

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. LXI - 66th Year

Tuesday, January 11, 1983

No. 7

ISRAEL PREPARED TO AGREE TO AN EXTENSION OF UNIFIL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10 (JTA) — Israel is prepared to agree to a two-month extension of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which is scheduled to expire January 14. Most of the countries contributing contingents to UNIFIL also want a two-month extension, in view of the uncertain situation in Lebanon. Lebanon itself would have preferred a six-month extension.

Last week Israel accused UNIFIL of laxity in preventing terrorists from infiltrating the areas it controls after nine Katyusha rocket-launchers were discovered in southern Lebanon in the zone patrolled by UNIFIL's Ghanaian contingent. They army disclosed that five of the launchers were aimed at Kiryat Shmona, the Israeli border town serving as a site for negotiations between Israel, Lebanon and the United States, and four of the launchers were aimed at an Israeli military base on the Lebanese coast.

The UN Undersecretary General, Brian Urquhart, has been visiting Syria, Lebanon and Israel. He was scheduled to meet with Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Jerusalem this evening.

Mixed Responses To Changed UNIFIL Role

Urquhart and U.S. special envoy Morris Draper have received, in separate conversations, mixed and hesitant responses from Israeli policymakers to the idea of UNIFIL being given a change of function in the context of an overall Lebanon settlement. It would be installed in the Palestinian refugee camps to protect the inhabitants following the ultimate withdrawal of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Syrian and Israeli troops from the country.

Israeli policymakers are anxious to remove UNIFIL from the projected 25-mile security zone in south Lebanon which includes the Ein Hilwe and Rashadiye camps near Sidon and Tyre, respectively.

The Israelis believe the UNIFIL presence in the zone would hamper rather than help future security, which Israel wants to be in the hands of Lebanese forces with its own army in a surveillance role.

The Israeli policymakers would view more favorably, however, the idea of UNIFIL moving into the Palestinian camps north of the zone, and especially in and around Tripoli where the Palestinians fear a massacre once the PLO leave the area. Some well-placed sources in Jerusalem indicate, though, that in the final analysis Israel might accept a revamped UNIFIL role, as protector of the refugee camps, extending through all of Lebanon.

Lebanon's View Of UNIFIL

The Lebanese government itself is reliably understood to want UNIFIL's mandate extended so that the force can play a role in the context of an overall settlement. Lebanon has been canvassing support for the idea among the contributing states and among the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Informed sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Lebanon had virtually lost hope of being able to persuade the U.S. and others to increase the

size of the multinational force, encamped in some areas of Beirut, and thus looked to UNIFIL to provide much-needed military presence in the country while efforts are made to reconstruct and train the sovereign Lebanese army.

No Progress On Agenda

Meanwhile, no progress was reported toward reaching an agenda as Israel, Lebanon and the United States ended their fifth negotiating session today at Khalde, south of Beirut. The talks will be resumed at Kiryat Shmona in Israel on Thursday.

According to reports, both sides are considering suggestions by the U.S. which might move forward talks on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon while at the same time satisfying Israel's demand that normalized relations between the two countries be high on the agenda.

JORDAN SEEN EDGING CAUTIOUSLY TOWARD PARTICIPATING IN PEACE TALKS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10 (JTA) — Jordan appears to be edging toward some sort of participation in peace talks with Israel. But it is moving with extreme caution and, according to reports from Amman there is sharp disagreement between King Hussein and PLO Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat over the composition of the delegation which presumably will speak for Jordan and the Palestinians.

Hussein, meanwhile, is trying to include Egypt in inter-Arab consultations over a Jordanian role in the peace process. Hikmat Al Masri, a resident of Nablus and former Speaker of the Jordanian parliament, has been dispatched on a mission to Cairo, Israel Radio reported today. He will be meeting with Egyptian leaders on behalf of Hussein and Arafat who continue their talks in Amman.

Jordan has reportedly suggested that the delegation to the peace talks should not include PLO members per se but sympathizers, such as the deposed mayors of Hebron and Halhoul, Fahd Kawasme and Mohammed Milhim. The Jordanians argue this would make it awkward for Israel to refuse to negotiate on grounds that it will never deal with the PLO. But Arafat reportedly insists that the PLO be represented and identified as such.

Hussein and Arafat remain at odds. But the Jordan King is not expected in any event to make an announcement with respect to the peace process until after Premier Menachem Begin's visit to Washington late next month.

Meanwhile, tension mounted on the West Bank, the military government clamped a curfew on the casbah (old section) of Nablus and ordered a local school closed for one month after violent demonstrations by local youths in which an Israeli border policeman was injured.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH EGYPT'S FOREIGN MINISTER

By Judith Kohn

(Part Two Of A Two-Part Series)

CAIRO, Jan. 10 (JTA) — Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, welcomed moves by Arab countries to restore relations with Egypt. He also

stated that Iraq's declaration about the need for Israel's security is part of "a new policy of peace-searching and for the recognition of Israel."

