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GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION LEADERS MEET AMIDST SPECULATION THAT A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT MAY BE IN THE MAKING

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 6 (JTA) -- A two-hour meeting between the top government and opposition leaders today raised new speculation that a national unity government may be in the making, possibly as a prelude to Israeli military action against Palestinian terrorists in Lebanon.

Attending the meeting, held under a veil of secrecy in the Prime Ministers Office, were Premier Menachem Begin, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon for the government, and Shimon Peres, chairman of the Labor Alignment, former Premier Yitzhak Rabin, and Haim Barlev, Secretary General of the Labor Party.

Peres told reporters afterwards that the subject of discussion was "political and security affairs." He said a national unity government was not discussed. The meeting was held only a day after Begin renewed his call for a national unity regime amid speculation here and abroad over how Israel would react to the murder of an Israeli diplomat, Yaacov Bar-Simantov, in Paris last Saturday.

U.S. Concerned Over Rising Tension

Israel insists that the Palestine Liberation Organization was responsible for the killing, raising the possibility of a strike into Lebanon on grounds that the PLO violated the cease-fire in effect since last July. The U.S. reportedly is pressing Israel not to over-react to the Paris murder. Ambassador Samuel Lewis met today with Hannan Bar-On, Director General of the Foreign Ministry. He is said to have expressed Washington's concern over the rising tension in the area.

Palestinian terrorists are convinced that an Israeli attack is imminent. Many Israelis apparently expect the same thing and believe Begin is anxious to form a national unity regime before undertaking such action in face of probable adverse reactions from the U.S. and world opinion.

Unity Government Not Ruled Out

Peres told the Labor Alignment Knesset faction today that there is no room for such a government at this time. But he refused to endorse a resolution rejecting a national unity coalition under any circumstances, urged by Mapam Secretary General Victor Shemtov.

Peres said that in the future circumstances might necessitate a unity government and it may well be headed by the Labor Alignment. He thereby did not rule out the possibility in principle. Meir Payil, a leader of the small leftist Sheli faction, urged Alignment leaders not to fall into the "trap of a national unity government" that would give Begin legitimacy for "aggressive terror acts in Lebanon," jeopardize the withdrawal from Sinai or to continue "going wild on the West Bank and the Golan."

Meanwhile, the independent daily Haaretz warned in an editorial today that the murder in Paris did not justify military intervention in Lebanon. Even a limited operation might deteriorate into events beyond Israel's control, the paper said.

BONN GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESSURE TO INVITE QADDAFI FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

By David Kantor

BONN, April 6 (JTA) -- The Bonn government is coming under increasing pressure from pro-Arab members of the Bundestag and the ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD) to issue an official invitation to Libya's leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi to visit West Germany. However, in spite of this pressure, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is said to be opposed to such a move.

The campaign to invite Qaddafi is being led by Bundestag member Juergen Moellemann, one of the most outspoken anti-Israeli politicians in Bonn. Moellemann, a chairman of the German-Arab Friendship Association, has publicly denied the charge that the Libyan ruler is enhancing international terrorism. The Bundestag deputy, who is close to Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, has often fulfilled delicate missions with which the Foreign Ministry did not want to be publicly associated.

Meanwhile, the German weekly, Der Spiegel, reported that Genscher himself has taken a strong position in favor of inviting Qaddafi to Germany. In private consultations, he is reported to have told Schmidt that West Germany would benefit politically, diplomatically and economically from such a move.

Other Supporters Cited

Another supporter of an invitation to Qaddafi is Hans-Juergen Wischniewski, a long-time sponsor of the Arab cause in Bonn and a top aide of Schmidt. Wischniewski, nicknamed "Ben-Wisch" for his Arab connections, has argued that West Germany could easily fill the vacuum left in Libya by the United States and draw major economic and political benefits.

Still another supporter of the controversial invitation is Interior Minister Gerhart Baum of the Free Democratic Party, the junior coalition. He has expressed hope that improved relations with Libya would convince Qaddafi to stop his logistical aid to West German neo-Nazi groups, to the "Red Army Faction" and to other urban terrorist groups.

Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria is also involved in lobbying for the invitation, according to sources in Bonn. They note that since the Austrian leader is still being criticized for having recently invited Qaddafi to Vienna, a similar visit by Libya's ruler to Bonn would take him off the hook.

SPECIAL ANALYSIS

NO SADNESS OVER CARRINGTON'S FALL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 6 (JTA) -- There has been no official reaction here to the resignation of British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington amidst the crisis between Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands. However, few Israelis expressed regret over Carrington's fall, as he was never regarded a friend of Israel.

His last major political mission was his visit to Israel last week, during which both he and the Israeli officials he met with agreed that they had

little to agree on regarding the Middle East situation. Nevertheless, Carrington's visit was described as a new leaf in the relatively cool relations between Britain and Israel. A tentative dialogue had begun and Israeli officials said today, barely hiding their grins, that it was too bad he had to resign now.

Shortly before it was learned here of Carrington's resignation yesterday, Premier Menachem Begin was still criticizing him. In a speech in Dimona, Begin recalled that Carrington last week had asked that Israel make concessions to allow for an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

While Israel had made it clear to the British diplomat that such a state would endanger the population centers of Israel and Israel had to take measures to protect itself from Palestine Liberation Organization-inspired violence on the West Bank, Britain responded to what it considers a crisis to its commonwealth by dispatching a fleet to the Falkland Islands, 8,000 miles from her shores, Begin said almost mockingly at the Dimona meeting.

Critical Of Carrington's Mideast Policy

The Premier has never hidden his reservations about Carrington's Middle East policy, specifically his endorsement of the European Economic Community's Venice declaration of June 1980 which included a call for the PLO to be associated with the Mideast peace process, a call Israel viewed as tantamount to supporting an independent Palestinian state.

It was Carrington who almost jeopardized the multi-national peacekeeping force in the Sinai by repeatedly stressing his belief in a European initiative in the Mideast, an initiative Israel rejected. In general, he was considered here as an advocate of a pro-Arab line, which was dramatically expressed in the recent visit by British Minister Margaret Thatcher to the Persian Gulf states.

Thus, the feeling in Jerusalem is that Carrington managed to aggravate even the United States with his insistence that any settlement in the Mideast required the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Israel signaled Carrington that it was unhappy with his line when it refused last week to allow his aides to meet with the ousted mayors of Nablus and Ramallah. The message was strikingly clear: Lord Carrington, stay out of the Palestinian issue. But Carrington made it equally clear that he would not desist from his course, noting that the issue was of great interest to Britain and its partners in the EEC.

Therefore, it is felt here that Carrington's resignation is not a negative development from the Israeli point of view, and that his successor, Foreign Secretary Francis Pym, cannot be worse. Pym is known here as a person who is well acquainted with Israel's problems and who in the past expressed support for Israel's right to exist within secure borders.

BACKGROUND REPORT BRITAIN'S NEW FOREIGN SECRETARY By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, April 6 (JTA) -- Francis Pym, Britain's new Foreign Secretary, is almost an unknown quantity in foreign affairs. A middle of the road conservative, 61-year-old Pym has been described as a man who plays his cards so close to his chest that he holds them inside his vest.

Apart from a spell as shadow Foreign Secretary and his period as Defense Secretary earlier in the present government, his career since becoming a member of Parliament 21 years ago has revolved mainly around domestic and parliamentary affairs.

Nevertheless, he could differ sharply from his predecessor if only because his first task will be to extricate Britain from the mess for which Carrington has acknowledged responsibility.

Initially, therefore, Pym will have to look after Britain's immediate interests rather than seek to play the role of global statesmen to which Carrington aspired. He could also try to sort out some of the traditional attitudes inside the Foreign Office, including those on the Middle East with which Carrington was closely associated.

Less Identified With Pro-Arab Slant

Pym has been a passive member of the Conservative Friends of Israel parliamentary group and may therefore be less identified with the Foreign Office's pro-Arab slant. However, it should be stressed that the two other junior ministers who resigned together with Carrington do not include Douglas Hurd, Minister of State in charge of Middle East affairs.

