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SHAMIR ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO ZAIRE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir left on an official visit to Zaire today. He said he hoped the recent renewal of diplomatic ties between Israel and that central African nation "will influence and encourage other African countries to resume formal and official relations with us."

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Tamir will present Mobutu with an overall strategic plan drawn up by Israeli experts, which the Zaire leader requested for his country. Shamir expects to sign mutual cooperation and economic agreements during his stay in Kinshasa. Before leaving, he told reporters at the airport that "African countries want to be independent and are ready to resist (Arab) pressures."

Shamir said in their view such pressures are "a new colonialism because it is not in Africa's interest not to have relations with Israel. On the contrary, it is in their interests to have relations and to cooperate with our country." In addition to Zaire, Israel presently has diplomatic relations with only three other Black African nations -- Malawi, Lesotho and Swaziland.

KREISKY WANTS WAR CRIMINAL RELEASED

By Lisa Palmieri-Billing

ROME, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Chancellor Bruno Kreisky of Austria has urged the release of Austrian war criminal Walter Reder, a former SS colonel who has been imprisoned in Italy since 1945.

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on under "conditional liberty" and has only a little more than two years of his sentence to serve.

Kreisky said the Austrian government made an official request to the Italian authorities last March to allow Reder to return to Austria. He appealed also on humanitarian grounds, citing Reder's illness and physical disabilities. He suffers from arteriosclerosis and one forearm and most of his stomach have been removed by surgery.

Kreisky's letter referred as well to political reasons to free Reder. His return to Austria, he wrote, would counter the efforts by extreme rightwing groups to transform Reder into a martyr. Reder's military superiors, condemned for the same war crimes, have long since been freed, Kreisky pointed out, noting that Reder is the last Austrian war prisoner still being held in Italy.

He urged Raxi to "sensitize" the democratic political forces in Italy, the authorities and public opinion to the judicial, humane and political reasons for an act of clemency toward Reder.

STATE DEPT. CONTENTS THE PLO'S CENTRAL COUNCIL DID NOT REJECT REAGAN'S PEACE INITIATIVE

By David Friedman

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Instead, Department Deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said the meeting should be considered as part of the "process of consultations in the Palestinian community and also, of course, with other Arab communities."

Romberg noted that the Reagan initiative "has stimulated serious discussion of key issues related to the peace process and we are encouraged that that discussion continues and that serious consideration continues to be given to the broadening of the peace process." He warned, however, that there is an "urgency" on this and "we hope that the preliminaries can be concluded in the near future so that the main event, the real peace negotiations, can begin."

But there was no sign yet that the PLO is willing to allow King Hussein of Jordan to represent the Palestinians in the peace talks as Reagan has proposed. Hussein and PLO chief Yasir Arafat reportedly embraced as they continued their talks Saturday night that were begun last August. There also were no signs that the king will be able to get approval from Arafat that the Administration would like him to have when he meets with Reagan in Washington December 21.

The PLO's Central Council, in its statement last Thursday, attacked Reagan's plan for Palestinian self rule because it specifically rejected a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Council claimed that the U.S. position does not "satisfy the inalienable national rights of our people." But it did not reject the Reagan plan as unacceptable in its entirety.

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JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036-2574

Vol. LX -- 65th Year

Tuesday, November 30, 1982

No. 225

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Meanwhile, Romberg said that the Administration was "disappointed" Israel and Lebanon had not begun talks on the evacuation of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

"Direct negotiations between these two governments are the only way" to achieve the goals Israel and Lebanon share with the U.S., Romberg said. He said these goals were "strengthening the central government of the sovereign state of Lebanon, free from the presence of foreign forces on its territory, and the establishment of a peaceful state of relationship between Israel and Lebanon."

Romberg noted that the two special U.S. envoys in the Middle East—Philip Habib and Morris Draper—have been working with Israel and Lebanon in an effort to solve the differences between them that have been holding up the negotiations. The Israeli Cabinet yesterday dropped its insistence that the talks be held on a ministerial level but maintained that the two delegations must be led by civilians not military personnel as Lebanon wants.

