

JTA daily news bulletin

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U.S. BLASTS ROMANIA'S EDUCATION TAX ON WOULD-BE EMIGRANTS AS A 'DRACONIAN MEASURE'

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration today called the education tax the Rumanian government has imposed on would-be emigrants a "Draconian measure" and warned that it will jeopardize Rumania's Most Favored Nation (MFN) trade status with the U.S.

State Department spokesman John Hughes said the tax "will make it much more difficult for the President to continue to recommend waiver of prohibition on extending trade concessions to a country that restricts emigration."

Congress this fall extended MFN to Rumania for another year while warning that it will watch closely whether Rumania eliminates prohibitions that are hampering the emigration of Jews and others. In that connection, Hughes said on October 19 that the President will decide next spring whether to recommend MFN for Rumania "not on Rumanian pledges but Rumanian performance on human rights issues."

As part of the effort to get Rumania to loosen emigration restrictions, Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, visited Bucharest October 6-7 to discuss human rights procedures. On his return, Abrams said President Reagan would base his decision on continued MFN for Rumania on whether Rumanian eases its restrictions.

Stern Warning Issued

But Hughes warned today that the education tax which the Rumanian press published last Saturday "is not the 'nominal sum'" referred to in the Jackson-Vanik Amendment to the Foreign Trade Act which links U.S. trade benefits to emigration procedures.

"Rather, the Rumanian education tax appears to be a burden that will run into the tens of thousands of dollars in hard currency for those Rumanian citizens who have received free education through the secondary, university and graduate school levels," Hughes said reading from a prepared statement.

"We view the imposition of this tax as contrary to the UN Declaration of Human Rights which provides for the right to leave one's country of birth," the State Department spokesman continued. "By imposing this Draconian measure, beyond the average citizen's ability to pay, the Rumanian government appears to be closing the emigration door to most citizens. If that is the case, the Rumanian government has gravely jeopardized its ability to maintain its MFN status."

Hughes said in reply to a question: "Our Embassy in Bucharest will be discussing the education law with officials of the Rumanian government. Once we have further information from our Embassy, we should be in a position to decide how to respond to the Rumanian government action."

In New York, meanwhile, Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major

American Jewish Organizations, charged that the education tax comes as "shocking repudiation of pledges by Rumanian leaders that they would ease the flow of Jews seeking to emigrate." Berman praised the State Department's criticism of the Rumanian action as a clear violation of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

He recalled that a Presidents Conference spokesman had testified in Congress in support of MFN for Rumania "on the basis of assurances given to us that no impediments would be placed in the way of Jews wishing to emigrate," Berman added.

"While the pace of that emigration has been disappointingly slow, we were satisfied that sufficient progress had been made in facilitating Jewish emigration to warrant our continued support of MFN for Rumania. The report of the onerous education tax means that severe hardship will be imposed on Jews seeking to emigrate, sharply reducing the numbers able to leave. The effects of the tax on the Rumanian economy, by imperiling MFN trade status, would cause severe hardship on all the Rumanian people."

STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT SHOWS ANTI-JEWISH ATTACKS 'MOST LETHAL'

NEW YORK, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- An intelligence evaluation by the State Department Office for Combatting Terrorism (OCT) shows that terrorist attacks against Jews and Israelis "have been more lethal than other terrorism" and that "over three-quarters of the attacks were carried out by Palestinians."

This report was provided to the World Jewish Congress by Frank Perez, the director of the OCT and was released here by Rabbi Arthur Schneier, chairman of the WJC-American Section. The report covers incidents during the past two years. Perez had originally presented the report at a closed session of the WJC European Branch meeting a week ago, which was attended by the leadership of 16 European Jewish communities.

In his report, Perez disclosed the following:

* OCT records from January 1981 until September 1982 contain 104 international terrorist attacks against Israeli and Jewish interests. This does not include domestic attacks in Israel or on the West Bank.

* Attacks against Israeli and Jewish interests have occurred in 26 countries during the last two years, with over 20 percent of the attacks in France and Italy.

