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REPORT ISRAEL IS ASKING ROMANIA TO HELP SECURE RELEASE OF ISRAELI POWS HELD BY SYRIA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Israel may be seeking Rumania's help in securing the release of Israeli POWs held by Syria. This was one purpose of the secret visit by the Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, Matityahu Shmuelovits, to President Nicolae Ceausescu of Rumania about a month ago, according to reports by Voice of Israel Radio and Maariv.

The radio report said Shmuelovits was sent on his mission to Bucharest with a special message from Premier Menachem Begin to Ceausescu. The latter reportedly offered to help Israel in its contacts with various Arab states. Rumania maintains diplomatic relations with both Israel and the Arab countries.

It is assumed by observers here that Begin asked Ceausescu to use his influence among his Arab friends with respect to "humanitarian subjects" related to the war in Lebanon. This apparently referred to the three Israeli POWs in Syria and eight other Israeli soldiers captured by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Another reason Begin sent his aide to Rumania was to cement his good relations with Ceausescu, established in 1977 when the Rumanian President played an important role in arranging Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, PLO chief Yasir Arafat ended a visit to Bucharest by issuing a joint statement with Ceausescu calling for intensified diplomatic efforts to resolve the Middle East conflict.

SHAMIR SAYS HE AND ARENS OPPOSE FREEZE ON SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said today that he flatly rejected a freeze on Israeli settlements on the West Bank and Gaza Strip when Secretary of State George Shultz suggested it during their talks in Washington last month. Shamir told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that he turned down the idea "on the spot" and that Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Moshe Arens, was equally opposed to any halt in settlement activity.

Arens has come under fire from Knesset hard-liner and some Cabinet ministers for reportedly suggesting to Premier Menachem Begin in September that Israel should agree to a six-month freeze on settlements in order to improve relations with the U.S. and persuade King Hussein of Jordan to come to the negotiating table. President Reagan urged Israel to freeze settlements when he announced his Middle East peace initiative September 1.

Asked today whether Arens had sent a letter to Begin in support of the American position, Shamir said the Ambassador fully backed the government's policy of continued settlements. Some observers believe Arens may have proposed a temporary halt in settlements to Begin as a public relations gesture toward the U.S.

Opposition members of the Knesset committee accused Shamir of covering up the failure of the government's foreign policy and the collapse of its ambitions in Lebanon.

STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS THAT THE MNF WILL BEGIN TO PATROL THE MAIN THOROUGHFARES IN EAST BEIRUT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- The Multinational Force in Beirut (MNF), composed of U.S. marines and Italian and French troops, will begin mobile patrols of the main boulevards of east Beirut, the State Department disclosed today.

The MNF patrols, requested by Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, will be there to "bolster the security efforts" of the Lebanese army and police, State Department spokesman John Hughes said.

Until now, the MNF has been only in west Beirut. The Italian and French forces are in the city limits while the 1,200 member U.S. marine contingent has been stationed south of Beirut in the airport and surrounding area. East Beirut has been mainly under the control of the Lebanese Christian militias.

Outlines New Function

"The Lebanese armed forces are extending their control over the whole of the capital and it seems appropriate for the MNF to move in tandem," Hughes said. He said that while the patrols will have a different function than that performed up to now by the marines, the MNF mandate is to "facilitate the assertion by the government of Lebanon of its authority over all of Beirut." Hughes said the Lebanese government is doing this "step by step, day by day."

He added that while an "isolated incident can never be ruled out," the marines are not expected to be "involved in hostilities" during their patrols. Referring to today's car bombing near a marine post in Beirut in which one marine was injured, Hughes said there was "no indication that the bombing was directed at the marines."

The State Department spokesman announced, meanwhile, that Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali will visit Washington November 11-13 for meetings with Secretary of State George Shultz and other U.S. officials.

NON-ISRAELI WITNESSES TESTIFY BEFORE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Two British doctors and an American nurse testified today before the commission of inquiry investigating the west-Beirut massacres. They were the first non-Israeli witnesses to appear before the panel. All were volunteers working at the Gaza Hospital in Beirut where Palestinians from the Shatila and Sabra refugee camps were treated for wounds.