But Israel also insists that the talks be held in Beirut and Jerusalem while Lebanon wants them in communities along the border. "The question of holding negotiations in Jerusalem is obviously a matter of great sensitivity to all parties concerned," Romberg said. While Romberg did not explain what he meant by "sensitivity," he stressed the U.S. was not taking a position on this issue. "We hope that all the remaining problems can be worked out," he said.

WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT SEEMS DIVIDED OVER MIDEAST SITUATION

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 29 (JTA) — The new West German government appears to be sharply divided over policy toward the Middle East conflict. While some senior officials, including Chancellor Helmut Kohl, are trying to improve relations with Israel, others, chiefly Deputy Foreign Minister Juergen Moelleman, remain committed to the pro-Arab positions of former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Moelleman recently blasted Israel in an interview with the German News Service. He warned the Israeli government not to entertain any "illusions" about Bonn's attitude despite Kohl's announcement that he intends to visit Israel sometime next year and friendly remarks by Deputy Foreign Minister Alois Mertes.

According to Moelleman, West German policy is still based on the 1980 Venice declaration by the leaders of the 10 European Economic Community (EEC) member states which, among other things, called for the "association" of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Mideast peace process.

Moelleman, who is chairman of the German-Arab Friendship Association denounced Premier Menachem Begin as a war criminal a month ago, before he was named Deputy Foreign Minister. He urged an end to financial assistance to Israel, recognition of the PLO, despite its documented relationship with West German urban guerrillas and insisted that Bonn invite Libyan ruler Muammar Qaddafi, an intractable enemy of Israel, for an official visit.

In response to Moelleman's most recent remarks, the Israeli Ambassador in Bonn, Yitzhak Ben Ari, warned that any new attempts to appease the PLO would result in violence and bloodshed in the Middle East and elsewhere. In an interview published in the Nord Rhein Zeitung, the envoy observed that if West Germany had treated refugees from East Germany the way the Arab countries treated their Palestinian brethren, there would be no peace or stability in Europe today.

COURTS IN CONFLICT OVER DECISION TO LIQUIDATE EL AL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 29 (JTA) — Two courts were in conflict today over a shareholders' decision to liquidate El Al, the country's national airline. A labor court

here is expected to rule tomorrow on an appeal by the airline workers against the liquidation decision. But the shareholders have already asked a district court for a liquidation order. The government owns 98 percent of El Al stock.

The legal dispute is whether the district court can issue the liquidation order while the labor court is considering the employees' and Histadrut's appeal against it. The Attorney General's office contended yesterday that the labor court has no jurisdiction in liquidation matters and a clash between the two courts would be contrary to the public interest.

The shareholders, chiefly government proxies, decided last week to wind up the money-losing carrier and place it in the hands of a receiver. The Cabinet is expected to endorse that recommendation. The workers accused the shareholders and management of acting in bad faith. They pointed out that new labor agreements had been reached with all of the El Al workers groups except the pilots and that negotiations should have continued.

The labor court issued a 24-hour restraining injunction Friday and called on management to use the time to try to complete a new labor contract. But the order only delayed the liquidation request which was filed with the district court yesterday. Angry workers marched in Herut party headquarters here today to demonstrate against Finance Minister Yoram Aridor who was expected to speak there tonight.

Re-enforced police units surrounded the building to prevent the workers from entering or disrupting traffic. Gaby Saltzman, a spokesman for the El Al employees, said they were demonstrating "against Begin's Likud government which wants to liquidate the national airline."

Issue Of El Al Debts

Meanwhile, the Transport Ministry has informed the International Air Transport Association (IATA) of which El Al is a member, that the government will be responsible for all El Al debts owed to member airlines. Israeli and foreign banks announced today that they will no longer accept El Al checks. They said they must study the scope and amount of El Al indebtedness to local banks which is said to amount to \$180 million. Other complications arose.

