

ZAIRE APPEARS TO BE RECONSIDERING OPENING ITS EMBASSY IN JERUSALEM

Envoy Defends Resuming Relations with Israel
By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, May 19 (JTA) -- Zaire, offering "clarifications" for its decision to resume diplomatic relations with Israel, appeared today to back away from its earlier commitment to open its embassy in Jerusalem.

Kamanda wa Kamanda, Zaire's Ambassador to the United Nations, said in a statement at a press conference that in restoring ties with Israel "Zaire has never taken any decision regarding the possible establishment of its embassy in Jerusalem."

He also declared that "Zaire's traditional position, particularly its constant support for the Arab Palestinian cause, is not called into question by the restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel."

Kamanda said that his country, which is a member of the Security Council, "is aware of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly on Jerusalem and has never contemplated any action contrary to those resolutions." (Zaire's Ambassador to Belgium, Kengo wa Dondo, said in Brussels today that the embassy would be in Tel Aviv.)

Kamanda's statement was contrary to an announcement made in Jerusalem last Sunday by a special emissary of President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire that its embassy would be located in the Israeli capital.

Zaire Continues To Recognize the PLO

The Zaire envoy to the UN said that when his government decided on May 14, to restore its ties with Israel, it notified the Arab ambassadors in Kinshasha that Zaire fully recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization and "continues (its) support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the creation of a Palestinian state in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations."

Kinshasha also explained to the Arab ambassadors, the envoy said, that Zaire broke its diplomatic ties with Israel in 1973 as a result of the occupation of part of the territory of Egypt which is a member state of the Organization for African Unity (OAU). He added, "The restoration of diplomatic relations (with Israel) takes into account the return of Sinai to Egypt on April 25, 1982 and secondly the restoration (sic) of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Israel."

Kamanda said, "From Kinshasha's viewpoint, this decision is part of the search for a negotiated global, just and lasting solution to the Middle East crisis which implies both recognition of Israel's right to existence by all members of the UN and recognition of the right of the Arab people of Palestine to have a homeland, to exist and to organize itself within an independent and sovereign state."

Arab reaction was prompt and predictable to Zaire's announcement of its restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel and its earlier indication that it would open its embassy in Jerusalem. Saudi

Arabia yesterday broke diplomatic relations with Mobutu's government, charging that it had acted contrary to the wishes of its own people, world opinion, the United Nations and other international bodies. Earlier in the day, the Khartoum-based Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa announced it was suspending all activities in Zaire.

Saudi Arabia's severance of ties with Zaire is expected to influence other Arab states in the Persian Gulf region and could have economic repercussions for the Central African nation. Saudi Arabia is a major contributor of funds to banks that channel aid to developing countries. The Khartoum bank is one of those channels. Zaire is reported to owe the bank \$36.8 million borrowed last year.

Arab influence appeared to have scored today when President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia assured Arab leaders that his country had no intention of emulating Zaire by restoring ties with Israel. Kaunda made his announcement during a tour of Kuwait, Iraq and Bahrain, all major oil producers on which Zambia is heavily dependent for energy.

BEGIN'S GOVERNMENT SURVIVES NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION BY ONE VOTE

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin's Likud-led coalition government retained its precarious mandate today when the Knesset voted 58-57 to defeat a Labor-sponsored motion of no-confidence.

Begin's regime was saved by three abstentions: one by Hanan Porat of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction whose two other Knesset members, Geula Cohen and Yuval Neeman, voted with Labor; and the others by the two-member Telem faction. Two Knesset members were absent.

In the long, bitter Knesset debate which preceded the vote, the economic issues on which the no-confidence motion was based were all but forgotten. Likud instead concentrated its fire on MKs Amnon Lin and Yitzhak Peretz whose announced defection from Likud yesterday put the government in jeopardy and made the Labor Alignment the largest single parliamentary faction.

The motion was introduced after figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics earlier in the week showed inflation to be running at a record annual rate of 130 percent. The 10.7 percent rise in the cost-of-living index in April was the highest for that month in 29 years. Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres called on the Knesset to unseat the government because it was ruining the economy.

Today's motion of no-confidence was the second the Begin government has weathered in two months. On March 23, the Knesset split 58-58 on a motion critical of the government's policies on the West Bank. Although a tie vote does not require the government to step down, Begin offered to resign at the time but was overruled by his Cabinet. Before today's vote however, the Premier said he would not resign in the event of a tie.

Begin is generally believed to want early elections, possibly next November, to enlarge Likud's mandate. But he does not want his government

to fall on a no-confidence motion. The economy is expected to remain a major issue. Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, defending his economic policies today, rejected charges that the 10.7 percent cost-of-living increase in April indicated they were failing. He said April traditionally was a month of price increases which Labor tried to exploit.

According to Aridor, business and industry are improving, there is an increase of investments and general economic growth. He also promised that the government would pay a 500 Shekel per month increment to all wage earners who make less than the average income. He said it would do so without waiting for an agreement with Histadrut.

