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ISRAEL DOWNS 2 SYRIAN MIG-FIGHTERS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 25 (JTA) -- Israel claimed today that it shot down two Syrian MIG-21 fighters that attempted to interfere with a routine reconnaissance flight by Israeli Air Force jets over Beirut. All Israeli aircraft returned safely to their bases, a military spokesman said.

Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan said later that he did not think the aerial dogfight would cause the situation in Lebanon to deteriorate. He denied reports that the Israeli planes had been flying over Syrian anti-aircraft missile installations in the Bekaa valley of eastern Lebanon.

Eitan said the planes were over Beirut on a "legitimate reconnaissance" mission and admonished the Syrians for trying to interfere with such "legal" flights. He said Palestinians in southern Lebanon often fired at Israeli reconnaissance aircraft. The flights will continue because they are essential for intelligence purposes, Eitan said.

BEGIN FIRM ON POSITION THAT THERE WILL BE NO AUTONOMY TALKS UNLESS SOME ARE HELD IN JERUSALEM

TEL AVIV, May 25 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin reiterated today that there will be no autonomy talks unless Egypt agrees to hold some of them in Jerusalem. "If Jerusalem is boycotted, we will boycott those who boycott us," he told students at Bar Ilan University. "If Israel is pressed, we will press back," he said.

Begin spoke at cornerstone-laying ceremonies for a new building at the university to be named in honor of himself and his wife, Aliza Begin. His remarks were seen as a signal that Israel will not retreat from its venue position under pressure expected to be brought to bear by the United States shortly to get the long stalled autonomy negotiations re-started.

Some Disconcerting Developments

Secretary of State Alexander Haig will deliver a major-Middle East policy address in Chicago tomorrow. It is believed he will present American proposals aimed at returning Israel and Egypt to the negotiating table. According to media reports in the U.S., the proposals include elements that may not sit well with the Israelis.

Israel is also expected to object vigorously to planned meetings between Reagan Administration officials, possibly including Haig, and the two mayors it deported from the West Bank in 1980, Fahd Kawasme of Hebron and Mohammed Milhem of Halhoul.

They were ousted for allegedly inciting anti-Israel acts that culminated in the ambush slaying of seven yeshiva students in Hebron in May, 1980. The Administration reportedly has agreed to meet with them in Washington in an effort to draw Palestinian representatives into the autonomy talks.

Although Israel insists they are agents of the Palestine Liberation Organization, neither mayor is a member of the PLO and by talking with them, the U.S. would not be technically violating its commitment to have no contacts with the PLO until the latter recognizes Israel.

Some Anticipated U.S. Proposals

According to some reports in the American media, the Administration will, for the first time, offer concrete proposals on the autonomy issue in an effort to break the impasse. Apart from the venue problem, these proposals, which may be unveiled in Haig's Chicago speech, include a limitation on new Israeli settlements on the West Bank.

In that connection the U.S. may suggest that existing public lands on the West Bank could not be redesignated for any new use, such as new settlements. The U.S. may also support Palestinian rights to share in water resources.

Another possible compromise would be to give East Jerusalem Arabs the right to vote for "at large" representatives to the West Bank administrative council, the proposed self-governing authority. Israel maintains that East Jerusalem is not part of the West Bank and therefore its residents cannot participate in the voting.

The U.S. is expected to remain vague on the ultimate results of autonomy. The Palestinians demand self-determination, leading to the establishment of their own state. The Israelis have already served notice that they intend to assert their claim to permanent sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza Strip after the five-year autonomy transition period. Washington is not likely to take a position on that hard core issue at this time.

Reagan Invites Begin To White House

Meanwhile, it was announced in Jerusalem today that Begin has received a "most friendly" invitation from President Reagan to lunch with him at the White House on June 21. The Premier will be in the U.S. next month for the United Nations disarmament conference and is to address the UN General Assembly on June 18. Reagan's invitation was conveyed by U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis. Israeli officials said the meeting would

enable Begin and the President to discuss all matters outstanding between their countries.

Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, currently in Washington, was meeting today with Haig and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. He voiced Israel's unqualified opposition to proposed U.S. sales of modern sophisticated weaponry to Jordan and other Arab countries. (See separate story).