El Al workers shut down Ben Gurion Airport over the weekend, affecting 11 incoming and nine outgoing flights. Foreign airlines cancelled some flights and rescheduled others. The SITA communications network, a computerized network linking all international air carriers, became inoperable when police cut off electricity to the El Al offices at the airport. The system was functioning again today however after a limited number of striking workers were called back by court order.

In another development, the Israel Pilots Association appealed to El Al pilots today not to agree to management demands to work longer hours in the cockpit. The Association noted that this would endanger aircraft safety and was a violation of standards fixed by international aviation experts and flight surgeons. The El Al management has insisted that pilots agree to 16-hour shifts.

DISTURBANCES ON THE WEST BANK

JERUSALEM, Nov. 29 (JTA) — Stone throwing incidents and other public disturbances erupted on the West Bank today as Palestinians, mainly youths demonstrated on the 35th anniversary of the United Nations partition resolution of November 29, 1947 which called for the establishment of Jewish and Arab states in Palestine.

Israeli officials said the incidents were minor, compared to demonstrations on the same occasion in

previous years. An Israeli policeman was injured by stone-throwers in Ramallah where re-enforced security forces attempted to maintain order.

Curfews were imposed on the Dahaishe refugee camp south of Bethlehem after stone-throwing rampages and on the casbah in Nablus, following a student demonstration. Israeli soldiers fired tear gas bombs to disperse the crowds. Several schools closed earlier than usual.

UN SECRETARY GENERAL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT CALL FOR RESTORATION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and General Assembly President Imre Hollai called today for the restoration of Palestinian rights, including the right of self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

De Cuellar and Hollai made their calls in separate statements at a special meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. The annual observance is held here every year since 1977, on November 29, the date the UN decided in 1947 on the partition of Palestine.

De Cuellar said in his statement that "the tragic culmination of the events in Lebanon this past summer underlined once more, and with telling poignancy, the urgent need to seek a peaceful solution" to the Palestinian problem. According to the Secretary General a settlement in the Mideast must include the following conditions:

"The withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied territories; respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force; and, finally, a just settlement of the Palestinian problem based on the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including self-determination. In this connection the question of Jerusalem remains of primary importance."

Urges Just And Immediate Solution

Hollai, who is from Hungary, said in his statement that "the massacre (in Beirut) of mid-September this year should stir our conscience to the point that we should insist on a just and immediate solution for the plight of the Palestinian people. We owe it to those unfortunate victims to redouble our efforts to find a just solution. Failure to do so can only perpetuate the cycle of violence," he warned.

Continuing, he stated: "The International community has agreed on certain basic principles relating to this issue. The principle of inadmissibility of the acquisition of foreign territory by force, the inalienable right of the people of Palestine to self-determination and to the establishment of their own independent state, and the right of all states in the region to peace and security within recognized borders." Hollai said that the international community is "overwhelmingly in favor" of these principles.

Meanwhile, at noon today, a group of some 50 Jewish students, members of the North American Jewish Students Network, demonstrated against the Palestine Liberation Organization across from the UN building. They carried anti-

PLO slogans and chanted "Hell No PLO." The General Assembly is scheduled to open tomorrow its debate on the Palestinian Question. The Assembly is expected to adopt at the end of the debate a series of resolutions against Israel and in favor of a Palestinian state.

HABIB CONFERS WITH MUBARAK

By Judith Kohn

CAIRO, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- U.S. special envoy Philip Habib conferred today with President Hosni Mubarak on his most recent efforts to achieve the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon and proceed toward a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, who met with Habib yesterday and attended this morning's meeting as well, said that the discussions found the U.S. and Egypt agreeing on the need to achieve a rapid withdrawal of Israeli and other foreign forces from Lebanon, to push the peace process ahead and to have Jordanian and Palestinian participation in forthcoming negotiations. He added that both sides also hoped for further "coordination and cooperation" between the PLO and Jordan in any future talks.