Last week, the Iraqi government made public a conversation President Saddam Hussein had with Rep. Stephen Solarz (D. N.Y.) on August 25 in which the Iraqi leader was quoted as saying that he believed in the "existence of an independent Palestinian state accepted by the Palestinians and it is also necessary to have a state of security for the Israelis."

Iraq has long been one of Israel's most implacable enemies and diplomats could not recall any previous such public statements by Iraqi leaders. There was no explanation as to why Iraq decided to release the text of the conversation at this time.

The following is the continuation of an abridged transcript of the JTA interview with Ali:

Q: Egypt has welcomed the statement by the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq (Tareq Aziz) that he was ready to meet with you or Dr. (Boutros) Ghali (Minister of State for Foreign Affairs) in Cairo or Baghdad to open a direct dialogue on resuming relations. Do you expect such a dialogue to take place in the near future?

A: Whenever any Arab country shows that there is the willingness to restore the dialogue with Egypt, we welcome that. And it is very clear and very natural that Egypt, as an Arab country, is not against the resumption of relations in full with the Arab countries. But again, I would like to confirm that this is not a substitute to the peace or the peace process which we are encouraging all the time and working on.

View Of Iraq's Stance

Q: How do you view the President's (Iraqi President Saddam Hussein) remark to U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz about the need for Israel's security?

A: It is a good sign after the Fez (Morocco) summit meeting (last September), because the Arab countries have followed a new policy of peace-searching and for the recognition of Israel. When this statement comes from President Saddam Hussein, that means he is confirming his commitment to the Fez summit meeting, and this means also that here is a clear view about the prospects of the future.

Q: I believe that Israeli Foreign Minister (Yitzhak Shamir) was quoted as rejecting the notion that President Hussein has suggested the recognition of Israel, and he attributed the (Iraqi President's) statement to his dilemma in the Gulf war.

A: Well, I only notice in this respect, that the Israeli suspicions are more than needed to push forward the peace process. Some more confidence should be built -- either through understanding the others or through encouraging the others to follow good practices.

Q: So then you don't see it as merely a ploy to gain a more moderate image in the U.S. in order to obtain weapons.

A: Of course, this is for the sake of affecting the public opinion in the U.S. Congress on arms deals to Iraq.

Q: But you are saying this doesn't detract from ...

A: Well, you know, you can't simply refuse such an approach. It is difficult, because it is declared. It isn't in the rooms. It is declared.

Q: When you travel (with President Hosni Mubarak) to the United States later this month, what will you be asking of the Reagan Administra-

tion, with respect to its role in helping to expand the peace process and in getting Israeli troops out of Lebanon? Do you expect any progress to have been made by the time you go?

A: I think much will depend on the negotiations which are going on between Lebanon and Israel, with the United States for the time being. So this is one of the main elements of our talks in the United States. Then, of course, the prospects after the (Arab League) committee of seven toured in the United States and in the other countries, and the visit of King Hussein (of Jordan) and what are the perspectives.

Q: Is there anything specific, though, that you'll be requesting from the President in terms of the U.S. role?

A: Yes. This will be, of course, the stress on the settlement issue in Israel. This is one of the major points to be raised with the Administration, because we feel it is influencing and affecting the entire peace process and it is contradictory with encouraging Jordan and the Palestinians to participate in any forthcoming negotiations. So this is one (issue) and then of course the bilateral relations between Egypt and the United States."

U.S. Arms Supply To Egypt

Q: In that area, a Kuwaiti paper (Al Qabas) reported recently that Washington was putting up severe conditions on its weapons supply to Egypt, and that Cairo has been refusing those conditions so far. Could you comment on that? Has the U.S. imposed conditions that your government finds unreasonable?

A: No, I do not know about any conditions from the United States. The flow of armaments from the United States as a substantial supplier of weapons to Egypt is continuing without any difficulties, and we are, as you know, diversifying our sources, and have contracted France and other countries in supplying Egypt with armaments. So there is no difficulty in this respect.

Q: The Press here has been expressing disappointment with the U.S. over its aid package to Israel and for not exerting adequate pressure on Israel with respect to its presence in Lebanon and speeding up the peace process. Does this reflect your government's feeling?

A: This matter didn't affect at all our relations with the United States. It is for the United States to take care of her responsibilities in the area. But this in fact gave the impression that to some extent, the invader of Lebanon got back a sort of bonus, which is contradictory to the influence and also the image of the United States in the area.

Q: Has this diminished your confidence in being able to use your (country's) friendship with the United States as leverage on Israel?