* Over three-quarters of the attacks were carried out by Palestinians, but terrorists from Guatemala, Colombia, France, West Germany, Italy, Greece, and Japan carried out attacks against Israelis and Jews worldwide.

* About half of the attacks were targeted against Israeli citizens or facilities, but Jews from 17 countries have been attacked by Palestinian terrorists primarily because they are Jews.

* Attacks against Jews and Israelis have been more lethal than other terrorism. Almost 60 percent involved attacks on people rather than property and about 65 percent of the incidents intended to cause casualties.

* About 400 people have been wounded and 25 killed in these attacks. Almost half of all attacks against Jews and Israelis have occurred in Western Europe.

Schneier, who attended the WJC European Branch meeting, said on his return to the United States that the climate within which West European Jewish communities find themselves ranges from "uneasiness, to insecurity, to fear." He added that the situation required "vigilance of Jewish communities throughout the world and this therefore places particular responsibility on the largest Jewish community -- American Jewry."

He noted however, that ultimately, the security and well-being of European Jews, and indeed all minorities in Europe, must be the responsibility of the respective governments. "It is a matter of self-interest: governments must recognize that attacks upon Jews ultimately will lead to destabilization of democratic institutions," Schneier concluded.

IDF INTERVENES TO END FIGHTING BETWEEN DRUZE VILLAGERS AND CHRISTIANS IN CENTRAL LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- The Israeli army intervened to end fighting between Lebanese Christians and Druze villagers in the Shouf mountains of central Lebanon yesterday. At least 13 people were killed and over a score wounded before the Israelis imposed curfews on the Druze villages of Navrah and Brih, 18 miles southeast of Beirut.

About 15 people were killed last week and scores wounded in the same area where generations old blood feuds between Druze and Christians have flared anew. Both sides are heavily armed and many ordinarily peaceful people have taken to carrying weapons.

Israel army medical teams have been treating the wounded in the villages. Many civilians have been evacuated, including a woman whose legs were blown off by rocket-propelled grenades. The latest outbreak of violence was reportedly triggered when a Christian Phalangist fatally shot a Druze doctor who he said was carrying a membership card in Al Saika, the Syrian-backed branch of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In the village of Aley, which has a mixed Druze-Christian population, Israeli forces were able to arrange an exchange of prisoners taken by both sides in recent fighting. While central and northern Lebanon are the scene of bitter inter-denominational clashes, Beirut has been quiet. The U.S.-French-Italian-Multinational Force is patrolling the capital.

EASING OF FRANCO-ISRAELI RELATIONS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy will visit Israel next year and attend the twinning ceremonies between the French city of Lille and Israel's Safed, Mauroy told Safed Mayor Josef Nahmias, with whom he met earlier this week, that he will visit Israel as soon as possible after the countrywide forthcoming municipal elections next March. Mauroy is Mayor of Lille.

Nahmias said the Prime Minister also told him that the Franco-Israel dialogue will soon resume and that the Franco-Israel cultural commission, whose scheduled meeting last June was postponed by the French government because of the war in Lebanon will soon be reconvened.

Israel has energetically protested against the commission's postponement which Israel's Ambassador to France Meir Rosenne has termed "a freeze in Franco-Israeli ties."

WEST GERMANY SIGNALS IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- West Germany's Deputy Foreign Minister Alois Mertes signaled a change for the better in Bonn-Israel relations in an address to the annual conference of the German-Israeli Friendship Association here last night. He cautioned the European Economic Community (EEC) not to launch new, separate initiatives in the Middle East or to give rise to miscalculations in the Arab world.

Mertes, representing the new government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said that while West Germany supports the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, that does not include the right of the Palestine Liberation Organization to destroy Israel or to rule Lebanon. He was sharply critical of East Germany's cooperation with the PLO.

