

Vol. LX - 65th Year

Tuesday, July 27, 1982

No. 142

ISRAEL DENOUNCES ARAFAT DOCUMENT AS AN EXERCISE IN DECEIT

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA) -- Israeli officials heaped scorn today on reports from Beirut that PLO chief Yasir Arafat has signed a document affirming United Nations resolutions which would constitute PLO recognition of Israel's right to exist. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir called the document "an exercise in deceit." (In Washington, the State Department today rejected the Arafat document as ambiguous; See story, P. 3.)

The paper Arafat reportedly signed was presented as evidence of PLO recognition of Israel by Rep. Paul McCloskey (R. Calif.), a member of a six-member Congressional delegation visiting Beirut. He met with Arafat yesterday in his west Beirut redoubt which has been under siege by Israel for the past month.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Avi Pazner called the document a "public relations gimmick" and warned that the PLO will have to leave Lebanon. "All the deceit and declarations given for the benefit of public opinion will not help them," he told reporters today.

Premier Menachem Begin's press spokesman, Uri Porat, compared the document to the one produced by British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain on his return from Munich in 1938 after Britain and France had acquiesced to the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia by Hitler. He said the paper McCloskey displayed "is the kind waved by people who are naive, ignorant or both."

See PLO Stalling For Time

Other Israeli officials insisted that the PLO was stalling for time in the hope that diplomatic pressure on Israel would somehow relieve the PLO of the necessity to leave Beirut and Lebanon. According to McCloskey, PLO "chairman" Arafat accepts all United Nations resolutions relevant to the Palestine question.

The U.S. has persistently reiterated in recent weeks that it will neither recognize nor have any contact with the PLO unless the latter recognizes Israel's right to exist and accepts UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. According to the reports from Beirut, Arafat told the visiting Congressmen that the PLO cannot accept 242 alone because it refers to the Palestinian issue as a refugee problem and says nothing of Palestinian self-determination and aspirations for a homeland.

But according to PLO spokesmen in Beirut and McCloskey's apparent interpretation of the document Arafat signed, affirmation of all UN resolutions pertinent to the Arab-Israeli conflict includes acceptance of 242 and the implicit recognition of Israel contained in its text.

McCloskey said, after meeting with Arafat, that the PLO leader "signed for his acceptance of all United Nations resolutions which include the right of Israel to exist." But Arafat corrected him, saying, "All UN resolutions concerning the Palestinian question."

MUBARAK WELCOMES ARAFAT'S STATEMENT AND CALLS ON U.S. TO OPEN DIALOGUE WITH PLO LEADERS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, July 26 (JTA) -- President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt today welcomed Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat's declaration accepting "all UN resolutions relevant to the Palestinian question" and called upon the United States to "take a step forward" towards the PLO in view of this development.

Mubarak, who was speaking in Cairo at the end of the ceremonies marking the 30th anniversary of the 1952 revolution which overthrew King Farouk, called Arafat's declaration "a good step forward in the direction of peace" and urged Washington to start a dialogue with the PLO leadership.

Practically the entire French news media today hailed Arafat's statement as a great step forward which, most commentators said, might open the way to a Palestinian-American dialogue.

But Arafat's statement was strongly denounced by Ambassador Meir Rosene of Israel who termed the statement "a propaganda maneuver trying to make him pass off as a moderate." Rosene declared: we shall never negotiate with this terrorist organization but only with the representatives of the autonomous councils of Judea, Samaria and Gaza under the Camp David agreements.

Will Press For New UN Resolution

Nevertheless, the French Foreign Ministry said today that France and Egypt will submit in the coming days a new resolution to the United Nations Security Council and probably also to the General Assembly based on what the Ministry said was a new situation. Foreign Ministry sources said Arafat's statement served to "concretize an already existing situation."

Hani al-Hassan, an advisor to Arafat, was quoted in the Beirut weekly, Monday Morning, as saying that the PLO was hoping, with French support, to get a new UN Security Council resolution that recognized the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood.

Mubarak Invites Four Prominent Jews

Mubarak, who in his speech today charged Israel with responsibility for the Lebanese crisis, invited, however, four prominent Jews to Cairo for top level consultations. The four are former World Jewish Congress presidents Nahum Goldmann and Philip Klutznick, and former French Premier Pierre Mendes-France, the three signers of the Paris Declaration which called upon Israel and the Palestinians to mutually recognize each other and open peace negotiations; and the current WJC president, Edgar Bronfman.

