

SHAMIR SAYS ARMS TO JORDAN IS A GREATER DANGER TO ISRAEL THAN THE AWACS TO SAUDI ARABIA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 26 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir told the Knesset today that Israel could not sit by idly while Jordan increased its capacity to harm Israel's populated centers. He was speaking in a Knesset debate on American plans to supply Jordan with sophisticated military equipment.

Both Labor Alignment opposition and government spokesmen joined in opposing the arms supply plans hinted at by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in statements this week.

Shamir said the supply of sophisticated equipment to Jordan represented an even greater threat to Israel than the supply of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia, because of the proximity of the Jordanian bases to Israel's populated centers and military bases in the Negev.

Such arms to Jordan would only be an incentive to Jordan to join in any new Arab war against Israel, Shamir said. He said that the United States was wrong in describing Jordan as a peace-loving state, as it had already fought several wars against Israel. There has been no basic change in Jordanian policy and Jordan has still not accepted the Camp David accords, the Foreign Minister said.

ISRAEL TO GET ADVANCED F-16 FIGHTER BOMBERS FROM THE U.S.

WASHINGTON, May 26 (JTA) -- Defense Department officials confirmed today that the Reagan Administration will sell Israel 75 advanced F-16 fighter-bombers to cost \$2.5 billion, the largest arms sale to Israel in four years. In 1978, the U.S. sold Israel 75 F-16s, all of which have been delivered.

According to the officials, Congress was notified privately of the Administration's decision on Monday. It has 30 days following public notification, expected later this month, to veto the sale. The veto must be by both houses. The F-16s are manufactured by General Dynamics. The Pentagon officials said the first should be on the assembly line in three years.

ISRAEL DENIES ECUADORIAN PLANE DETAINED AT KENNEDY AIRPORT HAD ARMS EARMARKED FOR ARGENTINA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 26 (JTA) -- Israel denied today that an Ecuadorian cargo aircraft detained at Kennedy Airport in New York after a flight from Tel Aviv was carrying Israeli arms to Argentina. The Foreign Ministry informed the British Embassy here that there was no truth to reports that Israel is sending arms to Argentina. (Related story, P.3.)

According to press reports from the U.S., some Israeli nationals were among the crew of the Ecuadorian Boeing 707 who were being questioned by State Department officials. The plane reportedly was carrying high impact bombs manufactured in Israel.

According to the cargo manifest, the plane's destination was Quito, Ecuador. U.S. officials re-

portedly became suspicious that the arms were for Argentina because they were not entered on the bill of lading. A U.S. Customs official in Washington confirmed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in Washington today that an investigation was in progress to determine whether the shipment was legal and properly licensed.

American press reports quoted a State Department official as saying it was "highly speculative" that the cargo was destined for Argentina. Israeli officials conceded that the plane took off from Ben Gurion Airport and made a refueling stop at Shannon, Ireland. They refused to say what cargo it carried.

The reports from New York said the aircraft was owned by the Ecuadorian government, operated by Ecuador's Equatoriana Airlines and leased to an Israeli company. Israel has a contract to service and maintain Ecuadorian planes at Ben Gurion Airport.

SOLON SAYS U.S. SHOULD SELL ARMS TO JORDAN ONLY IF IT ENDS STATE OF WAR WITH ISRAEL, JOINS CAMP DAVID

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 26 (JTA) -- Sen. Alan Cranston (D. Calif.) has urged the U.S. to sell weapons to Jordan only if it "ends its state of war with Israel and joins the Camp David process." He said such weapons "should be limited" to Jordan's self-defense needs against hostile Arab neighbors.

"Instead of selling more weapons of war to Israel's most powerful military enemy, the Administration should be selling Jordan on joining Egypt and Israel in building a lasting peace," Cranston told the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy civic service award dinner in Kansas City, Mo. last night.

The Senate Deputy Minority Leader, who is one of the leaders opposing the Reagan Administration's reported plans to sell Jordan advanced weapons, said the Administration has a policy of "trying to buy friends with weapons" which he said "is likely to prove far more dangerous than past U.S. policies of trying to buy Third World friends with money and just a bankrupt."

Meanwhile, Cranston sought yesterday to have the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, of which he is a member, provide economic aid to Israel which would be equal to the interest and principal Israel pays to the U.S. each year on tax debts. This could total \$910 million in the 1983 fiscal year, \$125 million more than the Administration has requested.

Cranston told the Committee that "Israel can't keep pace" with the arms purchases made by the Arab countries. The Committee postponed action after Charles Percy (R. Ill.), its chairman, and Sen. Charles Mathias (R. Md.) and Nancy Kassebaum (R. Kan.) voiced strong objections. Percy, calling the proposal a "watershed" declared that "it makes the American taxpayers responsible for all Israeli debts and all future debts."

The Committee earlier approved an amendment by Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R. Minn.) to increase the grant in aid to Israel this year to \$850 million rather than the \$500 million in grants the Adminis-

tration proposed. Israel is to receive in 1983 \$1.7 billion in military aid and \$785 million in economic aid. Boschwitz's proposal was approved by voice vote with only Kassebaum objecting.