At last Sunday's Cabinet meeting, Begin angrily accused Weinberger of paying "lip service" to Israel's security while advocating weapons sales to Israel's enemies. The Defense Secretary retorted at a press conference in Detroit yesterday, "We pay a great deal more than lip service to our unswerving commitment to Israel," he said. He added, however, that "one of the best ways" the U.S. commitment to Israel "can be fulfilled is to have a network of other friendships in the Middle East."

SHARON, IN FOUR-HOUR MEETING WITH WEINBERGER, STRESSES THE THREATS TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 25 (JTA) -- Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon emerged from nearly four hours of talks with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger at the Pentagon today and said he had emphasized what he considered to be the threats to peace in the Middle East.

These threats, as outlined by Sharon, are Arab terrorism, the supply of modern weapons to Arab countries, especially Jordan and what he called a "new coalition" being formed around Iraq, with Jordan and Saudi Arabia and with the "support" of Egypt and possible backing by the U.S. He denied that he was charging that Egypt is a threat to peace.

Sharon, who stressed that he was invited to the Pentagon by Weinberger during his current private visit to the U.S. said there had been no discussion of the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation between the U.S. and Israel which Sharon and Weinberger signed last December. However, a Pentagon spokesman, Benjamin Welles, said earlier today that the talks were the opening round in discussions of the memorandum of understanding.

It is believed here that the memorandum, which was suspended by the U.S. in reaction to Israel's extension of civil law to the Golan Heights last December, may be resurrected when Premier Menachem Begin meets President Reagan at the White House on June 21. Welles also said today that Reagan wants to help Israel's economy, especially its defense industry.

ISRAEL, GERMANY PREPARING FOR GENSCHER'S VISIT TO ISRAEL JUNE 2

By David Kantor

BONN, May 25 (JTA) -- Israeli and West German diplomats are seeking to create a warm

atmosphere for the visit to Israel, on June 2, by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. The Israeli Ambassador to West Germany, Yitzhak Ben Ari, said in an interview published in the Frankfurter Rundschau today that the visit would mark a positive shift in German-Israeli relations.

"The declarations made by both sides are very positive signals. We are again on the right track," the Israeli envoy said. German diplomats matched Ben Ari's friendly remarks by stating that Genscher intended to express "Germany's admiration for the great military, psychological, economic and strategic concessions made by Israel in order to make peace with Egypt possible." The reference was to Israel's withdrawal from Sinai last April 25.

Ben Ari observed that while there are differences over how to achieve an overall settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict, "the aim of Bonn and Jerusalem was and remains the same -- a just and lasting peace."

The envoy was critical, however, of West Germany's support of the right of the Palestinians to self-determination. This was unacceptable to Israel, according to Ben Ari, because "it would lead to the creation of a second Palestinian state, while eliminating the only Jewish state existing." The Israeli government contends that Jordan is in fact a "Palestinian state."

Ben Ari cautioned Bonn on the issue of self-determination. "Pragmatically, if one applied the right of self-determination for all Germans today, that would lead to a third world war," he claimed.

TWO ALLEGED FORMER NAZIS TO GO ON TRIAL IN JUNE

CHICAGO, May 25 (JTA) -- A man accused of having served as company commander of several SS units in concentration camps and training SS recruits for concentration camp guard duty goes on trial June 1 in U.S. District Court on charges that he lied about his Nazi past to secure U.S. citizenship.

Conrad Schellong, a 72-year-old retired machinist is among 22 alleged ex-Nazis being prosecuted by the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI). According to OSI director Allan Ryan, investigators found that Schellong was an SS commander at Dachau and served as a major and lieutenant colonel in the Waffen SS. He came to the U.S. in 1957 and obtained citizenship in 1962, the OSI reported. It filed its complaint against Schellong in May, 1981.

Another alleged ex-Nazi, Liudas Kairys, is to go on trial June 14. He is accused of concealing that he had served with SS auxiliary guard units in death camps in Poland, including Treblinka. Kairys is presently an employee of the Cracker Jack Company in Chicago.

LONDON (JTA) -- There are about 300 Jewish members of Britain's regular armed forces but only one of them, a Royal Navy officer, is known to be serving in the Falkland Islands task force, Rev. Malcolm Weisman, chief Jewish chaplain to Britain's armed forces, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

A UNIVERSITY CONQUERS THE DESERT

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA) -- A recent agreement by a New York Jewish businessman and philanthropist to head a support group in the United States for an Israeli university can legitimately be considered a commitment to a goal of global significance.