Bronfman was apparently invited for having said in a speech at the WJC Executive meeting here earlier this month that the Palestinian rights should be recognized, although he and the Executive dissociated themselves from the Paris Declaration.

Mubarak said he wanted to pay tribute to the four men's "spirit of humanity and courage which contributed to the peace process." The Egyptian Ambassadors to Paris and Washington will forward Mubarak's invitations to the four, Egyptian sources here said.

WHITE HOUSE EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN HABIB DESPITE HIS CONNECTION WITH THE BECHTEL GROUP

WASHINGTON, July 26 (JTA) -- The White House has expressed full confidence in the ability of Philip Habib to continue his diplomatic mission in Lebanon despite disclosure that he has been employed by the Bechtel Group of San Francisco for the past year as a consultant.

Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes quoted President Reagan as saying this morning that Habib was performing his task "over and above the call of duty." Speakes rejected a demand by Sen. Larry Pressler (R. SD) that Habib resign as U.S. special envoy on the grounds that his connection with the giant construction company compromised his ability to serve as an impartial mediator in the Lebanese crisis.

"The President has the utmost faith in his ability and his integrity He (Habib) is an honorable man. I cannot find words enough to describe the President's feelings for Phil Habib," Speakes said.

Rejects Conflict of Interest

Another White House press aide, Anson Franklin, declared yesterday that "Any implication of any conflict is absurd." While confirming that the Administration was "checking" Habib's Bechtel association, he stressed that "We're confident that Ambassador Habib is working solely for the President and the United States Government in the Middle East."

The disclosure that Habib, a retired career diplomat, was hired by Bechtel appeared yesterday in The Washington Post. It was confirmed by a Bechtel spokesman, Rick Laubscher, who said he was engaged last year by George Shultz, former president of Bechtel and now Secretary of State, primarily as a consultant on the Pacific basin region, the main area of Habib's prior expertise.

Suspicious About Impartiality

According to Pressler and several other members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, anyone linked to Bechtel raises suspicions with respect to impartiality in the Middle East conflict because the firm has billions of dollars of contracts in the Arab world, chiefly Saudi Arabia.

This was the chief objection raised to Shultz's nomination and the subject of sharp questioning during his confirmation hearings. Nevertheless, he was confirmed unanimously by the Foreign Relations Committee and the full Senate two weeks ago.

Pressler said yesterday that Shultz's failure to mention Habib's employment by Bechtel during the hearings showed a lack of candor. He contended that Bechtel "actively lobbies for pro-Arab causes" and Habib therefore "cannot be effective now that it has been revealed that he is a paid consultant" to the company. According to Pressler, Habib's connection with Bechtel was an embarrassment to President Reagan. It was Reagan who, in May, 1981, called Habib out of retirement to defuse a rapidly escalating crisis in Lebanon.

The controversy over his employment by Bechtel erupted as Habib was on a round of shuttle diplomacy, at Reagan's behest, to find a solution to the west Beirut crisis. He visited Riyadh, Damascus and Cairo over the weekend and flew to London yesterday to see King Hussein of Jordan who is there on a private visit. He is expected in Israel shortly.

State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said yesterday that Habib's retention by Bechtel did not compromise U.S. diplomatic efforts in the Middle

East. "It doesn't strike me as a problem any more for Habib than it would be for (Defense Secretary Caspar) Weinberger and Shultz," he said. Weinberger is also a former Bechtel executive.

Habib served as Deputy Assistant and Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs during the Johnson, Nixon and Ford Administrations. According to Bechtel spokesman Laubscher, he was hired for his extensive knowledge on those areas. Laubscher said that 15 percent of Bechtel's projects were in the Pacific region and 12 percent in the Middle East.

ARMY COLONEL RELIEVED OF COMMAND By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 26 (JTA) -- A young Israeli army colonel was relieved of his command in Lebanon at his own request because he said his conscience and world opinion did not permit him to continue to participate in the fighting, a military spokesman disclosed today.

