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BEGIN DECIDES NOT TO SUBMIT TO THE KNESSET A DRAFT MEASURE FORBIDDING DISMANTLING MORE JEWISH SETTLEMENTS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 2 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin has withdrawn his original intention to submit to the Knesset a draft resolution forbidding the abandonment of Jewish settlements in any future peace negotiations with Arab states. Begin's change of mind was confirmed at today's Cabinet session, where a large majority of the ministers approved the Premier's proposal that he merely incorporate a statement to this effect in the course of his speech opening the summer session of the Knesset tomorrow.

Only Education Minister Zevulun Hammer of the National Religious Party, who originally proposed the resolution, and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon voted against Begin. They urged him to submit the draft resolution as he originally planned.

Begin explained that he changed his mind in view of the Labor opposition's determination not to support the draft resolution. Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres informed Begin last Friday of his party's position.

Peres said the resolution was "untimely" and that Labor did not want to have its hands tied if and when it returns to power, and negotiates with the Arabs. At the same time, Peres said a Labor-led government, in such negotiations, would "fight" for Jewish settlements to remain where they are in any political solution. "We are not contractors to dismantle Jewish settlements," Peres declared in an effort to counter Begin's assertion that the Labor opposition held an anti-settlement position.

The Premier, for his part, decided not to submit the resolution to the Knesset because he did not want it passed by only a slim majority. The main purpose of the draft resolution was to assert to world public opinion that the withdrawal from Yamit was not a precedent for the West Bank and the Golan Heights. Were the resolution to be adopted by a small majority, the effect of that assertion would be significantly weakened.

FRANCE, ISRAEL AGREE ON JOINT TECHNICAL, INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 2 (JTA) -- France and Israel have agreed to undertake several joint projects calling for cooperation in technical and industrial fields, increased trade between the two countries and the promotion of tourism. The Protocols of Understanding were signed last Friday at the end of a two-day meeting of the Franco-Israeli Mixed Commission which convened here for the first time in 12 years.

The Commission's activities lapsed in 1970 at a time of political tensions between the two countries. President Francois Mitterrand promised, during his state visit to Israel last March, that the joint meetings would be revived. Israeli diplomats and senior officials attending the sessions said that Mitterrand had not only honored his pledge but apparently instructed the French delegation to be as cooperative as possible.

They said that apart from the tangible results, the most important achievement was the fact of the meeting itself at which the Franco-Israeli dialogue was renewed on a practical basis.

Aspects Of Cooperation

The Israeli delegation was headed by David Kimche, Director General of the Foreign Ministry. Francois Guttman, Secretary General of the French Foreign Ministry, headed his country's delegation. The two senior officials held private talks Thursday and Friday while their aides split into four subcommittees, each dealing with a different aspect of Franco-Israeli cooperation. Arms deals and nuclear issues were not discussed.

Understandings were reached on joint projects in third countries, the creation of special investment funds, technical and agricultural research, and balance of payments problems. The French delegation promised to undertake a serious study of the possible consequences for Israel of the entry of Greece, Spain and Portugal into the European Economic Community (EEC).

Israel is concerned that the special market privileges those countries now enjoy will have adverse effects on its own exports to the 10 EEC member states. Plans for tourist promotion include Christian pilgrimages to Nazareth and pilgrimages by Israeli Christians to the Catholic shrine at Lourdes.

ARAB WOMAN WOUNDED IN SHOOTING INCIDENT; ANOTHER WEST BANK MAYOR IS REMOVED FROM OFFICE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 2 (JTA) -- Shots fired by an Israeli civilian seriously wounded an Arab woman today. The victim, taken to Hadassah Hospital here, was identified as a resident of the Aroub refugee camp in the Hebron area of the West Bank. Her name and age were not immediately disclosed. Police investigating the incident said the shots were fired from an Israeli jeep into a crowd of Palestinian demonstrators who had surrounded the vehicle.

Meanwhile, Mayor Wahid Hamdallah of Anabta village was removed from office over the weekend after his conviction by an Israeli court for alleged security violations. He is the sixth West Bank mayor to be ousted in the last two years. The mayors of Hebron and Halhoul were deported in 1980 following the ambush slaying of seven yeshiva students in Hebron. The mayors of Ramallah, El Bireh and Nablus were ousted two months ago for refusing to cooperate with the Israeli civilian administration on the West Bank.