The Foreign Minister said that Habib was "trying his best to achieve something solid in his hands before the end of this year."

Meanwhile, Ali, in a speech read on his behalf by Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Shafei Abdel-Hamid at Al Azhar University on the occasion of Palestine National Day today, called for an Israeli withdrawal from East Jerusalem and the establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Ali also condemned Israel's settlement policies and said that "Egypt considers them illegal" and that they "violate international law."

In other developments, Ali was quoted yesterday by the Qatar News Agency as saying that the United States had sent a message to the PLO through Cairo which suggested that PLO recognition of Israel would enable the U.S. to enter into a dialogue with the organization, leading to a radical change in the current Middle East situation.

ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC POLICIES UNDER FIRE BY LIKUD AND LABOR MKs

JERUSALEM, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- The government's economic policies were criticized by both Labor and Likud members of the Knesset's Finance Committee today. The debate was occasioned by the Cabinet's approval yesterday of a 16.5 billion Shekel supplementary budget of which 9.3 billion Shekels will go toward paying for the war in Lebanon. The additional budget was presented to the Knesset this morning.

Dr. Moshe Mandelbaum, Governor of the Bank of Israel, warned the Finance Committee that Israel could suffer from the same unemployment now endemic in most of the Western world if real wages continue to rise. He urged a special effort to reduce the national deficit and to prevent any further increase in the number of civil servants.

Labor MK Adi Amori compared the government's policies to those of certain Latin American countries which tried to fight inflation by borrowing from their foreign currency reserves. The result of such policies was total economic collapse, yet Finance Minister Yoram Aridor tried to do the same thing before the 1981 Knesset elections, he said.

Yigal Cohen-Orgad of Likud, acting chairman of the committee, warned against "addiction to American economic aid." He objected to recent attempts by the Treasury to curb inflation by slowing down the devaluation of the Shekel. That only encourages "short-range delusions," he said.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF SOSUA

By Sheldon Kirshner

(Editor's note: Sheldon Kirshner reports for The Canadian Jewish News.)

SOSUA, Dominican Republic, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- This Jewish colony established in the Dominican Republic during the Holocaust will soon become a historical relic as a result of attrition and emigration.

Sosua, on the northern coast of this lush, pro-American Caribbean island, was a sleepy town of 100 inhabitants when European Jews fleeing Nazi terror began to arrive in 1940. Today, Sosua has a population of some 7,000. But only an estimated 35 of its families are Jewish. At one point, just before the end of World War II, about 600 Jews lived there. The community has been decimated by deaths (about 150 Jews are buried in the Jewish cemetery) and by emigration.

The history of Jewish settlement in Sosua began in the late 1930s, when Rafael Trujillo, the dictator of the Dominican Republic, announced he would accept up to 100,000 Jewish refugees. Because of wartime conditions in Europe, no more than a relative handful ever got to its shores.

Reasons For Trujillo's Generosity

Trujillo's generosity was probably prompted by three reasons. He hoped he could "whiten" his population if Jewish settlers married Dominicans. He thought he could improve his image, tarnished by his slaughter of 20,000 members of the Black, Haitian minority in 1937. He figured that Jewish entrepreneurial drive could be an asset in his underdeveloped nation.

His calculations were not unrealistic. Inter-marriages occurred, especially in the second generation. And the settlers, the majority of whom were from Germany and Austria, contributed to the economic well-being of the Dominican Republic by building what is now the biggest butter and cheese factory in the country and a processed meat plant as well.

The settlers, who were trained on the spot as dairy farmers, supply the raw milk and meat for the two factories. As a result of their enterprise, Sosua grew, leaving the Jews here as a tiny minority.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which helped establish the colony in cooperation with the Dominican Republic government, originally hoped that the settlers could earn a livelihood with vegetable crops. The land, however, was dry, suitable only for cattle herds.