Their testimony covered events in the camps from Wednesday, September 15, just before the Israeli army occupied west Beirut, until Saturday, September 18, by which time Christian Phalangist units had been ordered out of the camps by the Israelis. The massacres occurred Thursday and Friday, September 16 and 17.

The witnesses were Dr. Su Chai Ang, a Malaysian-born British subject, Dr. Paul Morris, and nurse Ellen Segal from the U.S. who is Jewish. They said they had not witnessed the massacres directly but saw many Palestinian men, women and children brought to the hospital suffering from wounds, beginning on Thursday night. Ang testified that about 30 corpses were placed in the hospital morgue, most of them women and children. The doctors said thousands of Palestinians came to the hospital asking for help and told of atrocities committed by the Phalangists.

The commission, meanwhile, released testimony taken earlier in closed session from an Israeli tank commander, Lt. Zvi Grabowsky, who said he witnessed the Phalangists kill five women and children from his position 500 yards outside the camps. Grabowsky said that when members of his crew reported this to their commanding officers, they were told "We know. It is not to our liking. Don't interfere."

Gen. Amin Drori, commander of Israeli forces in Beirut, told the commission yesterday that Israeli soldiers were under strict orders not to enter the camps.

EGYPTIAN MEDIA DERIDES ISRAEL'S INQUIRY INTO THE BEIRUT MASSACRES

By Judith Kohn

CAIRO, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- The formation of a commission of inquiry into the Sabra and Shatila refugee camp massacres last month has done little to dampen the reverberations of the killings in Egypt's press.

Since the Begin government yielded to demands within Israel and abroad that a full investigation be undertaken, commentators and editors here have continued to call for an international inquiry and have greeted the hearings now underway in Israel with derision.

"The farcical thing about the inquiry," said one commentator, writing in the semi-official news daily Al-Ahram, "is that the accused is cross-examining himself."

The editorial sentiment here can be summed up in a cartoon that appeared in the same paper last week. In it Prime Minister Menachem Begin is shown carrying a poster that reads, "Down with Begin." Speaking to the world, the Israeli leader asks "Are you pleased?"

Scathing Articles About Sharon

The testimony of Defense Minister Ariel Sharon before the commission last week triggered a number of particularly scathing articles, even against the background of the bad press Israel has been getting here all along since relations between the two countries soured following the war in Lebanon.

An editorial in Al-Ahram suggested that the Begin government should step down while the massacre is under investigation.

Another editorial, in the news daily Al Akhbar, charged that in light of Sharon's account before the commission, the massacre "has proven a fact already known to all the Arabs: that Israel is nothing but a fascist and terrorist military establishment... and that it has challenged all laws and conventions like any terrorist gang which meets and plans in the dark."

NEW HOTEL OPENS FOR BUSINESS IN THE DISPUTED TABA REGION

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- The Sonesta, a new resort hotel in the disputed Taba region just

south of Eilat, opened for business today despite strong objections by the Egyptian government which claims the land as part of Sinai.

The opening was informal. The hotel manager said about a dozen rooms were available and these are already booked. A gala formal opening to be attended by Cabinet ministers and other officials is scheduled in two weeks, by which time all rooms are expected to be ready for occupancy.

Taba, a small strip of beachfront land on the Gulf of Aqaba, is claimed by both Israel and Egypt. The dispute centers on the location of the boundary drawn under Ottoman Turkish rule early in the century. It was not resolved when Israel completed its withdrawal from Sinai last April and both countries agreed to negotiate. But the negotiations were suspended after Israel invaded Lebanon last June.

Cairo has been urging Israel not to open the hotel until the matter is resolved. Israel, for its part, is protesting against Egyptian efforts in London to persuade travel agents not to accept bookings at the new hotel.

ABRAHAM FRANZBLAU DEAD AT 81

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held yesterday for Dr. Abraham Franzblau, a psychiatrist who was a leader in Reform Jewish education and a founder of the Hebrew Union College (HUC) School for Teachers in New York City. He died last Thursday in Mount Sinai Hospital from a heart ailment. He was 81.