Hamdallah, a member of the outlawed National Guidance Committee, is said to be a close associate of deposed Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus who, the Israelis charge, is the leader of Palestine Liberation Organization supporters on the West Bank. Following Hamdallah's removal, the remaining West Bank mayors threatened to suspend all municipal services unless the civil administration is abolished and the ousted mayors are returned to office.

Shaka, holding his first press conference since his removal, accused the civilian administration today of persistent harassment of Arab municipalities and attempting to divide the residents from their local leadership. He claimed that he still ran the Nablus

municipal government even though an Israeli army officer has been installed in the city hall.

Israeli Soldier Wounded By Land Mine

In other developments, an Israeli soldier was wounded in southern Lebanon Friday when his vehicle struck a land mine. He was evacuated to a hospital in Israel. He is the third Israeli casualty in Lebanon in the past two weeks. Late last month an Israeli army officer was killed and another soldier was wounded by a land mine. That incident was followed by a massive Israeli air attack on Palestinian bases in Lebanon.

A spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said the man wounded Friday was a member of Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian Militia. But an Israeli military spokesman identified him as an Israeli soldier. He accounted for his presence in Lebanon by referring to a recent statement by Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan that Israeli soldiers were "helping Haddad's men."

Meanwhile, Gen. Yehoshua Saguy, chief of military intelligence, predicted over the weekend that the Lebanese border would "heat up" this year. However, he said the Palestinian terrorists would think twice before launching any attacks on Israel for fear that Israeli forces would retaliate by destroying their entire infrastructure in Lebanon.

CABINET GROUNDS EL AL'S OPERATIONS ON THE SABBATH, RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, May 2 (JTA) -- The Cabinet, at the strenuous urging of Premier Menachem Begin, decided today that Israel's national airline, El Al, is to cease operations on the Sabbath and religious holidays. It empowered an ad hoc ministerial committee to work out a new "timetable and other arrangements" with the management of the State-owned carrier and set a three-month deadline for the Sabbath ban to go into effect.

The ban on Sabbath flights was one of the concessions to religion the Aguda Israel party exacted from Begin as the price for joining his coalition government. Begin, who is himself observant, argued for the ban on religious and moral grounds and insisted that coalition agreements must be honored, Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor told reporters today.

In effect, Begin rejected the majority report of a government-appointed committee which found that the suspension of service on the Sabbath and holidays would cost the financially shaky airline about \$40 million annually.

A Major Fight Looming

But a major fight loomed between El Al employees and the government over the Cabinet's decision. Eli Ben-Menachem, a spokesman for the airline's workers committees, said the employees would consider what action to take but indicated nothing immediate.

However, he branded the Cabinet decision a violation of the law which stipulates that government-owned corporations must operate strictly in accordance with economic considerations. Ben-Menachem said the employees would oppose the decision and that the workers committees of the country's 43 largest enterprises would support them, hinting at the possibility of a general strike that could paralyze the nation.

The El Al management, which is appointed by the Cabinet, had no immediate reaction. A company spokesman said the managing board was waiting for further details from Transport Minister Haim Corfu.

No Talk Of Lay-Offs

Meridor told reporters that the ministers acknowledged that the Sabbath ban would mean a reduction of El Al activities but said there was no talk of lay-offs. He said El Al's figures as to the possible losses were treated with skepticism by some ministers who charged that El Al workers only wanted to protect the overtime pay they earn working on the Sabbath and holidays.

Two Knesset members, Dan Tichon and Dror Seigerman of Likud's Liberal wing, said they would vote against the government's decision if the matter came to the Knesset. But the government apparently feels it could push the measure through with the support of religious members of the opposition factions. The Labor Party and Mapam have called urgent meetings on the matter.

Meanwhile, the Gur Rebbe, Simcha Bunim Alter, a member of the Aguda Israel's Council of Sages, said he would propose a boycott of El Al by Aguda constituents because the Cabinet had failed to order an immediate cessation of Sabbath flights. He said he would not accept a three-month delay because the government had promised the Sabbath ban would be in effect by Passover.