JEWS OUTRAGED AT FATAL FIRE THAT STARTED IN ARAB-OWNED RESTAURANT

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 6 (JTA) -- Representatives of the Brooklyn Jewish community reacted with "grief and outrage" to the suspicious three-alarm blaze in the Brooklyn Heights section early yesterday morning that killed a 75-year-old woman and injured several other persons. The woman was identified today as Mae Holmes.

An anonymous telephone caller claiming to speak for the Jewish Defense League told local news media here yesterday that the JDL was responsible for the fire. The caller claimed the JDL "discovered" that the building housed the "secret headquarters" of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Another caller later told local news media he was a representative of the "Lohame Herut Israel," or Freedom Fighters for Israel and claimed they were responsible.

The blaze started on the ground floor of the building at 160 Atlantic Avenue at Clinton Street in the Tripoli restaurant, an Arab-owned establishment specializing in Middle Eastern cuisine. It spread through the five-story structure to the apartment upstairs killing the victim on the fourth floor. The FBI terrorist task force is investigating the fire.

Hope Mutual Respect Will Continue

The statement issued today by Brooklyn Jewish representatives said: "Jews of Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill and Park Slope have long cherished the peaceful co-existence of the Arab Jewish communities in this neighborhood... We have lived in a spirit of peace and mutual respect, which we hope will continue." The statement was signed by representatives of the Kane Street Synagogue, Congregation Mount Sinai, the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, the Park Slope Jewish Center and the Garfield Temple.

One signator of the statement, Rabbi David Glazer of the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, said in a telephone interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the statement was released as an expression of "concern of neighbors toward each other." He stressed that Jews in his area are "seeking a peaceful co-existence with their Arab neighbors." He added: "We are not in Golan or in Negev."

At the same time, the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of New York said in a statement released today that they were "appalled" by the

"apparent act of arson" at the restaurant, adding that "our society has no place for terrorism of any kind." They called for the swift prosecution to the full extent of the law the individuals or groups responsible for the act.

The JDL has denied emphatically that it was responsible for the fire. In a telephone interview with the JTA yesterday, JDL national chairman Meir Jolovitz said the fire "was not a JDL action nor was it sanctioned by the JDL." He said he knew nothing of the claim that the restaurant was a front for the headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization. No one could be reached at the offices of the JDL today.

ABE FORTAS DEAD AT 71

By William Saphire

WASHINGTON, April 6 (JTA) -- Abe Fortas, the fifth Jew to serve on the United States Supreme Court and the first to have been nominated for the post of Chief Justice, died at the Georgetown University Hospital here last night at the age of 71.

Fortas was named an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court by President Lyndon Johnson in June, 1966, succeeding Arthur Goldberg who subsequently became U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. In June, 1968, Johnson nominated Fortas to succeed retiring Chief Justice Earl Warren.

But the nomination ran into powerful opposition from Senate Republicans and some Democrats over what they regarded as a "lame duck" appointment by Johnson who had already announced that he would not seek a second term.

Although the Senate Judiciary Committee approved the nomination by a 10-6 vote and sent it to the full Senate, a bitter fight ensued during which charges were raised that anti-Semitism was a factor in the opposition to Fortas. With a filibuster threatened by anti-Fortas forces led by Sen. Robert Griffin (R. Mich.), Johnson withdrew the nomination at Fortas' request.

The charges that anti-Semitism "is definitely playing a part" in the opposition to Fortas was made in the Senate by Sen. Joseph Clark (D. Pa.) who recalled the struggle that followed the nomination of Justice Louis Brandeis, the first Jew named to the Supreme Court. But the charge was never confirmed.

Resigned Under Shadow Of Scandal

In May, 1969, Fortas resigned from the Supreme Court under a shadow of scandal. He was under fire for accepting -- but later returning -- a \$20,000 fee from the Wolfson Foundation, one of the founders of which, Louis Wolfson, was then serving a prison term for stock manipulation. The resignation was submitted to President Nixon who immediately accepted it.

Fortas returned to private law practice. Only two weeks before his death, he appeared before the Supreme Court for the first time since his resignation to argue a case.

The appointment of Brandeis to the Supreme Court by President Wilson in 1916 established what was seen by many as a tradition of a "Jewish" seat on the nation's highest court. Brandeis served until 1939. He was joined in 1932 by Benjamin Cardozo who served until 1938 and followed by Felix Frankfurter who served from 1939 to 1962.