Franzblau served as dean and professor of pastoral psychiatry at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion here from 1935 to 1958. He also was professor of pastoral psychiatry at the Reform Institute's Cincinnati campus from 1931 to 1943.

He served as principal of the HUC School for Teachers from 1923 when he helped start it, until 1931. In 1948, Franzblau helped to organize the HUC School of Sacred Music. He established the Sacred Music Press in 1950 and was a founder of the American Conference of Cantors. He was the author of a number of books and maintained a private practice in psychiatry for many years.

A native New Yorker, Franzblau was graduated from City College in 1921, received a Ph.D. from Columbia University and a medical degree from Cincinnati University's College of Medicine. He was a resident at Cincinnati Jewish Hospital from 1937 to 1940 and began a long association with Mount Sinai Hospital in 1949 as a lecturer at the Mount Sinai Medical School.

UNIVERSITY PREXY SAYS ISRAELI DEMOCRACY IS ALIVE AND LIVELY

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Dr. John Brademas, president of New York University, described Israeli democracy as "alive and lively -- the kind of vigorous and robust democracy that we as Americans must help continue to survive."

Addressing the annual Louis Marshall Memorial Dinner of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, held last night in the Plaza Hotel, Brademas said that "Americans feel particularly close to Israel because Israel is like our country in many ways. Both are vigorous democracies. Both are accustomed to controversy. Both are committed to individual freedoms."

With regard to recent events in the Middle East, Brademas said that "it is obvious that the people of Israel and her supporters in this country are now conducting a rigorous examination of Israel's aims and actions."

"In the midst of searing emotions and political conflict, such reasoned introspection is no easy task," Brademas continued. "But it is impressive to me as a Christian that in the pain and anguish following the events in Lebanon, it has been the Israeli people

themselves who are raising questions and voicing criticisms of their government. No one, therefore, can doubt that the Jewish people are still champions of their historic heritage of justice and compassion."

TWO LAWMAKERS PREDICT DIFFICULTY FOR FUTURE ISRAEL MILITARY APPROPRIATIONS IN CONGRESS

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Two members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee predicted difficult passage for future Israel military appropriations in Congress. Both Congressmen Stephen Solarz (D. N. Y.) and John Le Boutillier (R. N. Y.) attributed decreased Congressional support for Israel, which has been mounting over the past few years.

Addressing an all-day social action conference yesterday sponsored by the Rabbinical Assembly at the Park Avenue Synagogue that discussed such topics as Israel, the economy, church-state relations, Solarz told the 600 Conservative Jewish rabbis and laymen: "During the past year there has been a significant erosion for Israel both around the country and in the Congress."

A similar view was voiced by Le Boutillier: "There is going to be a real bad time coming in America, and in Congress. I can feel it in my stomach. Too many of my colleagues, especially those who do not have large Jewish constituencies, are less concerned about Israel and more disturbed about domestic problems. When money is needed in their home communities, they are going to vote to reduce foreign aid funds."

Solarz predicted that during the forthcoming lame-duck session of Congress which begins November 29 "an amendment to reduce military aid for Israel might receive far more support than it did a few years ago." He reminded the audience that such a test vote "has not occurred for a few years."

A number of years ago, Solarz stated, a move to reduce Israel's military assistance by \$200 million was defeated in the House by a vote of 435-38 and 100-8 in the Senate. "My guess is that if an amendment were presented to cut military aid at this forthcoming session, the vote would find 100-150 against in the House and 25-30 in the Senate."

Solarz told the audience that "given Israel's need for American military assistance, this is a development that we should be concerned about." He added that despite these developments, "there remains after Lebanon broad-based Congressional support for Israel and that the climate of U.S.-Israel relations has improved during the past few weeks."

Solarz called upon the members of the Conservative synagogues to mount a vigilant communications and education effort among members of Congress and non-Jews in America. He said "you must organize for the next fight to prevent the sale of American F-16's to Jordan which he predicted the Administration will present to Congress right after the elections."