But Aguda MK Menachem Porush expressed satisfaction with the decision and praised Begin as "a man who kept his promises." He called on religious workers not to support any strike calls "for monetary gain against Sabbath observance."

PERCY URGES NEW INITIATIVE BY U.S. ARABS TO ACHIEVE MIDEAST PEACE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 2 (JTA) -- Sen. Charles Percy (R. Ill.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called today for a "new initiative" not only by the United States but also by Arab countries if peace is to be achieved in the Middle East.

"U.S. leadership is going to be needed," Percy said in an appearance on the NBC-TV "Meet the Press" program. But he noted that on his trip to the Middle East during the Congressional Christmas-New Year recess, he told the leaders of each of the 13 Arab countries he visited that "It's up to you if you ever want peace in the Middle East to come forward also with the same kind of initiatives that President (Anwar) Sadat did and Premier (Menachem) Begin did in bringing about the Camp David talks."

Percy said it is now necessary to broaden the Camp David talks by bringing in at least one or two other Arab countries. He said "at this time" the U.S. should not talk to the Palestine Liberation Organization. But he stressed, "You must deal with representatives of the Palestinians if you are ever going to have peace in the Middle East."

Percy also said that Point 7 of the plan proposed by Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia "clearly implies without any equivocation" recognition of Israel. "Isn't that what Israel has always wanted?" he asked. Percy did not say, however, whether the U.S. should support the Fahd plan. Most observers here expect the plan to be revived in the next few months.

200,000 PEOPLE IN SOLIDARITY DAY FOR SOVIET JEWRY RALLY; FOCUS IS ON THE PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWS

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, May 2 (JTA) -- Some 200,000 persons rallied today at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza across from the United Nations for the 11th annual Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry.

Under clear blue skies, the rally was preceded with a march along Fifth Avenue where thousands of persons, demonstrating their support and concern for the plight of Soviet Jewry, displayed posters with names and pictures of Soviet Jewish refuseniks.

At the rally in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, speaker after speaker stressed the increasing urgency of the Soviet Jewry issue, which according to United States Ambassador to the UN, Jeane Kirkpatrick, "has grown increasingly desperate."

Kirkpatrick, one of many political figures and noted dignitaries to address the rally, said the United States Administration will "not acquiesce" to the deteriorating conditions Soviet Jews have been subjected to. She noted that there is a continuing attack on Soviet Jewish cultural and linguistic rights, "and the denial of the right to emigrate, which the ambassador said was a universal human right granted through the Helsinki accords."

Kirkpatrick, speaking to a "sea of posters" which the marchers displayed prominently throughout the afternoon, noted the problem of Soviet sponsored anti-Semitism. She said that this is "illegal, immoral and unacceptable" to people all over the world and that the U.S. will not remain indifferent. She said the Administration will continue to speak out on behalf of Jewish culture, freedom and security of Soviet Jews. "And God will bless our undertaking," she declared.

Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Moshe Arens said that while the door to emigration has virtually been closed and the exodus of Soviet Jews from the USSR has diminished to a trickle, this has not stopped the Jewish community's desire to emigrate.

Need To Stress The Issue

Other speakers also said the United States should continue to raise the issue of Soviet Jewry in all bilateral discussions with the Soviet Union. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY) said it will "take hard economic pressure ... not empty rhetoric ... to end the religious genocide presently being waged by the Kremlin."

State Attorney General Robert Abrams, former chairman of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, the rally's organizer, said "We will never relent at expressing our rage at anti-Semitism in Russia." He, too, stressed that the United States should press the issue of Soviet Jewry in all discussions of bilateral issues between the U.S. and Russia.

Dr. Seymour Lachman, chairman of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, said that the number of Jews now permitted to leave the Soviet Union is at the lowest level in 10 years.

"More than 500,000 Jews have indicated their desire to leave the Soviet Union so that they can practice their religion freely," he said, "but in 1981, fewer than 9,500 Jews were allowed to emigrate, compared to the more than 51,000 who left in 1979. This represents a virtual halt in emigration." He predicted that at the current rate, no

more than 3,500 Jews would leave the Soviet Union in 1982.