ISRAEL-EGYPT JOINT COMMISSION DISCUSS SINAI SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

TEL AVIV, May 26 (JTA) -- The Israel-Egypt joint military commission today opened a two-day meeting to discuss security arrangements in the Sinai. The session opened this morning in Beersheba and took up security problems in the disputed Taba area south of Eilat, site of the Rafi Nelson beachcombers village and of a new luxury hotel under construction.

Pending a decision on the future of the area, including sovereignty over it, a unit of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) organization is to patrol the area. The commission's members are due to continue their meeting tomorrow at the MFO headquarters at Elgorah in the Sinai -- the former Israeli air force base of Eitam near Eilat. They will hear a report on the MFO dispositions to be given by the force commander.

REPORT ARGENTINE JEWISH LEADERS COMPLAIN ABOUT SHARON'S REMARKS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 26 (JTA) -- Moshe Weinstein, news editor of the Spanish weekly *El Tiempo* published in Tel Aviv says he has received a number of complaints from Argentine Jewish leaders and ordinary citizens expressing concern about the possible repercussions following statements by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon about the future in the Falkland Islands.

Sharon told the United Jewish Appeal National Leadership Conference in Washington last Saturday night that there are Jews in the Argentine army and probably in the British army. "Again Jews are fighting Jews in a war that does not belong to them," he declared.

El Tiempo published an editorial this week charging Sharon with "audacity and arrogance" for allegedly denigrating "Jews of both armies who are fully convinced that this war is their country's war since they identify themselves fully with the country for which they fight."

Verbal tension has been reported from several kibbutzim which have members of both British and Argentinian origin.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES A REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 26 (JTA) -- Tel Aviv University has recently dedicated its new building housing the world's only germ plasma bank to store and preserve wild grain resources, collecting the valuable genetic materials of wild oats, barley and wheat.

The collection may one day save the world from a major catastrophe due to worldwide blight and disease to cereals which provide the basic foodstuffs of man and beast.

The germ plasma bank is part of the University's Institute for Cereal Crops Improvement whose founder and director, Prof. Isaac Wahl, has acquired world fame in his field. Minnesota-trained, Dr. Wahl notes that over 35 percent of the oat acreage in the United States stems from material grown in Israel and tested

by the Institute, providing excellent protection against several devastating crop diseases.

Danger to the world grain supply is due to the fact that today's food is provided by only 15 species of plants representing a very narrow and limited genetic base. Some of the better varieties could be entirely wiped out if a dangerous new plant disease were to appear. Wahl notes that cereal crops are genetically too uniform and vulnerable to vast damage.

Israel is the natural home of wild oats, barley and wheat which, through the past thousands of years, have developed a natural inbred protection against disease, through a Darwinian system of survival of the fittest seeds. But in cultivated species, some of the toughness has been bred out. What the Tel Aviv Institute does -- with extensive funding from abroad, including the U.S. government and university institutes in Europe and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations -- is to collect the seeds of wild plants, bombard them with attacking and hostile blights, and then grow and test the most resistant seeds.

After repeated testing and examination, the toughest seeds are stored, under conditions which can preserve them for decades and possibly even hundreds of years. The seeds are taken from this "germ bank" and sent on request to official institutes abroad for local testing and crossing with locally-bred seeds.

The files of the Institute are filled with glowing testimonials, letters or reprints of scholarly articles in scientific journals, testifying to the importance of the Tel Aviv Institute to the world's food supply.

Wahl, an unassuming man, is fond of quoting from and lavishing praise on colleagues throughout the world for their "great pioneering work." But his colleagues say that when they travel abroad for meetings with world cereal crop scientists, it is Wahl they say who is most often quoted and praised.

N. Y. STATE LEGISLATURE URGES REAGAN AND CONGRESS TO PROTECT ISRAEL'S POSITION IN THE UN

ALBANY, N. Y., May 26 (JTA) -- The State Legislature adopted a joint resolution a few days ago calling on President Reagan and Congress to protect the position of Israel in the United Nations. The resolution was introduced by State Minority Leader Manfred Ohrenstein, Democrat of Manhattan, and Assembly Deputy Majority Leader Alan Hevesi, Democrat of Forest Hills.

The resolution calls upon the United States to "ensure its participation in the General Assembly and withhold its assessed contribution to the United Nations" in the case that "Israel or any other democratic state is expelled, suspended, denied its credentials, or in any other manner denied its rights and privileges in the General Assembly of the United Nations."

According to Hevesi and Ohrenstein, "We are simply urging the United States to uphold the noble principles on which the United Nations was founded. Israel's quest for a permanent peace must be recognized and honored, especially in light of such recent actions as the relinquishing of the Sinai to Egypt." The resolution shall be transmitted to Reagan, the Congressional leaders, and the Congressional delegation of New York State.

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated May 31 because of Memorial Day, a postal holiday.