'We Weren't Idealists'

The JDC also attempted to set up an agricultural cooperative, but it failed, and individual initiative won the day. "We weren't idealists, as in Palestine," says Kurt Luis Hess, a veteran settler who is 74.

Hess himself was born in Erfurt, Germany, and arrived in the Dominican Republic, via Spain and France, in 1939. It was by sheer chance that he applied for a visa, he says. He did so after various Latin American nations, and the U.S., rejected his applications.

Like all the Jews who came to Sosua, Hess received a plot of land, cows and a house on credit. He also taught his fellow settlers Spanish -- which he had learned as a youth -- and did administrative work for the JDC. He married a Protestant Dominican woman, Ana Julia, and they had two sons, one of whom considers himself Jewish.

After World War II, many of the settlers immigrated to the U.S. "Some were unhappy as farmers, having come from big cities, and not being used to farm-

ing," Hess explains. "Others saw better opportunities for themselves and their children."

Hess' two sons live in Los Angeles and West Berlin, but this is in keeping with the pattern of emigration, the young people having left. Judy Neumann Kaiser, 39, is an example of the phenomenon. Her parents, who moved here from Israel felt that she could obtain a superior education in the U.S. And, perhaps more important, they thought she could meet an eligible Jewish man there. Kaiser married an American and today lives in Phoenix, Arizona. She visits her family regularly.

Because so many Jews have left Sosua, the rabbi, who died some eight years ago, has not been replaced. An Israeli settler, who is a cantor by profession, leads Jews in prayer in Sosua's small clapboard synagogue near the sea.

Despite the drastic decline of the Jewish community, Hess has no regrets he stayed. His share in the butter and cheese factory has made him comfortable, and he has had a good marriage. He claims he has never experienced anti-Semitism in the Dominican Republic. "The Dominicans are such a racially mixed people, without racial pride," he says.

He says he never accustomed himself to the tropical weather, but this is a minor complaint. "I visit my sons in Los Angeles and West Berlin, but I'm always glad to be back in Sosua."

ARYEH TARTAKOWER DEAD AT 85

NEW YORK, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Prof. Aryeh Tartakower, who directed the Department of Relief and Rehabilitation of the World Jewish Congress during World War II, died last week in Jerusalem at the age of 85, it was reported here by the WJCongress.

Tartakower, who served the WJCongress for more than four decades, had been chairman of the Israel Executive and chairman of the cultural department. He was a member of the founding Executive of the WJCongress.

Tartakower was a renowned historian and sociologist. He was the author of numerous works, including "The Jewish Refugee," "History of the Jewish Labor Movement," "The Israeli Society," "History of Colonization," and "Jewish Wanderings in the World." He also wrote numerous articles in Hebrew, Yiddish, English, German, Polish, French and Spanish periodicals.

He was born in Poland and was educated at the University of Vienna. He founded and was chairman of the Hitahdut Zionist Labor Party in Poland from 1922 to 1939 and was a lecturer at the Institute of Jewish Sciences in Warsaw from 1932 to 1939.

Tartakower came to Palestine in 1946 where he served as the chairman of the Department of Sociology of the Jews at the Hebrew University. He was also co-founder and president of the Israel Association of the United Nations and was chairman of the World Hebrew Confederation (Brith Ivrit Olamit).

ISRAELI SOLDIER DIES OF HIS WOUNDS

TEL AVIV, Nov. 29 (JTA) -- Cpl. Amnon Dehan, who was injured in the explosion at the Israeli Army headquarters in Tyre November 11, died of his wounds today, the army announced. His death brought to 76 the number of Israeli fatalities in the explosion which caused the seven-story building to collapse. The dead were Israeli military and civilian personnel. In addition, 14 Arabs, Palestinians and Lebanese under detention, were also killed. Military investigators said the explosion was caused by a gas leak.