KIRKPATRICK: GOAL OF ISRAEL'S ENEMIES AT THE UN IS THE ANNIHILATION OF THE JEWISH STATE
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Jeane Kirkpatrick, the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, said that the goal of Israel's attackers at the United Nations is "the annihilation of Israel; her destruction. It is that simple."

The envoy spoke at a luncheon honoring Howard Squadron for his service as chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. The luncheon was attended by some 100 Jewish leaders; and Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the UN; Moshe Arens, Israel's Ambassador to the United States; and Naphtalie Lavie, Israel's Consul-General in New York. The chairman was Julius Berman, the present chairman of the Presidents Conference, who succeeded Squadron.

In her speech, Kirkpatrick described the attacks on Israel at the UN as "comprehensive, vicious and continuous." She said that the attacks are not caused by this or that act by Israel but they are part of "a delegitimization" campaign against Israel. Through that, she said, Israel's enemies want to achieve its liquidation. The envoy also charged that another object of the campaign against Israel at the UN is "to deny Israel the right of self-defense."

Kirkpatrick added: "The United Nations is an incredibly dangerous place for everyone and especially for Israel. It is dangerous for all of us who believe in decency and law."

Squadron, who received a lithograph by the Israeli artist, Yaacov Agam, said in his closing remarks that the Presidents Conference enjoys access to American leaders but exercises a rather limited influence. He said that the Presidents Conference does not have power in its hands. Squadron said that the function of the Conference, as he sees it as a former chairman, is to unify the Jewish community in America and achieve consensus "in order to exercise a meaningful influence." Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Presidents Conference, presented the lithograph to Squadron.

ANCIENT DOMESTIC ACCIDENT UNCOVERED IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Archaeologists from the Haifa Pre-historic Museum believe they have reconstructed in detail a domestic accident that occurred about 9,000 years ago in what is now Lower Galilee. The sequence of events has been extrapolated from the remains of a skeleton uncovered on the final day of this year's dig at the Yiftahel site near Kibbutz Hasolelim.

According to the archaeologists, the skeleton is probably that of a young woman of about 20 -- though it could have belonged to a man -- who was chopping flint stone in a roofed-over yard when the roof collapsed and buried her in the rubble. The debris showed evidence that a pile of lentils had been drying on the roof.

Some time later, persons, probably members of the woman's -- or man's -- family, cut off the head of the victim for ritual burial as was the custom of the time. The archaeologists say the woman was kneeling, facing east, with her left hand resting on her thigh and her right hand holding chips of flint, when the roof fell in. She was killed instantly of a broken neck, they say. The archaeologists have given the woman the name Yifaat, after the site of the dig. If it were a man, the name would be Yefet.

That detail may be determined if the missing head is found when the digging is resumed at Yiftahel next year.

TEL AVIV -- Morton Dolinsky, a Herut activist and senior adviser to the Jewish Agency's aliya department chairman, has been named director of the government press office, in place of Zeev Hefetz, who resigned recently. Dolinsky, 52, was born in New York and came to Israel in 1956.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA THOUSANDS OF JEWS, NON-JEWS VISIT EXHIBITION ON THE HOLOCAUST

LONDON, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- The most important exhibition dealing with the Holocaust ever held in London closed its doors yesterday after being seen by thousands of Jews and non-Jews from all over Britain.

The exhibition, in St. Martin in the Fields Church in the heart of the British capital, was intended primarily to illustrate the case of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews during World War II only to be taken after the war to the Soviet Union from where he has never returned.

But the exhibition's pictures of Auschwitz have also given many younger Britons their first shock lesson of the savagery of the Nazi Holocaust against the Jews, which racist organizations have for years been trying to portray as a figment of the Jewish imagination.

It has also helped to deepen understanding between Jews and Christians at a time when events in the Middle East have been contributing to growing anti-Semitism in Britain and the deepening anxieties of the Jewish community.

Inter-Faith Committee Arranged Exhibition

The exhibition was arranged by an inter-faith committee of individuals and organizations concerned about the Soviet Union's failure to give a satisfactory account of Wallenberg despite incessant entreaties from his family, the Swedish government and other Western countries, including the United States and Britain.

