

JTA daily news bulletin

(212) 575-9370

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, N.Y. 10036-2574

Vol. LX - 65th Year

Tuesday, March 9, 1982

No. 46

HABIB SAYS ALL PARTIES IN LEBANON WANT TO PRESERVE THE CEASE-FIRE

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 8 (JTA) -- Philip Habib, President Reagan's special envoy, told Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir today his assessment of the situation in Lebanon is that all parties in the area want to preserve the cease-fire on the Israel-Lebanon border which he helped arrange last July. Habib, who arrived in Israel yesterday after visiting Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, was to meet Premier Menachem Begin later today. He is scheduled to depart for Washington tomorrow.

Israeli sources said Habib's assessment seemed to be that there would not be an outbreak of hostilities in Lebanon -- or across the border from Lebanon -- for the time being. The sources also said that Shamir told Habib that Israel was interested in a solution to the fundamental problems of Lebanon, but that as long as the present cease-fire situation exists, Israel would do nothing to change the situation or try to bring about such a solution.

"If we are not attacked, we will not attack," Shamir told the envoy during their 80-minute meeting, citing the well-established principle of Israeli policy.

PLO Warns Israel

However, in Beirut, the Voice of Palestine Radio, which is operated by the Palestine Liberation Organization, warned today that the PLO forces and their leftist allies in Lebanon would strike deep inside Israeli-held territory if Israeli leaders persisted in making "provocative statements."

This was in response to Defense Minister Ariel Sharon who said in a television interview in the United States yesterday that Israel would not move into Lebanon unless there is a "clear provocation" from the PLO terrorist forces there. He said a "clear provocation" would be "when Jews in Israel are killed."

Premier's Office Says Magazine Report Is Wrong

Meanwhile, the Premier's office today denied a report by Newsweek magazine that the Reagan Administration warned Israel not to create a situation that would entail an Israeli attack on south Lebanon. According to the report, the Americans feared that Israel would allow Palestinian terrorists to enter Israel and then act on the basis of declared Israel policy that it would act in Lebanon only if attacked directly by the terrorists in violation of the cease-fire.

The Premier's office asked the editors of Newsweek to note that Israel does not act "cunningly," as the magazine reported, but honestly and that it expresses its positions clearly and forthrightly. It also denied that Secretary of State Alexander Haig had ever threatened Israel with economic sanctions.

ISRAEL, EGYPT SEEKING AGREEMENT ON BORDER TO BE ESTABLISHED AFTER ISRAEL COMPLETES ITS SINAI WITHDRAWAL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 8 (JTA) -- Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, on a one-day visit to Is-

rael, is touring the old international boundary in Sinai with Defense Minister Ariel Sharon today. Their helicopter survey is intended to help them reach an agreement on details of the border to be established between Israel and Egypt after Israel completes its withdrawal from Sinai on April 25.

While no difficulties are anticipated, some knotty problems remain to be solved. One concerns the town of Rafah, part of which is in Sinai and part in the Gaza Strip. The two ministers must decide how to avoid destroying houses which lie athwart the border line. If the old frontier is revived, border checkpoints and customs inspection facilities would have to be erected on the main streets of Rafah.

At the southern end of the line, near Eilat, the Israelis claim that inaccurate measurements were made when the boundary was originally drawn in 1906. The difference amounts to only a few hundred yards but the way it is settled will determine whether the popular Rafi Nelson skin diving resort and hotel complex will be in Egypt or Israel. The Egyptians demand that the border be exactly as it was before Israel captured Sinai in 1967 and refuse to consider a compromise.

Israel insists that the inaccuracies be corrected before it withdraws from Sinai. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt has reportedly suggested international arbitration of the border issue if the two sides cannot reach agreement by the April 25 deadline.

FRANCE DENIES THAT ARMS SALE TO ISRAEL WAS DISCUSSED DURING MITTERRAND'S TRIP LAST WEEK

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 8 (JTA) -- France today denied that the sale of French arms to Israel was discussed during President Francois Mitterrand's visit to Israel last week. An official communique released by the French Foreign Ministry said this subject "was not discussed at any moment" during Mitterrand's trip.

