

JTA daily news bulletin

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Vol. LX - 65th Year

Wednesday, September 1, 1982

No. 168

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By Hugh Orgel

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The MIG-25 plane shot down today, code-named Foxbat in NATO, is said to be the fastest and highest-flying plane in operation in the world today. It flies at three times the speed of sound and has a ceiling of 80,000 feet, higher than the 70,000 feet ceiling of its closest Western rival, the U.S.-made F-15 which is also in service with the Israel Air Force.

But Air Force experts point out that the lower ceiling and slower speed of the American-made aircraft can be made up by sophisticated missiles. The MIG-25 plane carries two pilots.

Last Of The Syrian Troops In Beirut Leave

Meanwhile, the last of the Syrian troops in west Beirut left by road today, in a convoy of hundreds of vehicles carrying over 1,500 Syrian soldiers, including the rest of the Syrian 85th Armored Brigade, units of which left Beirut yesterday and have already been repositioned in the Bekaa valley region of Lebanon.

In addition to the road evacuation, two ships were today carrying 800 PLO terrorists to North Yemen and another 600 PLO men to the port of Tartus in northern Syria. There are now believed to be less than 2,000 PLO terrorists left in west Beirut, who are due to be taken out of Lebanon by Thursday, two days ahead of the scheduled end of the PLO evacuation.

Problem Of Lebanese Leftwing Groups

One problem which remains to be solved is the future and fate of Lebanese leftwing terrorist groups which have been handed some of the PLO heavy weapons and equipment, in contravention of the evacuation agreement under which such equipment should have been handed over to the official Lebanese army.

The Lebanese leftwingers, who have cooperated with the PLO and Syrian forces in the past, have threatened to carry on armed struggle against Israeli forces and rightwing Lebanese elements. Israel is insisting that these terrorist fellow-travelers must also be expelled from Lebanon, as their presence there continues a threat to Israel's security.

SHARON: U.S. PUBLIC OPINION TURNING IN FAVOR OF ISRAEL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 31 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon returned home today from his visit

to the U.S., saying he had found growing appreciation there of the Israeli campaign in Lebanon and a growing recognition of Israel's demand that all Syrian and PLO forces had to leave Lebanon.

He told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport: "I was glad to find that public opinion in the States was turning in favor of Israel. I found that people understand more and more that the expulsion of the terrorists from Beirut and the destruction of the PLO terrorist organization and infrastructure in Lebanon will contribute to the peaceful coexistence between Israel and the Palestinian Arabs."

Sharon said he did not find that the traditional friendship between Israel and the U.S. had been harmed. "On the contrary, for the first time I found there are many common goals and targets," he said. Sharon said that a by-product of the war would be a growing recognition that Israel's strength could contribute to American policies in the Middle East.

STATE DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS THAT ISRAEL MIGHT TRAIN LEBANESE ARMY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31 (JTA) -- The possibility of Israel training the Lebanese army was suggested by the State Department today. Department spokesman John Hughes, in offering the suggestion, said it was not something the United States would "encourage" Israel to do but was something that could be discussed.

Hughes' remarks came when he was asked about Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger's statement as he was departing for Beirut today on what Weinberger called a fact-finding mission, that the U.S. would consider military as well as economic aid to Lebanon.

Hughes said that while nothing had been discussed about providing Lebanon anything above the small arms the U.S. has been supplying it, the Lebanese army will obviously need training. "Israel might be interested in helping in that," Hughes said.

The spokesman noted that the U.S. wants to help Lebanon rebuild and hopes that other countries, private capital and international agencies will also join the effort.

Meanwhile, Hughes said that the departure of the PLO terrorists from west Beirut should be completed by tomorrow, with the last contingent going by sea. He said that the shooting down by Israel of a Syrian MIG-25 today does not appear to have affected the evacuation effort. He said that while the U.S. regrets the loss of life (a Syrian pilot was killed) Washington hopes that the dog-fight over Beirut today was an "isolated incident."