Col. Eli Geva, 32, described as one of Israel's most brilliant young commanders, was sent on leave by Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan but no action was taken on his request to be allowed to resign from the army. Earlier, Eitan, Premier Menachem Begin and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon met with the young officer in an unsuccessful attempt to persuade him to withdraw his resignation. He is a career officer in the regular army. Similar urgings by his father, Maj. Gen. (res.) Yosef Geva, a former commander of the central front, were also of no avail.

Opposes Assault On PLO Remnant

Young Geva, who led the brigade that captured the Palestine Liberation Organization stronghold of Tyre and fought its way to the outskirts of Beirut, said he opposed plans for an assault on the PLO remnant in west Beirut.

He said such an operation would probably result in heavy losses to his own men and severe civilian casualties. Col. Geva said he fully supported Israel's original military aims in Lebanon to clear the southern region of that country of PLO terrorists. He said his change of heart was brought about by the prolonged siege of west Beirut.

The army spokesman said Geva's action has created "severe misgivings among soldiers under his command and his fellow officers." Senior officers and former chiefs of staff said today that while they could sympathize with the young officer's feelings, no soldier can be allowed to decide which orders he will obey and what type of operation he will or will not take part in.

Military historians could recall only one similar case when, during Israel's war for independence in 1948 a young general resigned his command because of disagreement with battle plans ordered by then Premier David Ben Gurion. That officer remained in the army, however, as a volunteer driver of an armored car.

BONN (JTA) -- A Jewish journalist has been awarded the 1982 Moses Mendelssohn Prize of the West Berlin Senate. Eva Reichmann, 84, who now lives in London, was the editor-in-chief of Berlin's pre-war newspaper "Der Morgen." In her book, "Die Flucht in den Hass" (Escape into Hatred, 1946), Reichmann investigated the causes of nationalist anti-Semitism. The Moses Mendelssohn Prize, which carries a stipend of DM 20,000, is awarded for "promoting tolerance toward those who think differently and between peoples, races, and religions."

REAGAN ADMINISTRATION REJECTS DOCUMENT SIGNED BY ARAFAT AS NOT BEING "CLEAR AND UNEQUIVOCAL"

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 26 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration rejected today a document reportedly signed by Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat as not being the "clear and unequivocal" statement the U.S. is demanding before it will recognize or talk with the PLO.

The rejection came in the form of a State Department statement on a claim by Rep. Paul McCloskey (R. Calif.) that Arafat had signed a document giving his "acceptance of all United Nations resolutions which include the right of Israel to exist." But McCloskey, who was accompanied by four other Congressmen on a visit to Arafat's headquarters in west Beirut was immediately corrected by Arafat who said he had agreed to accept "all UN resolutions concerning the Palestinian question."

McCloskey, who has long been a critic of Israel, said he hoped the Administration would now be willing to talk to the PLO. But, in rejecting this today, State Department spokesman Dean Fischer reiterated the U.S. position.

"The United States will not recognize or negotiate with the PLO until the PLO accepts UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and Israel's right to exist," Fischer said. "We have indicated that this must be done in a clear and unequivocal way. The statement by Mr. Arafat does not meet these conditions." Fischer said the statement was worked on all morning by the State Department and had the approval of Secretary of State George Shultz who participated in its drafting from California.

The spokesman pointed out that when the conditions were set by then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in 1974, they were clear and must be met in a clear manner by the PLO. "It should not be buried in rhetoric in a way which could be denied later," he added.

Conditions For Talking To The PLO

But he said, "If our conditions are met ... we would be willing to talk to the PLO." He would not say what form these conditions should take. "We will know it when we see it," he added. At the same time, he left open the possibility that the PLO could accept Resolutions 242 and 338 in a statement that included other UN resolutions as long as it was clear that it accepted the two UN resolutions the U.S. had made as conditions.

McCloskey met Arafat yesterday accompanied by Rep. Nick Rahall (D. W. Va.), Mary Rose Oakar (D. Ohio); David Bonior (D. Mich.); and Mervyn Dymally (D. Calif.). A sixth Congressman, Rep. Elliott Levitas (D. Ga.), who was part of the Congressional delegation that has been touring Lebanon, did not go to the PLO headquarters. He said the document signed by Arafat carefully avoided a commitment to Israel's right to exist.

Fischer said today that the Congressional group had gone to see Arafat on its own and the meeting was not arranged by the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. He said earlier, Ambassador Robert Dillon had briefed the group on the situation in Lebanon and had warned them of the danger of going to west Beirut.