Part of the money for mounting the exhibition was provided by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, but most of it came from small individual donations by people of different religious persuasions.

Among those who acted as stewards were members of the Sisters of Zion, a Roman Catholic order of nuns; the Council of Christians and Jews; the British Herut Movement; and the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women.

It has also received strong moral support from the British and Swedish governments when it was opened two weeks ago by Per Anger, the former Swedish Ambassador to Australia and Canada. Anger served with Wallenberg in Budapest and last spring was himself designated a "Righteous Gentile" by Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust and Martyrs Memorial Foundation.

Thatcher Pledges Assistance

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in a public tribute to Wallenberg, described him as "a hero of our times" and pledged that Britain was willing to assist any constructive initiative to find out what happened to him.

"We hope the Soviet authorities will at last cooperate in the international efforts to discover the facts," she said. His qualities of compassion and courage were "an example to all who fight against tyranny and carry the standard of liberty and freedom," she declared.

A similar pledge was made by Foreign Office Minister Malcolm Rifkind when he received Anger for a 30-minute briefing on the eve of the exhibition's opening. Anger was accompanied by Lars Ake Nilsson, the Swedish Minister in London, and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent in Britain, Maurice Samuelson, who founded the United Kingdom Wallenberg Committee four years ago.

(Samuelson's JTA coverage of the Wallenberg case in the late 1970's helped to fuel interest in it in the U.S. where Wallenberg was made an honorary citizen by the U.S. Congress a year ago.)

The organizer of the exhibition was Colin Shindler, a lecturer, who as a student leader in the early 1960's, started campaigning for Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union at a time when most Jewish leaders regarded the Soviet Jewish community as defunct and incapable of revival.

From London, the exhibition will go on tour throughout Britain, beginning with Birmingham, where it will be seen in the city's cathedral.

APPEAL ON BEHALF OF SHCHARANSKY

PARIS, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- A group of prominent French intellectuals, including Nobel Prize winners, have appealed to the French government and to world public opinion to intervene on behalf of Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky who is serving a 13-year prison sentence in the Soviet Union and who began an indefinite hunger strike on the eve of Yom Kippur.

Among the signatories of the appeal are scientists Alfred Kastler, Andre Lwoff and Francois Jacob; mathematician Laurent Schwartz; philosopher Vladimir Jankelvitich; and singer-actor Yves Montand.

At the same time, Lionel Jospin, Secretary General of the French Socialist Party, directly appealed to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, asking him to "respect the humanitarian principles included in the Soviet constitution" and permit Shcharansky to write and receive members of his family.

DANIEL IGNATOFF DEAD AT 67

NEW YORK, Nov. 1 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here yesterday for Daniel Ignatoff, director for the past 12 years of the budget service department of the Large Cities Budgeting Conference of Council of Jewish Federations. He died last Friday at the age of 67.

Born in Brooklyn, he was the son of David Ignatoff, the Yiddish novelist. He was a student at the Sholem Aleichem Mittelshul, the Jewish Teachers Seminary and Peoples University, and at YIVO.

He served as secretary of the CJF Controllers Institute and Data Processing Committee from 1965 to 1978. He also was research consultant of the CJF Budget Research Department.

From 1946 to 1950, after overseas service in Europe during World War II, Ignatoff was, from 1946 to 1950, a civilian employee with the United States Military Government in Germany, serving the educational and religious affairs division at Nuremberg, Munich and Berlin. He eventually became assistant director of the division, a civilian equivalent to a military Lt. Col. rank.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Aliya from North America has increased 15 percent this year over the same nine month period last year, Moshe Shechter, director of the Israel Aliyah Center of North America, has announced. Through the month of September, a total of 1,936 people have made aliya. This figure does not include people who decided to make aliya while traveling in Israel, nor returning Israelis, Shechter said. Sixty-eight percent of those making aliya were under 30 years of age, he noted, and the most representative professions were teachers, nurses, secretaries, accountants, and engineers.