Such support groups -- in this case, the American Associates for Ben-Gurion University in the Negev -- are standard components of the educational scene for many universities in many countries. Ben-Gurion University, the newest of Israel's universities, has similar support groups in Australia, Switzerland, South Africa and Britain. Robert Arnow, the new president of the American Associates, reported in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, had a vision which spurred him to a key role in the battle to include the apparently barren and useless Negev in the United Nations partition plan for a Jewish State in Palestine. He believed firmly that Isaiah's prophecy that "the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose" applied to the Negev.

But it was not until 1969 that the Israeli government acted to create an instrument to realize Ben-Gurion's dream. In that year, Ben-Gurion University was established with 500 students and a master plan for 30 buildings on 93 acres. Twelve buildings are in place. There are now more than 5,500 students and some 700 full-time faculty members.

Arnow took office last January as president of the American Associates, a decision reflecting his life-long commitment to Jewish education. He has been president of the American Association for Jewish Education (now the Jewish Education Service for North America). He has also served as president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and is currently chairman of the JTA Executive Committee, among many Jewish service leadership activities.

Extraordinary Range Of Services

Arnow said, in the JTA interview, that he had had no intention of agreeing to a suggestion from Aron Chlewich of New York, the retiring Associates' president, that he consider the presidency. But, after learning more about the university, he decided to visit the university during a trip with his wife to Israel. The more he learned about the unique experiments and achievements of the university, he said, the more impressed he became.

The university provides an extraordinary range of services to both its students and to the residents of the Negev. It has, for example, a medical school which last November graduated its first class of doctors -- 30 young men and women.

The university itself needs doctors partly because it has accepted the responsibility, in cooperation with the Histadrut-operated Kupat Halim

(sick-fund) and the Health Ministry, to coordinate through its Health Sciences Center the administration of preventive, curative and rehabilitative medical services for the 300,000 residents of the Negev, including 40,000 to 60,000 Bedouins. Twenty members of the first graduating class of doctors elected to remain in the Negev for their first year of practice.

The university's other projects include preparing students for matriculation examinations; pre-academic courses for soldiers who have completed military duty; community leadership development; a summer camp for children for poor families -- and there are many such families in the Negev; a one-to-one tutoring program in which some 2,000 students work on a continuous basis with school children; and a unique open-apartments project in which students live in poor neighborhoods, serving as role models for children and as catalysts toward community improvement among the adults.

Accomplishments Have Worldwide Significance

But Arnow stressed, it is the university's accomplishments in desert reclamation, settlement and development which have worldwide significance.

For instance the university's Jacob Blaustein's Desert Research Institute is the only one in the world where scientists study all aspects of human settlement in a desert environment. Research includes ecology, flora and fauna, water, climatology, energy, agriculture and economics.

Underneath the Negev's desert surface are massive layers -- technically aquifers -- of brackish water. Conventional wisdom has it that nothing will grow in brackish water. But scientists in the university's Research and Development Authority have developed new techniques for the desalination of salt water, the recycling of waste water and the direct use of brackish water and sea-water for irrigation.

The university has produced drought-resistant plants for industrial use that thrive in the desert -- such as the jojoba, which has a valuable oil, and the guayule, a natural rubber-yielding plant that flourishes in desert climates. Its scientists have provided the know-how to raise food and fodder crops as well as plants for the export market.

Cost-efficient methods of using natural energy sources to produce electricity, heat and cooling systems, invented at the university -- including notable advances in application of solar energy -- have attracted international attention.

'Closed System Agriculture' Created

The Blaustein Institute has created a "closed system agriculture," using greenhouse conditions in which plants are raised in glass or plastic structures, heated and cooled by solar energy. Plants are being grown this way at a fraction of the cost for water and labor in open field farming.

Arnow visited the Sde Boker campus, out in the desert near Beersheba, where he observed research on the ruins of a Nabatean settlement. The goal is to learn how farmers of that period were able to survive in the desert. Now, Sde Boker campus scientists

are growing protein-rich algae for local use and for export. Arnow mentioned the development of a vine-ripened tomato, grown with brackish water, which has a shelf-life of up to four months. Arnow said he had eaten such tomatoes and that their taste is excellent.