The communique added, "There is no reason for this subject to be raised at the forthcoming session of the Franco-Israeli economic commission" which is to meet April 29 in Paris. French papers quoted Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir as saying the commission will deal with this issue.

The communique added that the sale of a French electro-nuclear reactor will have to be discussed by French and Israeli technicians and will therefore probably not be raised either at the Franco-Israeli commission's session. The commission has not met for over 15 years and its reactivation is seen by French official circles as one of the concrete results of Mitterrand's trip to Israel.

The French Foreign Ministry's communique was issued after French news media quoted Shamir as saying that the joint commission will discuss the two issues.

DISMANTLING OF FARM, IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT CONTINUES IN YAMIT AREA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 8 (JTA) -- Workmen, mainly

Arabs, employed by the Jewish Agency, resumed dismantling green-houses, irrigation equipment and farm implements at Talmei Yosef in the Yamit area of northern Sinai today, under the protection of Israeli soldiers. Illegal squatters were removed from the place last week.

Threatened interference by militants opposed to Israel's withdrawal from Sinai failed to materialize and no incidents were reported. The dismantling work, necessary to relocate the settlement inside Israel, was abandoned a month ago when militants attacked the workers. The equipment and houses are being removed first from those settlements closest to the international border. Israel does not want to leave any structures on the border line that could be occupied by the Egyptians.

No attempt has been made yet to remove illegal squatters from Yamit, the largest Israeli town in Sinai. Anti-withdrawal extremists there are reportedly fortifying buildings for last ditch resistance to troops who may try to evict them.

ITALY, ISRAEL RENEW CULTURAL SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE AGREEMENT

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, March 8 (JTA) -- Italy and Israel have signed a three-year renewal of their cultural, educational and scientific exchange agreement which was established in 1971. The agreement comes up for renewal every three years.

David Rivlin, director general for cultural affairs of the Foreign Ministry of Israel, and Paulo Massimo Antici, vice director general for cultural, scientific and technical cooperation of Italy, affixed their signatures to the renewal agreement in ceremonies at the Italian Foreign Ministry.

There are two separate accords in the area of science. One concerns exchanges of important scientific research data between Italy's Consiglio Nazionale di Ricerche and Israel's Council for National Research and Development. The other provides for joint scientific seminars to be held in both countries.

A supplementary program of scientific and technological exchanges is being examined by the Israel Embassy here. It contains Italian proposals for collaboration in specialized areas of medicine, agriculture and energy, particularly solar energy research.

The Area Of Culture

In the area of culture, the Institute of Book Pathology in Rome is offering its services on an exchange basis with Israel for the restoration and conservation of rare manuscripts, documents and books and other literary material. This is a highly specialized Italian art.

A convention of Italian and Israeli scholars is planned for next May on the subject of Italian and Jewish renaissances. It will coincide with celebrations of the centennial of the Temple of Florence where a symposium on synagogues in Italy will be held next October.

The Hebrew University in Jerusalem will hold an exhibition on "aspects of Jewish civilization in Italy," based on documents from the Italian State Archives. There will be a seminar on Italian Jewish life and history in Bari.

Israel will hold an Italian Cinema Week and an Israeli Cinema Week will be held in Rome. Invitations have been extended by Israel to the

musical and theatrical groups, Piccolo Teatro of Milan and Fenice of Venice. Italy has invited the BatSheva Dance Company and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

Planned Educational Activities

The educational part of the agreement includes courses in the Hebrew language at the universities of Rome, Turin, Venice and Naples. Courses in "ancient Hebrew studies" will be inaugurated at the University of Florence and the Scuola Normal Superiore in Pisa. The teaching of Italian in Israel, already widespread, will continue as a counterpart to the studies of Hebrew in Italy.

There will be an increased exchange of students, faculties and specialists in the field of education, with exchange scholarships in linguistics, history, archaeology and other specialized fields.

One provision of the agreement allows Italian Jews to will their libraries or cultural artifacts to Israeli institutions.