Mertes made no mention of the EEC's Venice declaration of June, 1980, which, among other things, called for "association" of the PLO in the Middle East peace process. The Venice declaration had been a cornerstone of Bonn's Mideast policy during the previous administration of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

The conference was attended by a Knesset delegation headed by Likud MK Menachem Savidor. Also present were Israel's first Ambassador to Bonn, Asher Ben Natan who is president of the Association, and the present Ambassador, Yitzhak Ben Ari. Mertes brought a personal message from Kohl, stating that he was fully committed to the goals laid down by West Germany's first Chancellor, the late Konrad Adenauer, of reconciliation and friendship with the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

Kohl said in a recent interview in the newspaper Bild that he firmly intended to accept Israel's long standing invitation to the Chancellor of West Germany to visit Israel -- an invitation never taken up by his predecessor, Schmidt. Kohl did not indicate when the visit would take place but it is understood here that the timing is now under consideration by the German and Israeli governments.

Much of the meeting tonight was devoted to denunciations of the anti-Israel tone adopted by the West German media in reporting the war in Lebanon last summer. Mertes himself said the media's comparison of the bombardment of Beirut to Auschwitz was a scandal. Ben Natan said the reportage was "exaggerated, distorted and awful." Ben Ari cited several examples of misrepresentation, including old film clips that were not related to events in Lebanon.

REPORT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL THIS YEAR

JERUSALEM, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency reported yesterday that about 14,000 immigrants will have arrived in Israel by the end of this year, 4,000 more than arrived in 1981. According to Rafael Kotlowitz, chairman of the Agency's immigration and absorption department, the rate of immigration in October was 34 percent greater than in the same month last year.

Kotlowitz reported that a total of 2,600 Jews left the Soviet Union this year but only 750 of them immigrated to Israel. He blamed Jewish communities abroad which aid emigres who choose to go to countries other than Israel. Kotlowitz claimed that Moscow regarded the growing number of Soviet Jews heading for the U.S. as a breach of "an unwritten agreement with Israel" and therefore cut down drastically on emigration permits.

STATE DEPT. CONCERNED OVER PRESENCE OF ABU NIDAL IN IRAQ

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- The State Department expressed concern today about the presence in Iraq of Abu Nidal, an Arab terrorist believed responsible for the attempted assassination of the Israeli Ambassador to London, Shlomo Argov, last June.

The 43-year-old Palestinian, whose real name is Sabri Banna, is also believed to have been behind the attempted assassinations of other diplomats in Europe and attacks on synagogues in several west European countries.

"We are concerned at the willingness of the government of Iraq to offer a haven to a man who is a known international terrorist," Department spokesman John Hughes said. He said that Iraq is "fully aware of our views."

Hughes' statement also noted that "Iraq has itself been a victim of international terrorism." But when asked to cite any terrorist incidents in Iraq, he said he could not recall them.

Context Of The Concern

Hughes was responding to a story in the Washington Post today from Beirut which said Abu Nidal has been living in Baghdad since March and that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein acknowledged his presence to British reporters in September. The arrival in Baghdad last March of Abu Nidal, who the Washington Post called "the Arab world's foremost terrorist," occurred after the February 26 announcement by the Reagan Administration that it had taken Iraq off the list of countries that supported terrorism.

The Administration also indicated at the time that the U.S. planned to sell Iraq 6-12 transport planes for civilian purposes. That sale has been blocked by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Abu Nidal claimed credit for the attempt on the life of Ambassador Argov which was followed by Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Nidal broke with the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1972 over what he considered a too moderate stance. He was sentenced to death in absentia by El Fatah for ordering attacks on PLO officials. He has also been responsible for attacks on Palestinians and Arab diplomats abroad.

Hussein expelled Abu Nidal from Iraq four years ago because he opposed Iraqi support for the PLO. He lived in Damascus before returning to Baghdad this year.

Withdrawal Talks Hanging Fire

In other matters, Hughes said the reason talks have not started between Israel, Lebanon and the U.S. on Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon is that some issues between Lebanon and Israel are not yet resolved. But he said the U.S. was "enthusiastic about an early start and very enthusiastic about early withdrawal" of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Hughes said that Philip Habib, who was the U.S. special envoy for the crisis in Lebanon, was in Washington for talks at the State Department. But there are no plans to send him back to the Middle East although that was "always possible," Hughes said. The special envoy now conducting negotiations in Lebanon is Morris Draper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs.