Arthur Goldberg served on the court from 1962 to 1965 and his resignation was widely believed to have been forced by Johnson to create

a vacancy for Fortas. No Jew has been appointed to the Supreme Court since Fortas resigned.

Earned Reputation As A Liberal

Fortas was a prominent Washington lawyer before his appointment to the bench. He earned his reputation as a liberal when he served as counsel for the accused in the famous Supreme Court case of Gideon v. Wainwright which established the right of counsel for the poor.

While on the Supreme Court he consistently voted in criminal appeals and civil liberties cases as the crucial fifth man of the activist bloc formed by Chief Justice Warren and Justices Hugo Black, William Brennan Jr., and William Douglas.

At the time of his nomination to the court, Fortas told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he considers himself to be Jewish. He said he made that statement to clarify his own conception of religious identity in view of his lack of formal affiliation with Jewish institutions or organizations.

Nevertheless, he was well known as a regular contributor to the United Jewish Appeal in Washington. He appeared as a speaker several times before Jewish organizations after becoming a Supreme Court Justice and consistently manifested a warm, friendly attitude toward Israel.

Had Humble Beginnings

Fortas, a close personal friend of President Johnson, who also served in government posts under Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, had humble beginnings. Born in Memphis in June 1910, the last of five children of a Jewish cabinet-maker who had immigrated to the U.S. from England, he was graduated from Southwestern College in Memphis and from the Yale Law School where he taught briefly before coming to Washington as one of the "bright young men" of President Roosevelt's New Deal.

He served in about a dozen administrative positions and at the age of 32 became Under Secretary of Interior to Harold Ickes. He first met Johnson, then a young Congressman from Texas, in the late 1930s and impressed the future President as a valuable counselor.

Fortas was a member of the President's Committee on Equal Opportunity in the Armed Forces and of the National Citizens Committee for Community Relations and served as an advisor to the U.S. delegation to the United Nations in 1945.

Fortas was awarded the Stephen Wise award by the American Jewish Congress in 1966 and had been a member of the national advisory committee of the A.J. Congress' Commission on Law and Social Action.

THOUSANDS RALLY AGAINST PLO

PARIS, April 6 (JTA) -- A crowd estimated at several thousand French Jews and other supporters of Israel demonstrated outside the Palestine Liberation Organization office here yesterday demanding that it be closed. A heavy cordon of riot police surrounding the PLO office prevented the demonstrators from reaching the building.

The demonstration was triggered by the murder last Saturday of Yaacov Bar-Simantov, a second secretary at the Israel Embassy, who was fatally shot by an unidentified woman outside his home. Israel insists the PLO was responsible for the killing. French officials, including Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, said there is no evidence so far linking the murder with the PLO.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Golan Heights Druze leaders decided Tuesday to continue their eight-week old strike against Israel.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF WEST GERMANY

By Ben Frank

(Part Three Of A Three-Part Series)

DACHAU, April 6 (JTA) -- This is the site of the infamous Nazi death camp. A visitor to Dachau who knows something about the Holocaust wonders. He thinks. He is nonplussed. Suddenly, he sees a written sentence in the booklet distributed at Dachau today in the 1980's, that reassures him, that reminds him why he came: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it ..." (George Santayana)

They say that among the visitors from the various nations to Dachau, Americans are among the leaders, thousands come each year, many of them wearing yarmulkes. There are German youth from the schools as well as students arriving on the tour buses from Italy. There are English men and women on holiday. They all come to Dachau.

What goes on in their minds? While they say Dachau is not as gruesome in its preservation as say, Auschwitz, one gets the message at what happened here. Perhaps one hopes that the world will be better, that there were righteous Christians even in Germany who saved Jews.

'To Remember The Past'

Today, several miles away from the camp in the town of Dachau itself, Johann Waltenberger, is principal in the Josef Effner high school whose student body numbers 1,500. It seems that Waltenberger who is not Jewish, was moved by the TV film, "Holocaust." He immediately set out on his own to bring two peoples, Germans and Israelis, together "to remember the past."