GREEK AMBASSADOR MEETS JEWISH LEADERS WHO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN OVER GREECE'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY

WASHINGTON, March 8 (JTA) -- The Greek Ambassador to the United States, Nicolas Karandreas, promised a delegation of American Jewish leaders today to convey to his government their concern over recent actions of the Greek government relating to Israel and its Middle East policy in general.

The delegation, headed by Rabbi Arthur Schneier, chairman of the American Section of the World Jewish Congress, expressed particular dismay over the vote by Greece in favor of the recent General Assembly resolution condemning Israel for annexing the Golan Heights and calling for punitive sanctions and isolation of Israel.

The delegation noted that Greece was the only NATO member to vote affirmatively for the Arab-sponsored resolution. The Greek envoy explained that in casting its vote, Greece had explicitly dissociated itself from those portions of the resolution calling for sanctions and isolation of Israel. He showed the delegation the document by which Greece formally noted its dissociation for the UN record.

The Jewish leaders expressed hope that the Greek government, in the spirit of its reservations, would resist any efforts to expel Israel from the UN or to apply sanctions against it. They also expressed concern over the recent upgrading of the status of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Greece.

Karandreas noted that his government's position is that "the core of the Middle Eastern dispute is the Palestinian problem, and ... it cannot be denied that the PLO is a factor."

He said the Greek government has stated repeatedly "that the ultimate solution must guarantee the rights of all peoples" in the region to live in peace and security and that "this certainly and specifically includes the State of Israel."

CORRECTION

A story in the February 24 Daily News Bulletin on the establishment of the Weiler Chair in Philosophy and Jewish Law at Bar Ilan University was based on a news release which contained two inaccuracies. The gift creating the Chair was made by the family of Jack Weiler as well as the family of Robert Arnov. The Chair commemorates Weiler's honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree, awarded last June.

WEINBERGER REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES FOR JORDAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 8 (JTA) — Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger continued today to indicate his support for providing Jordan with Hawk mobile anti-aircraft missiles. "In my experience... an immobile anti-aircraft defense is not very useful," he said in response to questions after an address to the National Press Club here. "Every country that I know of feels that a mobile anti-aircraft defense is essential."

Weinberger acknowledged that similar remarks by him while visiting Amman last month had stirred up Israel. While in Jordan, he unsuccessfully tried to persuade the Jordanians to cancel their decision to buy SAM-8 missiles from the Soviet Union. Jordan turned to the USSR because Congress would permit the U.S. to sell them only Hawk missiles fixed in place, to prevent those weapons from being used against Israel.

When Weinberger returned to the U.S. President Reagan sent a letter to Israeli Premier Menachem Begin denying that any offer of arms had been made to Jordan. Weinberger said today that the Jordanian arms request will probably be made at a meeting of the U.S.-Jordan Joint Military Commission next month.

Says U.S. Needs Many Friends In The Mideast

The Defense Secretary continued to stress today that while "Our commitment to Israel remains unimpaired," the U.S. needs "a great many good friends" in the Middle East, "not only for our sake, but for the sake of Israel, for the sake of the whole Mideast, and indeed for the sake of maintaining the peace."

On the situation in Lebanon, Weinberger said he did not know if war would break out. But he noted that there was a "dangerous and alarming buildup of arms in that very volatile area." Without specifying whether the build-up was by the Palestine Liberation Organization or by Israeli forces in northern Israel, Weinberger said the U.S. wanted to "defuse" as quickly as possible any potential conflict.

"We hope very much that there would be no perceptuous action taken in the region," he said. Weinberger, who has been conducting a well publicized feud with Secretary of State Alexander Haig, praised President Reagan's special envoy to the Middle East, Philip Habib, and the State Department today for the "extraordinarily skillful handling" of the situation in Lebanon and for efforts to preserve the peace process there.

70 YEARS LATER, JEWISH LYNCHING VICTIM IS ABSOLVED OF MURDER

NASHVILLE, March 8 (JTA) — The anti-Semitic frenzy that swept Atlanta, Ga., nearly 70 years ago, culminating in the lynching of Leo Frank, a Jewish factory employee, was recalled by the revelations of 83-year-old Alonzo Mann that absolve Frank of the murder for which he was found guilty in 1913.