Some of the posters at the rally read, "Let Soviet Jews emigrate," "Solidarity with Soviet Jews," and "Open the gates to Soviet Jewry." There also appeared to be greater expression on behalf of the plight of Ethiopia's Jews, the Falashas. A poster reading, "The Falasha Jews need you too," and another saying "All Jews are brothers, save the Falashas," were displayed during the march along Fifth Avenue.

The marchers were led, in what has become a traditional part of the Solidarity Sunday rally, by a group wearing prison uniforms to represent Jewish Prisoners of Conscience in Soviet prisons and labor camps. They carried posters with the names and pictures of prominent refuseniks such as Anatoly Shcharansky and Ida Nudel.

Mayor Edward Koch accused the Soviet Union of being a "monstrous, barbaric state now engaged in cultural genocide against the Jewish people." He also denounced the United Nations as an institution which is "a monument to hypocrisy."

A letter by President Reagan, that was read at the rally, expressed "my deep concern" about the plight of Soviet Jewry and said the actions of the Soviet Union are "an affront to all of us who cherish individual liberty." The statement was booed by many activists in the audience when it was read.

The organizers of today's rally claimed that the event was the largest human rights rally to be held anywhere in the world and that the attendance had topped 200,000 for the first time.

BRITAIN'S JEWISH LEADERS UNDER FIRE

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, May 2 (JTA) -- Leaders of Anglo-Jewry have received abusive letters and telephone calls following press reports of Israeli arms supplies to Argentina, which have caused strains between London and Jerusalem.

Unlike the DAIA, the central Jewish community organization in Argentina, which has hailed the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands, the Board of Deputies of British Jews has refrained from issuing unqualified support for the government of Britain in the Falkland's crisis.

Greville Janner, the president of the Board and a member of Parliament, justified this caution by noting the absence of unanimity in the Jewish community, as in Britain as a whole, about the government's handling of the crisis. At the same time, he voiced British Jewry's profound concern for the safety of British forces defending the Falklands.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The United States has passed information to Israel that "several scores" Soviet advisors are presently operating in Jordan, according to Israeli military sources quoted by Israel Radio Sunday. The sources expressed hope that the Jordanians were fully aware of the dangers arising from the presence of Soviet advisors on their soil. Their presence is believed to be connected with the ground-to-air missile systems King Hussein ordered from the Soviet Union two years ago. Western sources were quoted as saying the Jordanians intend to site the missiles along their border with Syria rather than on the border with Israel.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra left this weekend for a 36-day tour which will take it to West Germany, Mexico, Canada and the United States.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN FRANCE

NEW YORK, May 2 (JTA) -- Resurgent anti-Semitism in France could escalate in to a threat to the entire French Jewish community in the event of a political or economic crisis, according to a study prepared by the French scholar Eric Benmergui.

The 400-page study, which is summarized in the latest issue of "Eurofacts," published by the Paris office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, pinpointed the upsurge in anti-Jewish feeling to the aftermath of the Six-Day War in 1967 and declared that one of the root causes of present day anti-Semitism is the rise and increasing influence of rightwing extremist elements in the country.

Furthermore, Jews were threatened by terrorists from both the right and left, who sometimes join forces, the study said, citing evidence of cooperation between Palestinian terrorists and neo-Nazis.

Pointing out that there were 235 separate reported incidents of anti-Semitism in France in 1980 -- culminating in the Rue Copernic synagogue bombing -- and that perpetrators largely go unpunished, Benmergui called on the French Government to take far reaching countermeasures.

Rightwing Acts With Virtual Impunity

The study asserted that neo-Nazis have infiltrated the French police and some army units, and it urged the government to institute more careful recruitment methods. Furthermore, Benmergui said, rightwing elements have gained footholds of influence not only in police and army circles, but in the civil service and even in some universities such as Assas in Paris -- as well as support among the general public.

As a result, the study said, rightwing extremists act with virtual "impunity" in carrying out anti-Semitic actions in France. If the present situation continues unchecked, Benmergui went on, France could see the rise of "state anti-Semitism" accompanied by violent reactions among younger members of the French Jewish community.