Meanwhile, violence and threats of violence were directed at the two Likud defectors. Peretz was attacked in his Jerusalem hotel last night and Lin reported receiving a number of threatening telephone calls. Police bodyguards were posted at their rooms.

WORKERS TO CLOSE DOWN ALL AIRPORTS ON SATURDAY TO DEMONSTRATE EFFECT OF SABBATH AIRPORT CLOSURE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 19 (JTA) — The Israel Civil Aviation Authority has informed all airlines flying to and from Israel that Ben Gurion International Airport and other civilian airfields throughout the country will be closed on the coming Saturday.

The airports' workers central actions committee, comprising representatives of all airfield units, including El Al, has told the airlines that the day-long stoppage, from the onset of the Sabbath on Friday afternoon till sundown on Saturday, is designed to show the government what full implementation of the El Al Sabbath flight ban, as demanded by the Aguda Israel Party under the coalition agreement, really means.

The government will not issue court back to work orders, as is usually done in the case of essential services. Such an appeal to the courts would be embarrassing to the government as it would mean court orders to personnel to work on the Sabbath, when the workers are demonstrating what a complete Sabbath rest would involve.

ISRAELIS ON TERRORIST HIT LIST

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, May 19 (JTA) — A terrorist assassination list that included Israel's Ambassador to Italy, Moshe Allon and the Military Attache of the Israel Embassy in Rome was cited by an Italian Judge as clear evidence of the collaboration between the Red Brigade and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Judge Pino Amato, the public prosecutor in the trial of Red Brigade terrorist Antonio Savasta who is charged with the murder of former Premier Aldo Moro, said the one fact in Savasta's testimony that must be given complete credibility was that regarding the PLO-Red Brigade agreement by which the PLO smuggled weapons and explosives to the Red Brigade in exchange for terrorist acts by the latter against Israel.

According to Savasta's confession, a PLO-Red Brigade attempt on the lives of the Israeli diplomats was planned over a year ago under the terms of the agreement. Judge Amato said

the proof was an incident in the fall of 1980 when two Italian terrorists, Nicoletti and Bruno Seghetti, were arrested in Naples and found to be carrying notes with the names, telephone numbers and other details, written in English, of the Israeli Ambassador's daily schedule in Rome and the schedule of the Military Attache.

The PLO office in Rome has persistently denied all allegations of collaboration with the Red Brigade. Until now, the Italian news media have expressed doubts about the reliability of confessions made by terrorists under interrogation. But Judge Amato's confirmation of Savasta's testimony is expected to make the media less skeptical in the future.

ISRAELI POLLSTERS BEGIN TAKING NOTICE OF VIEWS OF ISRAELI ARABS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 19 (JTA) — Israeli pollsters have begun taking notice of public opinion in the Arab sector for the first time. They have predictably found that the vast majority of Israeli Arabs say they are discriminated against, and somewhat surprisingly they have discovered that most Arabs blame both Jewish and Arab students for clashes in the universities.

The man responsible for the Arab research section of the Dahaf Research Institute, headed by Dr. Mina Zemah, is Shmuel Toledano, former Arab affairs adviser to several Prime Ministers.

The first poll conducted among 746 Arabs who form a representative sample of the Israeli Arab population (not including the West Bank, the Gaza Strip or the Golan Heights) showed that 46.7 percent said that both Jewish and Arab students were to be blamed for campus clashes and unrest; 44.1 percent felt that Jewish extremists were to blame; 5.5 percent felt government policy was responsible; and three percent blamed the Arab students.

Ninety-six percent felt the Arabs were discriminated against in Israel, and 60 percent felt the time had come to establish an independent Arab party to demand full equal rights. Only 38 percent felt this aim should be achieved through the existing parties.

Toledano, a liberal, said it was gratifying that 66 percent of those queried considered themselves connected, in one way or another, to the Israeli identity with only 34 percent feeling themselves tied only to an Arab identity.

Toledano found another favorable point in the fact that the great majority said their interest in political party activity involved local internal problems rather than wider political problems of the Palestinians.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Tourists in Israel have begun benefitting from the country's new Tourism Courtesy Patrol recently established by the Ministry of Tourism to serve the more than 1.2 million tourists who annually visit the country. The patrol will eventually comprise 5,000 students and adults whose task will be to provide information and assistance to tourists in the streets of Israel's cities, as well as to report on problems and inconveniences that tourists may encounter. Their striking orange/bronze uniforms are already highly visible in Tel Aviv and in Eilat, where the Tourism Courtesy Patrol is in operation. Other cities soon to be covered by the patrol include Jerusalem, Netanya, Tiberias and Beerseba.

FORMER SOVIET DISSIDENT SCORES GRAHAM FOR HIS VIEWS ON THE USSR

By Judith Kohn

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA) — A former Jewish dissident who emigrated from the Soviet Union five years ago has criticized the Rev. Billy Graham for his conduct during and following a controversial trip to the USSR last week.