Meanwhile, the White House has announced that King Hussein of Jordan will visit Washington December 21.

JDC DONATES \$10,000 FOR TUNISIAN FLOOD RELIEF

NEW YORK, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- A contribution of \$10,000 for the emergency purchase of relief supplies for Tunisians made homeless by recent torrential rains and flooding was announced today by Henry Taub, president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

According to reports from the Tunisian Civil Protection Council, more than 100 people have been killed in the floods and many thousands made homeless. The flooding took place in and around the southern city of Sfax and the northern city of Zaghouan on October 30 and 31.

JDC executive vice president Ralph Goldman reported the small Jewish community in Sfax was "well and safe," and the rest of the 6,000 Jews of Tunisia, most of whom live in the city of Tunis, were not directly affected by the flooding.

4 ISRAELI ARABS WHO WENT ON A VISIT TO LEBANON REPORTED MISSING

JERUSALEM, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- Four Israeli Arabs who went to Lebanon separately to visit relatives in the past three weeks have disappeared and there is no word of their whereabouts, according to unofficial reports reaching here yesterday. One of them is believed to be held by the Lebanese army in Beirut.

The visits were permitted for humanitarian reasons. But the four apparently exceeded the limits of their permits and may have entered areas closed to Israeli personnel.

An Israeli Arab woman who went to visit her sister in the Sabra refugee camp in west Beirut may have been detained by the Lebanese army along with four residents of the camp, it was learned here. There is no information about the three others. The Israeli army recently stepped up its searches in west Beirut for people living in Lebanon without legal permits.

JEAN-PAUL ELKANN NAMED ACTING PRESIDENT OF CRIF

PARIS, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- Jean-Paul Elkann, a 61-year-old businessman, has been elected acting president of the representative Council of Major French Jewish Organizations (CRIF). He is replacing Alain de Rothschild who died of a heart attack last month. The CRIF announced that a new president for a three-year term will be elected in January. Elkann, a graduate of Columbia University, also heads the French Jewish Consistory and plays a leading role in a large number of other Jewish organizations. A member of the French Legion of Honor, he is a vice president of of Givenchy and also serves on the board of several other major French corporations.

CHAOS IN TEL AVIV

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- Wives of policemen caused chaos to Tel Aviv traffic when they demonstrated outside the main police station on busy Dizengoff Street today. The women, shouting slogans and waving banners, were demanding higher salaries for their husbands who, as uniformed policemen, are not allowed to organize or go on strike.

They had obtained a license to hold a quiet demonstration on the sidewalk outside the police station. But they began crossing the roadway on a pedestrian crossing and would not allow traffic to move on the roadway. The women were finally persuaded to leave the crossing by a group of senior police officers, who admitted they found removing the wives of colleagues a most unpleasant business.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

AID FROM U.S. JEWS TO LEBANON
AFTER THE WAR TOPPED \$1 MILLION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- Aid from American Jewry to Lebanon in the wake of the war there has topped \$1 million, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The sum includes more than \$320,000 in cash -- in gifts large and small pouring in from Jewish organizations, institutions and individuals -- and the value of double that sum in aid-in-kind, such as clothing and blankets. American-Jewish participation in Lebanon relief began in mid-June with a JDC commitment of \$100,000.

The JDC told the JTA it is effecting its assistance "through Lebanese rather than Israeli frameworks," but "Israeli government representatives are kept duly informed of JDC activities and the cooperation of the chief of civilian relief for the Israeli government is continuously elicited."

The JDC is coordinating its efforts in Lebanon with other voluntary organizations, among them the Lebanese Red Cross, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), Terre des Hommes, Caritas (Catholic), the International Rescue Committee, the Christian Embassy of Jerusalem, and the "Voice of Hope" radio.

Recent JDC Activities

Recent JDC activities in Lebanon include:

- * Delivery of some 20 tons of used clothing collected by the municipality of Jerusalem and distributed by the JDC to Christian groups in Sidon and Palestinian refugees in the Ein Hilweh camp near Sidon.

