Israel.

Mitterrand noted that a dialogue with the Prime Minister was "always useful," indicating that he had not been fully convinced by Begin on either his approach to the Palestinian question or to autonomy. Begin remarked: "I tried whole-heartedly to convince him."

Other points covered by Mitterrand included a statement that France would not supply uranium to any country which might use it for military purposes. But details of any sales would be discussed on a technical level.

Mitterrand said he had not rejected the European Economic Community's 1980 Venice Declaration in its entirety but felt that more thought should have been paid originally to some of the points it covered. The declaration included a call for the PLO to be associated with the Mideast peace process.

Mitterrand said that a three-day visit was not enough to solve all problems, and that further discussions would be held. But he did not reply directly to a question whether he was inviting Begin to visit Paris.

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WASHINGTON (JTA) — The House, by a unanimous 387-0 vote adopted a resolution this week calling on the Soviet Union to allow Jews there to emigrate and to practice their religion freely, and also called for the end of "indiscriminate arrests and trials of Jewish activists" and an end to the "assaults on Jewish self-study groups." The resolution urged President Reagan to reiterate to the Soviet government the United States' strong opposition to the harassment of Jews in the Soviet Union.

# **SPECIAL TO THE JTA ORTHODOX RABBIS URGE CONSUMERS OF KOSHER-FOR-PASSOVER PRODUCTS TO PROTEST PRE-HOLIDAY PRICE BOOSTS**

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, March 4 (JTA) -- Alarmed by the consistent annual pre-holiday rise in the prices of kosher-for-Passover products, the Rabbinical Alliance of America, an association of Orthodox rabbis, announced today a nation-wide project to seek to persuade observant consumers to protest such price boosts at the stores where they shop.

Rabbi Abraham Hecht, president of the Orthodox rabbinical group, said a letter has been sent to each of the organization's 500 pulpit rabbis asking them to become actively involved in the campaign. He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that each member rabbi is being asked to publicize the campaign in his synagogue bulletin and to impress on congregants the need to resist the price boosts.

Hecht said the spiritual leaders of the Jewish community "are duty-bound to control the spiraling, exorbitant pricing policies of the manufacturers and distributors of kosher foods, meats and poultry." He added that "there appears to be an insatiable desire," especially during "the Passover season," on the part of manufacturers and retailers "to grab as much money" as they can "from the captive Jewish community wishing to observe the stringent laws of kashruth on Passover."

Hecht told the JTA that approaches had been made to the major manufacturers of matzah and all had responded with "a polite rebuff."

Hecht said he had discussed the problem with Rabbi Isaac Trainin, director of the commission on synagogue relations of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. Hecht said the commission arranged a meeting for discussion of the price problem with manufacturers "and exactly one company representative showed up."

Hecht noted that the basis for Federation participation was the fact that the Federation's purchasing department annually buys Passover supplies for more than 100 of its institutions, as well as kosher products the rest of the year.

"There is hardly any excuse for these exaggerated prices, since neither the price of production nor supervision for Passover actually imposes any true hardships on the producer which he cannot absorb with no great financial sacrifice," Hecht said.

## Raps The 'Unholy Triumvirate'

He explained the thrust of the project by declaring that "the distributors and retailers must be warned by the educated Jewish consumers that they will refuse to accede to the financial ript-off schemes concocted by the unholy triumvirate of producers, distributors and retailers."

Rabbinical Alliance rabbis are being urged in the Alliance letter to advise their congregants and communities "to use more fresh fruits and vegetables during the Passover holiday and to refuse to purchase any canned or bottled foods or juices, meats, fish and poultry which are overpriced because of Pesach."

Hecht said he felt confident that "common sense will finally prevail among the manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers of Kosher-for-Passover foods and beverages, meats, fish and poultry." He said that restraint in holding kosher product prices

in line would help the Jewish family to observe the laws of kashruth without the financial pressure stemming from seasonally higher prices.

Hecht said the Rabbinical Alliance had made a small-scale effort in the spring of 1981 to fight the expected and realized price increases. The effort this year, he said, is much more intensive and will be the start of a year-around campaign to induce consumers to protest unreasonable kosher product prices.

## **PLO COMMISSIONS 'NATIONAL ANTHEM' BY GREEK COMPOSER**

NEW YORK, March 4 (JTA) -- Mikis Theodorakis, the well-known composer of the scores for the films "Zorba the Greek" and "Z," has written a "Palestinian national anthem," produced at the request of Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat, the World Jewish Congress reported today.

The report of this development originates from a monitored broadcast of "Tunis-Afrique Presse" (TAP) early this week. According to the broadcast, Theodorakis arrived in Beirut last week on an official visit to Lebanon having been invited by both the Lebanese Tourism Minister and the PLO. Reportedly, Arafat had requested the Greek musician to produce a Palestinian national anthem during the visit of the PLO leader in Greece at the end of last year. The TAP report stated that Theodorakis had arrived in Beirut to present his finished work.

Arafat's visit to Greece came in the aftermath of the Greek elections which swept Andreas Papandreu and his party to power. Theodorakis is a member of Parliament in the new government.

In 1971 he and a group of musicians whom he had organized toured Israeli cities where they gave concerts. A number of songs he composed were then popular in Israel where he and his group received ovations for their staunch opposition to the then militarist government of Col. George Papadopoulos. Theodorakis, who had been imprisoned by the government, was permitted to leave in 1970 following world-wide pressure.

## **U.S. REMOVES IRAQ FROM COUNTRIES IT LISTS AS SUPPORTING TERRORISM**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 4 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration has removed Iraq from the countries it lists as a "supporter of international terrorism" and replaced it with Cuba. The other three countries on the list, required by the Export Administration Act of 1979, remain the same—Syria, Libya and South Yemen.

The State Department said that it and the Department of Commerce, in making their annual review of which countries "repeatedly provide support for international terrorism," found that Iraq's record in 1981 "did not warrant its continued inclusion on the list."

However, the Department stressed that Iraq's removal from the list does not mean the U.S. plans to sell arms to that country. "We have no plans to establish a military supply relationship with Iraq," the Department said. "It has been our policy since the beginning of the Iraq-Iran conflict not to supply military equipment to either side."

The Department added that it is continuing to block the sale of General Electric engines for Iraq's Italian built frigates since this could contribute to Iraq's "war-making potential."

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- Greater New York UJA-Federation Project Renewal Committee leaders left Thursday on a 10-day mission to Israel to help speed delivery of social welfare, housing and educational services to the 15,000 residents of Hatikvah, Tel Aviv, one of the distressed areas in Israel.