Seeking 'Speedy Withdrawal' Of Foreign Troops

Hughes said the "speedy withdrawal" of Syrian and Israeli forces from Lebanon is "what we are seeking." He indicated that Morris Draper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, will play a "key role" in negotiations to bring this about. Draper has accompanied Philip Habib, the special Presidential envoy, in all his negotiations in Lebanon. Habib is expected to return to the U.S. some time soon.

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EGYPT AND FRANCE RENEW THEIR EFFORT TO HAVE THE UN ACT ON THEIR JOINT MIDEAST PLAN

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Aug. 31 (JTA) -- Egypt and France have renewed their efforts here to stir interest in their jointly sponsored plan which calls on Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization to mutually recognize each other and let the PLO participate in negotiations for the solution of the Palestinian problem.

The Egyptian Ambassador, Amre Moussa, in a letter to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, circulated here last night but dated August 26, asked that the Egyptian-Franco draft resolution be resubmitted for a vote in the Security Council.

The joint Egyptian-French draft, which details the new plan by the two countries, was first introduced July 28 in the Security Council but it was held in abeyance because of strong American and Israeli opposition and due to an emergency resolution which was introduced in the Council July 29 demanding an end to Israel's siege of Beirut.

Provisions Of The New Initiative

The Egyptian envoy yesterday reintroduced the provisions of the new initiative which calls on the Security Council to: "Reaffirm the right of all states in the region to existence and security in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967); Reaffirm the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right for self-determination with all its implications, on the understanding that to this end the Palestinian people shall be represented in the negotiations and, consequently, the Palestine Liberation Organization shall be associated therein; Call for the mutual and simultaneous recognition of the parties concerned."

Diplomatic sources confirmed today that consultations were underway between members of the Security Council on a possibility of an official Council meeting to vote on the resolution. Egyptian and French officials reportedly met with U.S. diplomats here to discuss the issue in the last two days.

ARENS: ISRAEL SHOULD NOT EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM WEINBERGER'S VISIT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 31 (JTA) -- Moshe Arens, Israel's Ambassador to Washington, said today he does not anticipate any significant political developments resulting from U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's visit to Israel. Weinberger is expected here tomorrow.

Arens told reporters on his arrival at Ben Gurion Airport that the main purpose of Weinberger's visit was to "strengthen the ties between the two countries." He said he did not expect any concrete results, such as the resumption of the shipment of American jet fighter aircraft to Israel, suspended by the Reagan Administration during the war in Lebanon.

The Israeli envoy also predicted that there was now a good chance for the Syrian forces in Lebanon to leave the country, thus clearing the way for the Israel Defense Force to withdraw its troops. Israel has said its withdrawal is conditional upon Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon.

Arens arrived here to brief officials on the Weinberger visit, which came after lengthy ef-

forts by Arens to persuade the Defense Secretary to visit Israel, according to reports. Sources here indicated that Arens has established a good working relationship with Weinberger and, as a result, the Defense Secretary's attitude toward Israel has mellowed.

For Weinberger, it will be his first visit to the Jewish State. He is expected to visit the U.S. marines in Beirut helping oversee the evacuation of the PLO from Lebanon and also to visit Egypt. He will meet with Premier Menachem Begin in Nahariya where Begin is vacationing.

Mubarak Anticipates New Ideas From Weinberger

Weinberger is expected in Egypt on Friday. President Hosni Mubarak said today he anticipated some new ideas for a settlement of the Middle East situation to be presented by Weinberger when they meet. According to reports, this could be the reported suggestion by the U.S. to establish a demilitarized Palestinian state on the West Bank.

Mubarak said today that his position not to accept the evacuating PLO terrorists from Beirut, unless their evacuation was part of an overall settlement of the Palestinian issue, was instrumental in having brought about a change in the American view toward the Middle East.

BACKGROUND REPORT

A SPECTER IS HAUNTING SWITZERLAND

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Aug. 31 (JTA) -- A specter is beginning to haunt Switzerland, the specter of anti-Semitism. Its current expression takes the form of blistering attacks against Israel's government and its policies in the Middle East, particularly its "Peace for Galilee" operation.