"Any laxity in this area," Benmergui declared, "will only contribute to a separation of Jews from the nation." Referring to terrorist incidents against Jews, the author said that Frenchmen might one day adopt the view that "in order that terrorism disappear, its chosen target -- the Jews -- should themselves depart from France."

Increasing Anti-Semitic Incidents

The Benmergui study -- prepared for the institute of political studies of Aix-En-Provence and the University of Law, Economics and Sciences of Aix-Marseille and winner of the Human Rights Prize of the International League against Racism and anti-Semitism -- pointed out that the 235 anti-Semitic incidents reported in 1980 represented a one-third increase over the total for the previous year. Since 1975, he said, such incidents have risen sharply; 53 reported in that year, 68 in 1976; 112 in 1977; 126 in 1978; and 175 in 1979.

Although anti-Semitism does not have a mass following in France and open, direct expression of it is not "respectable," Benmergui said, nevertheless, a poll conducted after the Rue Copernic bombing showed that 12 percent of those queried felt there were "too many" Jews in France. Prior to the synagogue attack, the study added, 17 percent of those participating in the poll expressed the same sentiment.

Benmergui said rightwing forces were providing a climate for anti-Semitism through promoting Holocaust revisionism -- attempting to dismiss the World War II Nazi massacres as a "hoax" or sharply minimizing their extent. Rightwing extremists also defend the war-time Vichy regime from charges of collaboration with the Nazis, he added.

MONUMENT TO HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

NEW YORK, May 2 (JTA) -- A monument to Jewish victims of the Holocaust has been erected by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza opposite the United Nations. The 13 foot by 21 foot pink granite wall contains seven bronze bas-reliefs depicting the massacre of six million Jews by the Nazis.

The monument's bas-reliefs is the work of Ardit Blatas, an internationally known artist and sculptor, who was born in Lithuania and whose parents were victims of the Holocaust. Blatas, whose paintings and sculptures have been exhibited throughout the world, was awarded the Legion of Honor Chevalier by the French government in 1978 for his contributions to French art.

The bas-reliefs in the "Monument of the Holocaust" are each three feet by two feet. They are based on paintings by Blatas and are named "The Deportation," "Crystal Night," "The Quarry," "Punishment," "Execution in the Ghetto," "The Revolt of the Warsaw Ghetto," and "The Final Solution." Two other additions of the bas-reliefs are in Europe -- the first imbedded in the wall of the Venice Ghetto in 1980; the other dedicated at the Martyrs Juife Inconnus (Unknown Jewish Martyrs) in Paris in 1981.

Construction of the wall and reproduction of the bas-reliefs were made possible through grants from Mr. and Mrs. Moses Deitcher of Freeport, Bahamas, and Mr. and Mrs. William Troy of New York City. Also assisting in the ADL project was the League for Human Rights of B'nai B'rith in Canada.

At the dedication of the monument last Sunday, Ambassador Yehuda Blum of Israel praised Blatas and the ADL for "having erected this monument across the street from the headquarters of international hypocrisy -- which is also one of the world centers of virulent anti-Semitism." Benjamin Epstein, executive vice president of the ADL Foundation, presented Blatas with the Foundation's Masada Award and, in behalf of Mayor Edward Koch, a Certificate of Appreciation from the City of New York.

ABU-HATZEIRA RESIGNS CABINET POST

JERUSALEM, May 2 (JTA) -- Aharon Abu-Hatzeira's resignation as Minister of Labor, Welfare and Absorption, which he submitted in writing last Friday to Premier Menachem Begin, formally took effect today. Begin reported Abu-Hatzeira's decision to the Cabinet and the ministers approved the appointment of Aharon Uzan, the number two man in the three-member Tami Knesset faction which Abu-Hatzeira heads. The appointment must still have the approval of the Knesset, which is expected to do so this week.

Uzan was present at the Cabinet meeting today and said he hoped his service as minister would be brief. He meant that hopefully Abu-Hatzeira would be acquitted on appeal of the larceny, fraud and breach of trust convictions that prompted his resignation as minister. He will, however, hold on to his Knesset seat pending a ruling by the Supreme Court. Abu-Hatzeira received a suspended sentence of 30 months on the three counts and fined 3,500 Shekels (about \$170) on April 23.