Frank, then 29, a supervisor at a local pencil factory, was convicted of killing 14-year-old Mary Phagan who worked at the factory. Mann, a teenager at the time also employed at the factory, told the Nashville Tennessean that he saw the true murderer, janitor Jim Conley, carrying the limp body of the dead girl to the basement.

Frank's sensational trial drew mobs to the Atlanta courthouse shouting "Kill the Jew." One newspaper referred to the accused as a "Jew Sodamite."

Frank was convicted and sentenced to hang, but in 1915 Georgia Gov. John Slaton commuted the sentence to life imprisonment. This revived mob fury. Vigilantes, calling themselves Knights of Mary Phagan, dragged Frank from the prison farm where he was held and hanged him in Marietta, Ga.

Events Led To Formation Of The ADL

The Knights of Mary Phagan became the nucleus of the re-born Ku Klux Klan in Georgia. Armed anti-Semitic mobs roamed the streets of Atlanta, forcing Jewish shopkeepers to board up their places of business. Jewish businesses were boycotted and about half the state's 3,000 Jews reportedly moved away. Those events led to the formation of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Mann, who knew the truth about the Phagan murder, told the Tennessean reporters Jerry Thompson and Robert Shelborne that he kept silent initially out of fear. Conley had threatened to kill him. His mother warned him not to speak out and he volunteered no information during his brief testimony at the Frank trial.

The frail, ill octogenarian said that years later he tried to tell his story but was ignored by the authorities and the press. He said he revealed it now to ease the burden on his conscience before he dies. According to the Tennessean, a two-month investigation confirmed that Mann's account was accurate in every detail. Mann submitted to lie detector and other tests.

WEEKEND OF CONCERN OVER DRIFT OF U.S. MIDEAST POLICY AWAY FROM ISRAEL

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, March 8 (JTA) — Some 40 people, including Conservative rabbis and Jewish community leaders, gathered across from the United Nations at the Isaiah Wall today to mark the end of a three-day weekend of seminars, workshops, prayer and cluster congregation services designed to focus attention and dramatize the American Jewish Community's concern with the "drift of U.S. policy in the Middle East away from Israel and toward the "moderate" Arab countries.

Co-sponsored by the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, with the New York Metropolitan Regions of the United Synagogue of America and the Rabbinical Assembly, the "Weekend of Reflection on American Middle East Policy" covered such issues as the rise of anti-Semitic innuendos which surfaced during the recent debate over the sale of AWACS radar planes to Saudi Arabia, the Reagan Administration's continued efforts to sell sophisticated weaponry to Jordan, and the "general lack of sensitivity to Israel's security needs and national priorities."

New York City Council President Carol Bellamy and Comptroller Harrison Golden addressed the gathering. New York Mayor Edward Koch and New York Senators Alfonse D'Amato (R.) and Daniel Moynihan (D.) sent letters expressing their solidarity with the theme of the weekend's activities.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical Center is keeping mum about the first test-tube baby, a girl, born there a month ago, believed to be the first in Israel. The birth was revealed by Dr. Yosef Shenkar, director of the maternity ward, during a symposium on test-tube babies held here last Thursday. Shenkar would give no details and the hospital's management said it knew nothing about it. Medical sources suggested the mother was fertilized abroad and gave birth here. The infant was reported healthy and normal.

3 HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS URGE AGAINST TAX EXEMPT STATUS FOR NAZI GROUP

WASHINGTON, March 8 (JTA) -- Three human rights organizations have asked a federal appeals court here to rule against granting tax exempt status to a white supremacist Nazi group that advocates race extermination.

In an amicus curiae (friends-of-the-court) brief filed last week, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Congress and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People asserted that the Virginia-based National Alliance is not entitled to tax exemption because it is not an "educational and charitable" organization as it claims.

The basic issue, the three organizations said, is whether advocating racial hatred and the extermination of Jews and blacks constitute a charitable or educational activity.

The National Alliance was denied tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service in 1978 because the IRS found that the Alliance's publications did not meet the agency's definition of "educational" according to the IRS code.