SHARON SAYS DETAINED CARGO AIRCRAFT WAS CARRYING ARMS FOR ECUADOR, NOT ARGENTINA

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA) -- Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon said today that the Ecuadorian cargo aircraft, detained yesterday at Kennedy Airport here after a flight from Tel Aviv, was carrying arms for Ecuador. He said that Israel sold arms to Ecuador with "the approval and moral support" of the United States government. Sharon denied that the arms on the Ecuadorian plane were for Argentina, as American press reports speculated earlier.

Addressing a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Sharon said that Israel has no intention whatsoever of getting involved in the British-Argentinian dispute over the Falkland Islands and, therefore, will not sign any new contracts for arms sales to Argentina. But he stressed that Israel "will stick" to its previous commitments to sell arms to Argentina and will honor all past contracts between the two countries.

Sharon told the Presidents Conference that in his talks yesterday in Washington with Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger he raised the issue of U.S. "sanctions" against Israel whenever there is "misunderstanding" between the two countries, as, for instance, after Israel bombed the Iraqi nuclear installations last June, or after Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights last December.

Sharon said that he "made it clear" that this is not the way to treat disagreements between two friendly countries, pointing out that it is possible that many "misunderstandings" between the U.S. and Israel will arise in the future.

Will Wage War Against Terrorists If Necessary

Sharon said that he told Haig and Weinberger that PLO terrorism is presently one of the major threats to peace in the Mideast. Noting that since last July, when an agreement to end the hostilities across the Israel-Lebanon border was signed at least 25 people were killed and 250 wounded as a result of PLO terrorism.

He warned that any new attack by the PLO can lead to war in the Mideast, noting that a few days ago an explosive was found in a school in Ashkelon and was dismantled before causing any harm. "If children were killed in Ashkelon we would have been already in war," Sharon said.

He said that as long as Israel can deter the PLO terrorists, it will not go to war. "We do not want war, but if we have to we will go to war," Sharon declared.

Wams Against Support To Iraq

Another topic of discussion between Sharon and Haig and Weinberger was the situation in the Persian Gulf. Sharon said that he "warned against efforts to support Iraq" which he characterized as "a radical country under strong Soviet influence."

"The attempt to strengthen Iraq is a major threat to peace," Sharon said, recalling that Iraq actively participated in all the wars against Israel since 1948.

On an NBC-TV interview this morning, Sharon said that Israel has provided a small amount of military aid to Iran because it views Iraq, which is at war with Iran, as a major threat to peace. He said that by tacitly supporting Iraq, Washington

might be supporting a new pro-Iraq Arab coalition that includes Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt.

In his speech to the Presidents Conference, Sharon warned that the fall of Iran to Iraq might bring the Soviet Union into a greater position of power in the Persian Gulf.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- A Senate Foreign Relations Committee resolution to provide economic aid to Israel which would be equal to the interest and principal Israel pays to the U.S. each year on tax debts was passed Wednesday by a vote of 9-8. All the Democrats and Republican Rudy Boschwitz of Minnesota voted for the measure which was introduced by California Democrat Alan Cranston. (See earlier story, P. 1.)

ISRAEL TO BE HONORED IN 1983 AT MONTH-LONG FESTIVAL IN MEMPHIS

ATLANTA, May 26 (JTA) -- Israel will be the honored country at the 1983 "Memphis In May," a month long festival and fair in Memphis, Tennessee. Yehoshua Trigot, the Consul General of Israel for the southeastern United States, accepted the invitation on behalf of his government from Tom Hutton, president of "Memphis In May," a cultural and trade event.

During the "Memphis In May" festival next year, Israeli paintings will be on display at art galleries in Memphis, local shops will carry Israeli goods, museums will display exhibits from Israel, and local theaters will present Israeli plays and films.

CEREMONY TO MARK LEGISLATION WHICH GAVE JEWS EQUAL POLITICAL, CIVIL RIGHTS IN LOWER CANADA

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, May 26 (JTA) -- The 150th anniversary of the landmark legislation which gave Jews equal political and civil rights in lower Canada, will be officially observed in Quebec city on June 1. A plaque will be unveiled at the National Assembly by its Speaker, Claude Vaillancourt.

A series of ceremonies, exhibits and academic discussions are scheduled to draw attention to the historic significance of the Lower Canada Act of 1832 and the long struggle for Jewish civil rights that preceded its adoption. The Act was a model for legislation adopted the following year in upper Canada, removing mandatory Christian oaths for office holders.

According to David Rome, an historian of the Canadian Jewish Congress, the "various human rights laws, fair employment and housing regulations which we are today enjoying are direct descendants of the Lower Canada Act of 1832."

The events leading up to the Act can be traced to 1808 when Ezekiel Hart, a Jew was elected to represent the Trois Rivières Riding, or district, of Quebec province, in the legislature of lower Canada. His opponents argued that a Jew could not legitimately take the oath of office which concluded with the words, "On the true faith of a Christian." Hart was ejected from the legislature and his seat was declared vacant.

New elections were held. Hart won again and was ejected for a second time. But his challenge to the status quo stimulated a quarter century of intellectual and legal dissent which culminated in the 1832 act.