Moshe Arens, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, in a television appearance today called the McCloskey effort "artificial respiration" for the PLO. Appearing on CBS-TV's "Morning" program, Arens said it was "a piece of deception and dissimulation, very characteristic of the PLO."

Meanwhile it was learned here today that in a secret meeting of 23 Palestinian leaders held in London July 9-11, it was decided to concentrate on efforts to change the U.S. policy toward the Palestinians. The group, which included Dr. Walid Khalidi, Dr. Hisham Sharabi and Edward Said, all from the U.S., decided to hold a meeting in Europe next month in which some 300 wealthy Palestinians will be invited in order to raise \$100 million dollars for the project.

The meeting was revealed in the London-based Arabic language weekly Al-Majallah and reprinted by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service, the U.S. government service that monitors foreign media.

According to Al-Majallah, some of the participants felt that the Palestinian military effort had "collapsed" and that efforts should be focused on securing the rights of the Palestinian people, concentrating on the U.S. since it "holds most of the cards." The plan calls for creating a Palestinian lobby in the U.S. which would include contacting leading figures within or close to the Reagan Administration. The weekly listed Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and former Treasury Secretary John Connally.

Syria Warned Against New Weapons Deployment

In other developments, Fischer warned the Syrians against moving new weapons into Lebanon. He said that the U.S. was looking at the reports that Syria had moved Soviet-made SAM-8 anti-aircraft missiles into the Bekaa valley, a more sophisticated missile than the SAM-6s the Syrians had there previously.

"Any action that endangers the cease-fire and opens the possibility of widening the conflict in Lebanon, must be avoided," Fischer said. Israel destroyed three batteries of the SAM-8 missiles on Saturday. An Israeli jet was shot down by the Syrians but this was reportedly by a SAM-6.

Hassan Ali, Shamir Going To Washington

Fischer announced that Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, will come to Washington later this week to meet with Shultz. He said that Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir will come to Washington as soon as an agreeable mutual date can be worked out between him and Shultz.

Ali will bring a message from President Hosni Mubarak to President Reagan, Fischer said. He said the talks with Shultz will presumably concentrate on the discussions special Presidential envoy Philip Habib had in Cairo yesterday.

Fischer stressed that Habib, who was in London today, is concentrating on getting the "PLO fighters" out of west Beirut and into some Arab country or countries. He said that the Arab proposal to move the some 6,000 PLO terrorists now in west Beirut temporarily to northern Lebanon was not an idea that the U.S. had ever acknowledged it had accepted.

BONN (JTA) -- The Federal police have confirmed reports that the German branch of the Ku Klux Klan has become increasingly active in the incitement of hatred toward Jews and violent attacks on foreigners in West Germany. According to the Bonn office of The Democratic Initiative, a group of anti-Nazi activists, well known West German neo-Nazis operate within the framework of the "United Klans of Germany," the official title of the KKK in this country. According to the police, the German Klans are concentrated in the Federal States of Hesse and Rheinland-Pfalz.

FOCUS ON ISSUES THE ARAB FEAR OF THE PLO

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 26 (JTA) -- "I think there does seem to be a hesitation in many countries to accept in their country a group of people who have a pattern of arming themselves and in effect forming a government within a government. It's not anything that a country that can help it will tolerate."

This was the reply by Secretary of State George Shultz at his Senate confirmation hearing when he was asked about the difficulty in finding an Arab country that would take in the some 6,000 Palestine Liberation Organization terrorists now in west Beirut. But Arab reluctance may have been based on an even greater fear of the PLO than just an implied threat.

An example is described by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in his well-written and interesting second volume of memoirs, "Years of Upheaval." Kissinger reports on the PLO's willingness to accept Jordan as a Palestinian state in return for the overthrow of King Hussein.

In mid-1973, Richard Helms, then U.S. Ambassador to Iran, wrote Kissinger that one of his aides had been approached by an associate of PLO chief Yasir Arafat seeking a dialogue with the U.S. on the propositions that "Israel is here to stay" and Jordan should be the place for a Palestinian state.

PLO Sought To Overthrow Hussein

"I considered King Hussein a valued friend of the United States and a principal hope for diplomatic progress in the region," Kissinger wrote in his memoirs. "Our aim should be to strengthen his position, not to encourage a group that avowed its determination to overthrow him in its first communication with us."