The Nazi group, claiming that its exercise of free speech automatically qualified it as "charitable" and "educational," appealed the IRS ruling in federal district court in Washington, D.C. The court ruled last May that the IRS regulation interpreting the "educational" standard of its rule was too vague and sent the case back to the IRS for further proceedings.

Background Of The Case

Both the National Alliance and the federal government appealed the ruling in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The National Alliance's appeal was based on its failure to get a declaratory judgment of tax exempt status. The federal government appealed because it did not receive a summary judgment refusing tax-exemption to the National Alliance.

In their brief, the ADL, the AJCongress and the NAACP argued that whatever standard is employed under the IRS rule to define "charitable" and "educational" activities, the National Alliance clearly fails that test.

The human rights organizations pointed out that the National Alliance's main activity is the publication and distribution of a monthly newspaper called "Attack" and a bulletin titled "Action," and the sale of books and pamphlets.

Views And Ideology Cited

Among the views and ideology propounded are the following:

"there will be a worldwide pogrom" against Jews; "oceans of blood" are the "only way to solve a biological problem when it comes down to the final implementation"; "far better the loss of a few million lives in a race war than the loss of everything through continued assimilation and miscegenation"; Martin Luther King was "a front man for the Reds"; and "Europe" lost World War II because "the Germans just weren't brutal enough."

NATHAN ZIPRIN DEAD AT 84

NEW YORK, March 8 (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held Wednesday for Nathan

Ziprin, a pioneer in American Jewish journalism and editor from 1941 to 1968 of Seven Arts Features and Worldwide News Service, a subsidiary of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. He died last Friday in Phoenix, Arizona at the age of 84.

Ziprin, who had been visiting a son, suffered a fatal heart attack at a Phoenix hospital where he was taken to have a leg amputated. He had been in failing health for several years after his retirement.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. at the Parkside Memorial Chapel in The Bronx, where Ziprin had lived for many years. He has been described as belonging to the pioneer generation which helped create a professional Jewish journalism. He had been actively associated with the American Jewish Public Relations Association.

Born in Chmelnik, Russia in 1898, Ziprin was brought to the United States in 1909 at the age of 11. He attended public school in New York city and had received an honorary LLB degree from New York University in 1922.

His weekly commentary on Jewish events appeared in some 20 Jewish news publications. He continued his column for a number of Jewish news-weeklies for several years after he retired as editor of Seven Arts Features. A widower, he had written two tributes to his wife, who died several years ago.

CONTROVERSY OVER CANADIAN-SAUDI ARABIAN STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, March 8 (JTA) -- A student exchange program between King Faisal University in Riyadh and Concordia University here has sparked a controversy between Jewish professors and the administrative staff at Concordia.

The professors pointed out that if an exchange program goes into effect, Jewish faculty and staff members would be excluded from going to Saudi Arabia because of that country's discriminatory immigration laws and travel restrictions regarding Jews. They also pointed out that any non-Jewish faculty or staff member whose passport indicates travel to Israel would also be barred from Saudi Arabia.

Douglas Rivin, Concordia's assistant vice rector and director of continuing education, said the proposal for the student exchange program was the result of a tour last November by Saudi Arabian officials of Canadian colleges and universities. When the tour was completed, Rivin said, the Saudis contacted him to establish an exchange program between the communications departments of Concordia and King Faisal Universities.

Replying to the professors' charges, Rivin said that "any business firm that does business with Saudi Arabia knows that Jews will not be allowed in that country. We may not like the restrictions, but if the United Nations and other countries can't change them, what can we do?"

He said it was not up to Concordia to "change an internal (Saudi Arabian) matter," but noted that at the same time, "there are plenty of Saudi students being taught by Jewish professors without a problem" and there was no indication that Saudi Arabia would insist on barring Jewish professors from the exchange program at Concordia. A decision by the university is expected this week.

AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- Anti-fascist youths blocked an attempt by the neo-Nazi "Viking Youth" organization to hold a meeting here Saturday night, preliminary to setting up a Dutch branch of that organization.