These attacks, couched in political terms, invariably spill over into attacks against Jews. For many Swiss, Israel and Jews are one entity, two sides of the same coin, and an attack against one is simultaneously an attack on the other; a criticism of Israel is also used as an excuse to criticize Jews in this country for any domestic problems.

Ironically, the Swiss were never known to be particularly anti-Jewish. One of the reasons is that the Swiss Jewish community is small and Swiss Jews maintain a very low profile. There are some 20,000 Jews in Switzerland of a total population of some 6.3 million. The largest Jewish communities are in Geneva and in Zurich.

But the war in Lebanon brought whatever unconscious anti-Semitism there was to the fore and made implicit anti-Semitism explicit. This development is across the board, from left to right, from politicians to the average citizen. Examples abound, according to a survey by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Examples Of Anti-Semitism

The largest agricultural cooperative in the country, Migros, none of whose directors are Jews, was recently under attack by some farmers for selling tomatoes at too low a price, thereby engaging in unfair competition with private farmers. At the same time, a soda water bottling factory which is owned by Migros was burned down under suspicious circumstances. How did this translate into anti-Jewish feelings?

A group of Swiss men discussing the war in Lebanon were overheard saying, "Look at what Jews are doing in Lebanon. They're doing the same in this country. create trouble wherever they are. After all, Migros is in Jewish hands and look at the problems there."

They continued to mention that all the large department stores in Geneva -- the Grand Passage, Pharmyca Principal and Placetete -- are owned by Jews (which is true). But from this they concluded that

Jews own or control the major enterprises in the country and thereby exploit the Christians.

The Socialist Party in Geneva joined forces with the Communist Party to collect signatures for a petition requesting that the Swiss government reconsider its deal to buy guns from Israel and to break diplomatic relations with the Jewish State. In addition, the Communist Party published an article attacking the president of the State of Israel Bonds and the United Jewish Appeal, saying that he was collecting money for Premier Menachem Begin and his government and therefore was acting against the best interests of Switzerland.

Gilbert Duboule, a Radical Party member of Parliament who is the president of the Swiss-Israel Friendship Association in Geneva, has been harassed by anonymous phone calls and threatening letters warning him to discontinue his pro-Israel activities.

Embassy Receives Hate Mail

Ruth Raeli, Israel's consul in Bern, said that during the fighting in Lebanon the Embassy received letters every day denouncing Israel. Some were anonymous, while others were signed with epithets.

Some letters stated, "What a shame Hitler did not finish off all the Jews." Others said, "It's a pity that only five Jews were killed in Rue des Rosiers in Paris." This was a reference to the terrorist attack on Jo Goldenberg's restaurant in Paris' Jewish quarter earlier this month where six people were killed and 22 wounded. None of the dead was Jewish. In Geneva, graffiti include hate messages such as "Begin-Hitler," "Dirty Jews," and "Jews-Murderers."

Mrs. Raeli said that anti-Israeli editorials in the nation's press and photographs claiming to show that the devastation in Lebanon was caused by Israel has provided legitimacy for anti-Israeli and anti-Semites to come out of the closet and express their feelings publicly.

One example of what might be termed media incitement to hatred was a recent talk show on Swiss radio where the host of the program was reading from Hitler's Mein Kampf. Each time he read a passage which contained the word "Jew" he substituted that with the word "Palestinian," and for the original word "Jews" he said "Palestinian nation." The Jewish weekly, Israelitische Wochenblatt, has demanded a public explanation of this from the director of the radio station and is planning legal action.

Former Supporters Decry Israel's Action

The war in Lebanon has also taken its toll among those who supported Israel. A woman phoned the Israeli delegation to the United Nations in Geneva and asked to speak to an Israeli official. She reportedly told the official: "I have always been a fervent supporter of Israel and have visited your country several times. But now I am totally opposed to Israel's conduct in Lebanon and my feelings have turned against Israel. I am not the only one who feels that way. Many of my friends feel exactly as I do. We no longer support Israel and will not again visit Israel."

The harshest critics of Israel are Swiss youth between the ages of 15 and 20. Their criticism of Israel spills over into attacks against Jews. Not infrequently, Swiss youth can be overheard saying: "Maybe Hitler was right after all to want to exterminate the Jews when we see what they are doing in Lebanon."