Kissinger replied to Helms that the PLO should be told that while the U.S. was interested in hearing ideas from the Palestinians on how to promote a Middle East peace through negotiations, "the overthrow of existing governments in the Arab world was not acceptable; we are committed to the survival of the Kingdom of Jordan."

Kissinger said that 10 days later the U.S. received a similar approach from the PLO through King Hassan of Morocco. Then on October 10, four days after the Yom Kippur War had started, Arafat in a message to the U.S., predicted that Israel would rout Syria and Egypt and said the PLO wanted to participate in the subsequent negotiations. "The 'score' it had to settle was with Jordan, not Israel," according to Kissinger.

Rejected Threat To Israel's Survival

Gen. Vernon Walters had a meeting with a PLO representative in Morocco on November 3, the first and only by the U.S., according to Kissinger. He was instructed by Kissinger to tell the PLO that the Palestinian problem was not an international concern but an inter-Arab one.

"It was up to the PLO to straighten out its relationships with other Arab states -- with one proviso: We would participate in no maneuver aimed at Jordan; the PLO's real option was reconciliation with the Hashemite Kingdom not its overthrow," Kissinger wrote.

"What applied to Jordan was even more true of Israel. Walters was to make clear that the United States would oppose any threat to the survival of Israel and any challenge to its legitimacy." The only result of the Walters meeting with the representatives, according to Kissinger, was to achieve its original purpose of preventing radical assaults on the early stages of the post-Yom Kippur War peacemaking.

This account demonstrates not only the PLO effort to use recognition of Israel as a tactical bargaining point as was seen during the Israeli siege of west Beirut, but as Israelis have often stressed, a Palestinian state on the West Bank would be more of a threat to Jordan than even to Israel.

An Inter-Arab Issue

Kissinger's declaration that the Palestinian question is basically an inter-Arab issue still holds true although it does not negate the efforts to achieve an autonomy agreement under the Camp David process. There would be no Palestinian problem today, if, after the establishment of the State of Israel, the Arab countries had integrated the Palestinian refugees into their countries as refugees throughout the world had been taken into new homes and, as indeed, Israel absorbed the survivors of the Holocaust and the Jews from Arab countries.

The Palestinian question only became an international issue after the 1973 oil embargo. "Before 1973, the PLO rarely intruded into international negotiations," Kissinger said in his memoirs. And he noted in another passage: "The issue of contacts with Palestinians was therefore not in 1973 a major policy problem for the United States ... The issue of a Palestinian state run by the PLO was not a subject of serious discourse."

It has become one because the Arab states, having kept the Palestinians in refugee camps for 30 years in order to use them as a political weapon against Israel, now feared the very Frankenstein monster they created. They were able to use the anxiety in the West over the oil embargo to force the Palestinians on world attention.

The Arabs who created the problem now want it solved, not at their expense, but at Israel's. Those who condemn Israel's actions in Lebanon should first remember the historical roots that eventually led to "Operation Peace for Galilee."

1,500 AT ANTI-ISRAEL TEACH-IN

NEW YORK, July 26 (JTA) -- Amid tight security imposed by volunteers, the "November 29 Coalition" held a "teach-in" yesterday on the war in Lebanon that drew some 1,500 people to Town Hall in midtown Manhattan.

The all-day rally was originally to have taken place at the Diplomat Hotel across the street, but was cancelled, according to the hotel's management, when it became clear that the sponsoring organization was a front for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Comparing Israel's operation in Lebanon to the Nazi Holocaust, the panelists, who included pro-PLO Americans, Lebanese, and Palestinian academics, as well as an Israeli anti-Zionist attorney, Lea Tsemel, condemned the invasion and derided the U.S. attempts to evacuate the PLO from Beirut. Also attending the rally was Zehdi Labib Terzi, the PLO's permanent observer at the United Nations, who was greeted by the audience with boisterous cheers hailing the PLO. (By Judith Kohn)

PARIS (JTA) -- A house belonging to a prominent Jewish family was blown up by a bomb Saturday morning near Toulon in the south of France. The house which is owned by a Marseilles manufacturer, Daniel Cohen, was empty at the time. The bombing caused heavy damage. Police investigators said they found leaflets inscribed "Death to the Jews."