- * Funding the construction of a prefabricated building on the grounds of the Sidon government hospital to serve as a treatment center for malnourished children from the nearby refugee camps.

- * An emergency campaign to inoculate all the children in south Lebanon against polio following discovery of three cases in the area. Some 60,000 children under three years of age were inoculated by early August in cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross and UNRWA. The JDC funded hiring of minibuses to reach far flung villages. The anti-polio serum was provided by the Israeli and the Lebanese ministries of health.

- * Five thousand packets of oral dehydration solution purchased in early August to combat dysentery -- the number one killer of young children. Packets were distributed to Lebanese government facilities and to UNRWA clinics (serving the Palestinians).

- * The JDC purchased supplies for eight outpatient clinics and hospitals in south Lebanon operated by both the government and UNRWA. Purchases included five kidney dialysis machines.

- * The JDC enabled Tyre city authorities to lease bulldozers and earthmovers to remove debris from 36 of the worst war-damage sites in the city -- to permit the start of rehabilitation work on sewage, water and housing.

- * As one of the first relief agencies on the scene, the JDC provided local people with immediately necessary cleaning-up materials: mattresses, 900 cartons of cooking and eating utensils (each for a family of six), 15,000 plastic garbage bags, brooms, mops, brushes and pans.

Additional JDC relief material trucked into South Lebanon included 17 tons of powdered milk for infants, three tons of anti-biotic syrup, medi-

cines and vitamins for children, 40 cartons of baby food, and 500 baby bottles.

The JDC is now preparing long-term rehabilitation plans which will be the basis of the JDC's application to the U.S. Agency for International Development for a special grant.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

NAHUM SOKOLOV LIVES ON IN SPIRIT

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Nov. 9 (JTA) -- Nahum Sokolow, the great Zionist leader, Hebrew writer and encyclopaedist, lives on in spirit in the large house in London where he lived from 1921 to his death in 1936.

Last Sunday, his only surviving daughter and lifelong helper, Dr. Celina Sokolow, reminisced about her father to a gathering of British Zionist supporters, Israeli diplomats, and her own personal admirers. The event, a few days after the 65th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, marked the unveiling of a plaque at 43 Compayne Gardens, which remains almost unchanged since Nahum Sokolow's death.

In Sokolow's living room, his portrait (by Pasternek, father of the great Russian Jewish novelist Alexander Pasternak) gazed down benignly as speaker after speaker paid tribute to his memory, amid telegram greetings from Israeli President Yitzhak Navon, Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and World Zionist Organization chairman Leon Dulzin.

But the living link with Sokolow was heard in the voice of his daughter, still strong and resonant despite her 92 years. "Here were held the regular meetings of the World Zionist Executive in my father's huge study on the second floor," she declared in her strong Russian accent.

Efforts To Achieve Balfour Declaration

She also voiced her unfading pleasure that her father's efforts to achieve the Balfour Declaration had been "crowned with success." For despite the efforts of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, the British government would not have issued its famous promise of a Jewish national home in Palestine had Sokolow not first secured the agreement of the governments of France and Italy.

On a table in the hallway were displayed some of Sokolow's books, including his two-volume history of Zionism, (now long out of print) with its foreword by the author of the Balfour Declaration, British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour.

"It is hard to imagine the present British Foreign Secretary writing the preface to such a work by the present Israeli Prime Minister," observed Geoffrey Gelberg, the Zionist Federation chairman, who presided.

The blue and white ceramic plaque which now perpetuates Nahum Sokolow's connection with 43 Compayne Gardens resembles many others put up on the homes of the famous by the Greater London Council. This one, however, lacks the initials of the G.L.C. Since it was put up not by the city authorities but by private admirers of Sokolow. But at least its colors are identical with those of the Zionist flag, under which Sokolow worked and died.

And as long as his daughter lives in it, the spirit of Sokolow himself will linger in this place.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Civil aviation into and out of Israel was halted for six hours Tuesday by a sudden strike of airport and civil aviation personnel. They were demanding higher salaries, complaining of delays in government negotiations on new pay scales.

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated November 11, Veterans' day, a postal holiday.