Basis For Egyptian-Israeli Cooperation

The peace between Israel and Egypt means that Israel can offer to work directly with Egyptian scientists to apply and extend Ben-Gurion University expertise in pushing back the desert. For Egypt, whose teeming millions depend on thin strips of fertile land on each side of the Nile River, the future may well depend on precisely those techniques for reclamation of the desert and using high technology to make brackish water food-productive.

Egypt has 50 million acres of desert wasteland west of the Suez Canal, in addition to the hundreds of thousands of acres of returned Sinai desert. Egypt's western desert also lies on a sea of brackish water of no current use or value.

And beyond that, huge sections of Asia and the rest of Africa are fighting a losing battle against the desert. Shortage of water and loss of arable topsoil is beginning to plague the American west. American scientists estimate that by 1990, water shortages may be America's number one problem.

Arnow takes a modest view of his role in this globe girdling panorama. The American Associates' structure needs a great deal of work; to make it the instrument the university urgently needs.

Though he is a member of the university board, Arnow told the JTA, university policy is made by the university. He feels his organizational experience can and will be applied to strengthen the American Associates where the organization needs strengthening and to establish new chapters where none now exist.

He suggested as the goal of such a reorganization the capacity to raise several million dollars annually for the university and a corresponding expansion in telling American Jews what Ben-Gurion University is accomplishing and hopes to further accomplish not only for the Negev and for Israel but also about the implications of its desert reclamation skills for a world gravely threatened by shrinking resources of water and arable land.

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CLUB IN BOSTON AREA HIGH SCHOOL BEING INVESTIGATED

BOSTON, May 25 (JTA) -- School officials in Manchester are investigating an anti-Semitic hate club at the North Shore junior and senior high school where the parents of Jewish pupils complain that anti-Semitic harassment has become commonplace.

Sol Kolack, director of the New England office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, announced that the ADL will participate

in the investigation and is drafting plans to advise key teachers and school administrators in the area of adolescent prejudices.

Recent investigations at the suburban school uncovered a group, mainly of eighth graders, who call themselves the "Nigger and Jew Haters of America." There are only five Jews and two Black students in the 515-member student body. So far, one student has been suspended for involvement in the hate club. School officials said, however, that disciplinary action would be the responsibility of parents.

PLAQUE COMMEMORATES PARIS BUILDING WHERE HERZL WROTE 'THE JEWISH STATE'

PARIS, May 25 (JTA) -- A plaque commemorating the Paris building where Theodor Herzl wrote "The Jewish State" was unveiled by Interior Minister Gaston Defferre, last week. Israeli and Jewish leaders, including Jewish Agency chairman Leon Dulzin and French Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat, attended the ceremony.

Defferre said "Herzl's message has been heard. Some of his vision has become reality. Israel exists and is strong enough to safeguard its existence."

Defferre, who also holds the senior Cabinet post of Minister of State and is known for his close ties with President Francois Mitterrand, stressed that the new Administration "will not tolerate any form of anti-Semitism or (anti-Jewish) discrimination." He promised swift and efficient action at the slightest sign of a racist revival.

NORTH AMERICAN ALIYA UP BY 21% IN THE FIRST THIRD OF 1982

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA) -- The numbers of North Americans emigrating to Israel was increased by 21 percent in the first third of 1982, as compared with a year ago, according to figures released today by the Israel Aliyah Center of North America.

The center's director, Moshe Shechter, reported that 521 new immigrants from North America departed for Israel between January and April 1982, as compared with 421 during the same period last year. The first third totals included 116 families and 199 individuals, with approximately 89 percent under age 45. Increases were also shown during the first four months in 13 of the 19 regional aliya center offices.

According to Shechter, current projections indicate a continued upswing through the end of summer. He also reported an increase in the number of interviews scheduled with families and individuals seeking Aliyah information and assistance.

"Traditionally, the largest group immigrating during the first four months of the year was singles headed for kibbutzim," explained Shechter. "In past years, this time frame included few families. The unusual fact about the first third of 1982 is that more than 60 percent are family members." Shechter attributes this to America's economic difficulties and the favorable job and professional retraining opportunities which Israel offers.