Waltenberger is a religious man. He always has been interested in the Bible and in the Holy Land. He has visited Israel several times. He is fond of Israel. He talks like a Zionist. Several years ago, with some help from the Jewish community of Munich, he wrote a long letter to a number of Israeli schools and asked them if they would be interested in an exchange program of students and teachers.

The Israelis answered back politely, in effect, "thank you, but no thank you." Waltenberger said the Israelis wrote that he should teach the Holocaust in his class and drop the matter.

Waltenberger says he understood their reaction, but was not deterred. On his next trip to Israel, he visited several of the Israeli educators and personally talked to them again about the program.

He was persistent. He says he had to try. Over and over again Waltenberger keeps saying, "Did we learn about the Holocaust?" After a year of negotiations, six Israeli teachers were scheduled to come to Dachau for a week to exchange ideas, discussions and methods regarding teaching the Holocaust.

In Waltenberger's school, of course, the Holocaust is taught. Unbelievable though it seems, there is one Jewish family in the town of Dachau. This family has lived there since the war. Their children went to Waltenberger's school. His pupils visit the camp which contains a museum, a sample barracks, and several memorials, as well as a synagogue and two churches.

This year, Waltenberger and a group of his teachers are scheduled to return the visit of the Israelis. Their group will be in the Jewish State, including a stay at Kibbutz Givat Brenner. "Emotions" Waltenberger says, "are not enough; dialogue is important. We must do these things." He

set up the whole program himself. All of this could of course be brushed aside as infinitesimal to the thousands upon thousands who perished at Dachau. True. But there are those in the American Jewish community and the German Jewish community who believe that Jews should never cease to remind the world about the Holocaust, and that as emotionally trying a visit to Dachau becomes, homage should be paid to the six million Jews on the soil where they died -- and to remember.

In a speech several years ago, in the presence of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, Werner Nachmann, chairman of the directorate of the Central Council of Jews in Germany made several observations which in effect portray the philosophy of the German Jewish community.

The first was that "We do not burden the young generation with the guilt of their fathers. However, we hold their fathers responsible if they fail to tell the young generation about that part of history which they themselves lived through. How else should this young generation become more knowledgeable and hence more resilient?"

Nachmann added: "One thing must, however, be clear to all of us; those who committed murder and other terrible crimes must be punished. We passionately contradict those who believe that this period of German history should be buried and forgotten. We must remember because that will help to sharpen our conscience and to be ready jointly to fight off any attack on this democracy."

ISRAELI DRUZE SAYS U.S. MEDIA DISTORTS GOLAN DRUZE STRIKE

LOS ANGELES, April 6 (JTA) -- An Israeli Druze member of the Knesset told a meeting of the Community Relations Committee of Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles that the media in the U.S. has exaggerated and distorted Druze protests over Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights.

Zeidan Atashi, who has acted as an unofficial mediator between the Golan Druze and the Israel government, said that only about 9,000 Druze live in the Golan as compared to some 45,000 living in the rest of Israel. And, of that number, he observed, a "silent majority" do not support the general strike now in its eighth week in the area to protest annexation.

Atashi said that media distortions make it seem as though the strike action has unanimous support, not only in the Golan, but among the Druze in the rest of Israel. This, he said, is simply not true.

"The Druze in the Golan have had several concerns regarding annexation. In my role as unofficial mediator I have attempted to answer their questions," Atashi said. "They were chiefly concerned about the draft, about whether Israeli citizenship would be imposed and whether their land would be confiscated."

Atashi met with government officials and then with Golan Druze political and religious leaders. He reassured them that there will be no imposition of Israeli citizenship and that their young people will not be subject to the draft. The land issue, however, proved a bit difficult for him to answer.

"The major problem with land holdings in the area is that after the '67 War, the Druze acquired the land without title. They just settled where they wanted and began to cultivate it. This creates some problems and I could not provide area leaders with any firm answer about what will happen to their land," Atashi said. He reassured the audience that Druze Arabs in Israel remain loyal to the country, are proud to be Israeli citizens and serve in the army. He said his goal during his visit to the U.S. is to correct the false impression that the U.S. media has conveyed about the situation.