The former dissident, Mark Azbel, confronted Graham during a panel discussion last Sunday on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley," following an interview with the minister that was televised by satellite from London. Azbel's appearance was broadcast from ABC-TV's studio in Washington, D.C.

Graham, whose trip to the Soviet Union has been denounced by critics as a propaganda triumph for the Soviet government, had been invited there to attend a Soviet-sponsored world gathering of religious leaders opposed to nuclear war.

The minister was feted by Soviet officials and at Christian churches, where he preached the Gospel of Jesus. Traditionally an outspoken critic of the Soviet Union, Graham suggested to the press in Moscow that some religious freedoms are enjoyed in the USSR, pointing to what he said were the large numbers of people who attend church services there.

A Bitter Exchange

In a bitter interchange with Graham, the former Soviet dissident challenged the minister's authority "to tell what goes on with freedom of religion in Russia..."

Repeatedly interrupting attempts by Graham to respond, Azbel attacked the minister's suggestion that his meetings with "the Jewish leadership" in Moscow and with the city's chief rabbi was anything more than a sham. "The Jewish leadership does not want to talk about—has nothing to do with Jews in Moscow or anywhere," he told Graham. "The chief rabbi in Russia is not even qualified to be a rabbi. You don't know that."

Azbel, whose emigration from the Soviet Union was permitted only after a five-year battle with the authorities, was a founding member of the Moscow Sunday Seminar, established for scientists whose positions had been revoked by the government upon their application for emigration visas, as a way of updating one another on developments in their fields.

Asks Graham To Put 'It Straight'

Azbel pressed Graham to acknowledge that his trip to the USSR did not provide him with authoritative information on the state of religion and religious practices in the Soviet Union. In a lengthy emotional statement, Azbel said:

"Would you mind putting it straight? You met leaders. You bring the message from leaders who are opposed to the people, and this is the only thing you know of. You do not know the opinion of the people in Russia. Have you met 10 common Jews who pray, 10 common persons who pray? Have you met people who are in prison? Do you have any knowledge but the knowledge of the official who approached you? And if not, can you speak in the name of the people who are desperate in Russia without you undermining their plight?"

The minister, interrupted at every pause, insisted that "there are millions of people in the

Soviet Union that go to church on Sunday." But he conceded that "restrictions" on religious practices have been in existence since the revolution. Referring to Soviet worshippers affected by those restrictions, Graham added, "... sometimes they become stronger; sometimes they become less."

Currently on sabbatical leave from Tel Aviv University, Azbel is a professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Physics. He appeared on Sunday's television panel together with Methodist minister Edmund Robb, chairman of the Institute on Religion and Democracy. Although Robb's comments were less emotive than Azbel's sharp tongue-lashing, he was no less critical of Graham's visit to the Soviet Union.

ROMAN SLOBODIN DEAD AT 75

PHILADELPHIA, May 19 (JTA) — Roman Slobodin, whose career in journalism and public relations mirrored more than a half-century of Jewish history, died May 11 in Chestnut Hill Hospital. He was 75 years old. At the time of his death, Slobodin was the retired public relations director of the Philadelphia Geriatric Center.

Previously he had served for 19 years as public relations director of the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia, a position which involved him in the raising of millions of dollars through the Allied Jewish Appeal for the rescue of victims of Nazism and for Jewish needs at home and abroad.

During World War II, Slobodin was publicity director of the American Joint Distribution Committee and served in the military in charge of an Armed Service Forces Training Center publication for more than 40,000 soldiers.

He began his career in journalism writing sports news for the old New York Sun and as a general assignment reporter for the old New York World. His career took him to Jerusalem as chief correspondent for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in the late 1930's. His columns on Jewish and Palestinian affairs won wide acclaim and were syndicated in the United States.

Slobodin was a national vice president of the American Jewish Public Relations Society and served on the executive committee and as publicity chairman of the association of Philadelphia Jewish Agency Executives. He was a member of the leading associations in his profession. Slobodin was educated in New York City public schools, City College of New York, New York Jewish Teachers Training School and Columbia University School of Journalism.

Slobodin, who was regarded by his contemporaries as the "dean" of Jewish organization publicists, entered the public relations profession as chief copy writer for the famed Edward Bernays Associates in his native New York City. He founded the public relations department at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York and served with the United Jewish Appeal and with the former United Service for New Americans.

NEWPORT, R.I., (JTA) — The Touro Synagogue here will be featured on a commemorative United States Postage stamp, to be issued on August 22. This will mark the first time a synagogue has been featured on a U.S. stamp. Dedicated in 1763 by Rabbi Issac de Touro, the temple is the oldest synagogue in North America. A showplace of colonial architecture, the Touro Synagogue was dedicated as a national shrine in 1946.