This mood and these sentiments are becoming more pervasive and open. A specter is indeed haunting Switzerland, a country which boasts of having, among other accomplishments, a policy of neutrality that has kept its troops from becoming involved in foreign wars since 1515, a balanced budget, almost full employment, religious tolerance, and a democratic political system in existence longer than in any other country in Europe.

UAHC DISTRIBUTES VIDEOCASSETTE DEPICTING PLO TERRORIST TACTICS

NEW YORK, Aug. 31 (JTA) -- A documentary videocassette graphically depicting a decade of PLO terrorism against Israel's civilian population is now being distributed by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Prepared by the Israel Defense Forces, the 15 1/2-minute color tape entitled "Uprooting Terror" presents a dramatic chronology of the attacks launched by the PLO from Lebanon between 1970 and 1980 that killed 800 men, women and children and wounded more than 5,000.

Interspersed with actual newsreel footage of PLO attacks on Kibbutz Misgav Am, Ma'alot, Nahariya and the Tel Aviv-Haifa coastal road are flashbacks to PLO chieftain Yassir Arafat's outbursts calling for the obliteration of the State of Israel.

The tape, designed for use in synagogues, churches, schools, public affairs groups, community centers, camps and libraries, seeks to put "Operation Peace for Galilee," Israel's recently-concluded operation in Lebanon, into historical perspective.

Its aim, according to Rabbi Daniel Syme, director of the UAHC's education department, "is to help Jews and non-Jews understand why Israel was impelled to act as it did and to expose the PLO as terrorists who commandeered a country from which to launch murdering attacks upon innocent civilians." "Uprooting Terror" also underscores the PLO's role as a center for training terrorists active throughout the world.

Accompanying the tape, available in either 1/2" VHS or Beta, is a discussion guide outlining the history of the PLO since its expulsion from Jordan and its avowed aim . . . "to render the establishment of Israel fundamentally null and void."

"Uprooting Terror" may be purchased from the UAHC's TV and Film Institute, 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021 at a cost of \$50 per tape. Each order should specify whether a VHS or Beta tape is desired and be accompanied by a \$53 check, to cover the cost of the tape plus postage and handling.

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- Tadiran, Israel Electronic Industry, was awarded a \$39 million contract by the U.S. Army to build radios for the M-1 Battle Tank and other military vehicles, it was announced here by the Pentagon. Tadiran, which is 44 percent owned by GTE International, said it plans to build the radios in Holon. The decision to award Tadiran the contract followed a decision by E-Systems at Dallas, Texas, to withdraw its court challenge to stop the award on grounds that Tadiran had been given preferential treatment by the Pentagon. The Dallas firm had asked for a temporary injunction against the award, contending that Tadiran did not comply with Pentagon labor, environmental and non-discriminatory regulations governing contracts. The Israeli firm said such U.S. regulations were not applicable to its bid.

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated September 6, Labor Day, a postal holiday.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: NUMBER OF AGED AND ABANDONED JEWS IN BROOKLYN GROWS AS MORE NEIGHBORHOODS DECAY

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Aug. 31 (JTA) -- The number of aged and abandoned Jews in Brooklyn's decayed and decaying neighborhoods continues to grow as resources to relocate them to safer sections shrink, according to Rabbi Yisroel Rosenfeld, executive director of the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council in that borough.

Rosenfeld told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that his September, 1981 estimate of several thousand such abandoned Jews, living in squalor and fear in Brooklyn's Brownsville, Bedford-Stuyvesant, East New York and East Flatbush sections, had been expanded by a variety of factors.

He said there was no way of knowing how many such enfeebled elderly Jews are now trapped in the decayed hulks of buildings in such sections of Brooklyn. But Rosenfeld said, partly because of the recession and for related reasons, decaying sections are growing and so is the total of beleaguered Jews. He told the JTA that the number of Jews who once had funds to help the Community Council also was shrinking, in part because of the impact of the recession.

Fear After 2 P.M.

Rosenfeld said most of the forgotten Jews were widows but that there were also widowers and some elderly couples. He said the elderly Jews do all of their shopping, banking, medical visits and socializing -- to the extent that their physical conditions permit -- before 2 p.m., when they lock themselves in their miserable apartments for the night.

At that hour, Rosenfeld explained, the neighborhood children finish their attendance at the public schools and the elderly Jews are deeply fearful of being out of doors after that hour. He said they have been taunted, beaten and robbed by the children.

Historically, as the neighborhoods fall into decay and their Jews fled, the last to leave were the Orthodox Jews, who needed such institutions as synagogues within walking distance of their homes, yeshivas, mikvehs, and kosher butchers and food shops. They left reluctantly, but they left.

The Jews who remained either did not want to leave neighborhoods -- no matter how dangerous they had become -- in which they had lived most of their lives, or could not, though all vestiges of Jewish life and institutions had long since disappeared.

Role of Community Council

Rosenfeld said that, in June, 1977, the Community Council received a \$95,000 demonstration grant from the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) for a full-scale service and relocation project for the elderly in the Brownsville, East New York and Bedford-Stuyvesant sections.

The project, started in September, 1977, enabled the Community Council staff to find and serve more than 300 elderly Jewish residents and to relocate 53 of them to safer areas. Since the grant was for a demonstration project, the fact that HEW officials praised it as an outstanding performance did not affect the rule that, as a demonstration, the project could not get additional HEW funds.

Rosenfeld said the Community Council tried to follow the advice of federal officials to seek local funding to continue a clearly successful program and turned to New York City officials. But New York was then having its own financial crunch and could not help.

Meanwhile, earlier in 1977, the Community Council received a six-month \$5,000 grant from the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York for a similar project to find, provide services for and relocate Jewish elderly in the Brooklyn slum areas. Rabbi Rosenfeld said that success in that modest project led to a renewal of the Federation grant, again at \$5,000 for another six months, and two additional renewals in 1978 and 1979 at an annual \$12,000 funding level.

While funds were available, he said, the Community Council relocated about 10 elderly Jews each year. Since October 1978, he said, service and relocation efforts have been funded by small grants obtained by the Community Council from "any source we can find." Currently, Rabbi Rosenfeld told the JTA, the Community Council is relocating two to three elderly Jews about every two months. But hundreds, perhaps thousands, need to be helped to safe neighborhoods, he stressed.

Rosenfeld said that there was no way of knowing, or even estimating, how many such elderly and abandoned Jews are living in isolation in the areas the Community Council seeks to serve.

Problem Of Disparity In Rents

A major problem is the disparity in rents between the battered apartments in which the relocated Jews had lived and the rents commanded by suitable apartments in safer neighborhoods. Community Council staff members routinely apply for federal Section 8 rent subsidies for the elderly Jews they manage to relocate.

The bureaucratic routine of clearance for such payments can take as long as a year, Rabbi Rosenfeld declared, and meanwhile, the Community Council somehow finds funds to make up the difference. At the same time, the standards for eligibility of the poor for Section 8 subsidies are being tightened as part of the Reagan Administration budget cuts.

The Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, an affiliate of the Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish poverty, has two offices and a senior citizens center. A staff of 12 carries out the Community Council's varied programs.

RESIGNATION OF CONGRESSMAN REDUCES NUMBER OF JEWISH HOUSE MEMBERS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31 (JTA) -- The resignation last week of Rep. Frederick Richmond (D. NY) brings the number of Jews in the House of Representatives down to 25. Richmond resigned after pleading guilty to evading nearly \$50,000 in income tax payments, possessing marijuana and illegally paying \$7,420 to a Navy employee who helped obtain a business for the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Richmond was first elected to Congress in 1974 and served a Brooklyn district that while largely Black, also included the Brooklyn Heights area and parts of the heavily Hasidic Williamsburg area.

Twenty seven Jews were elected to the House in 1980. But one, Gladys Spellman, suffered a heart attack before the election and remained in a coma. Her seat was vacated after the new House was sworn in on January 1981. There are six Jews in the Senate, two of whom -- Sens. Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio) and Edward Zorinsky (D. Neb.) -- are up for re-election this year.