A: Certainly it does. And it puts difficulties on us in approaching the Arab world and the Palestinians for instance, in the effort of urging them to be more forthcoming.

U.S. CHARGES ISRAEL 'CHALLENGED' AMERICAN MARINES IN LEBANON

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- The State Department charged today that Israeli troops "challenged" U.S. marines several times in the last few days by trying to go through the checkpoints the Americans are manning on roads near the Beirut airport.

Department spokesman John Hughes said that while he would not call the Israelis "threatening," they had violated an agreement and their attempts were "not helpful and we don't want it to continue."

"We have expressed our concern to the Israel government," Hughes said, "and have made it clear

that the zone of deployment of the MNF (the multinational force consisting of marines and French and Italian units in Beirut) is closed to all military forces other than those of Lebanon and the MNF."

Hughes said he did not know how many incidents there were but there were more than two. News reports from Beirut said the encounters occurred when Israel began conducting sweeps after an Israel army truck was blown up when it passed a booby-trapped car parked on a road less than a mile from the area controlled by the marines.

Hughes said today, "This development underscores the urgent necessity to get on with the effort to negotiate the prompt withdrawal from Lebanon of Israel and other external forces." In that connection, U.S. special envoy Philip Habib met with President Reagan at the White House today before going back to Lebanon in an effort to speed up the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon.

Both the White House and the State Department denied today that there was any dissatisfaction in the Administration with Nicholas Veliotis, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and Asian Affairs and Morris Draper, the special envoy for the negotiations in Lebanon. A report in the Washington Times today alleged that Reagan was dissatisfied with the two officials because of the lack of progress in getting foreign troops out of Lebanon. White House spokesman Larry Speakes told reporters that Veliotis and Draper were "outstanding individuals" doing "a top job."

U.S. OFFICIAL IN ROMANIA REPORTEDLY TO WARN GOVERNMENT NOT TO APPLY SPECIAL EDUCATION TAX

BUCHAREST, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Lawrence Eagleburger arrived here today, reportedly to warn Rumania that it risks losing its most favored national status if it imposes the special education tax decreed last year. Eagleburger, who will spend one day in Bucharest, is to meet tomorrow with President and Communist Party leader Nicolae Ceausescu.

Ceausescu announced last November that Rumania will introduce a special tax on all emigrants. According to this decree, emigrants will have to reimburse the state for their educational expenses covering their last two years in high school, university studies and post-graduate courses.

The payment, evaluated at between \$10,000 to \$50,000 must be made in foreign currency. Emigrants must also surrender to the state all their property before leaving the country.

Ceausescu reportedly told Rumanian Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen last December that the tax will not be applied to Jews leaving for Israel. None of the Jews who have left so far had to pay the new tax.

Rumania and Hungary are the only two East European states which still enjoy most favored national status. Poland lost it in 1982 after martial law was imposed by the Warsaw government.

Congress is due to examine Rumania's case in May and American spokesmen have repeatedly warned that it risks losing its privileged status should it prevent free emigration. During the last five years some 2,000 non-Jewish Rumanians left for the United States and 13,000 for West Germany. Rosen said last month that Jewish emigration to Israel had increased by 40 percent in 1982 compared to the previous year.

SERIOUS RIFT IN AGUDA OVER ISSUE OF 'WHO IS A JEW'

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- A mass rally here last night in support of the "Who is a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return opened a serious rift within the ultra-Orthodox Aguda Israel party over whether the measure should be pressed in the Knesset at this time or be held in abeyance until circumstances improve its chances for passage. Defeat, a virtual certainty at present, would lead to a coalition crisis.

The 4,000 who gathered at the Binyanei Ha'Ooma convention hall clearly wanted action now. The rally was organized by the Chabad (Lubavitch) Hasidic movement which itself is not part of the Aguda. But all of the Hasidic elements within the party were represented, led by Rabbi Simcha Bunim Alter, the "Gerrer Rebbe" who is co-chairman of the "Council of Sages," the governing body of the party.

On the other hand, the "Mittnagged" wing of Aguda, (opponents of Hasidism) headed by the other co-chairman, Rabbi Eliezer Sach, opposed the rally and demonstratively boycotted it. So did most of the religious court judges. The party's four-man Knesset faction was also split. The two Hasidic members, Avraham Shapiro and Shmuel Halpern attended the rally. Shlomo Lorincz and Menachem Porush stayed away. The split was accompanied by mud-slinging between the party factions, before and after the rally.

The "Who is a Jew" amendment would define a Jew as a person born of a Jewish mother or converted "according to halacha" (religious law). The inclusion of those three words, which are omitted from the present law, is the cause of the controversy that has bedeviled the issue since the inception of the State. They would, in effect, recognize as valid only conversions performed by Orthodox rabbis.

Premier Menachem Begin promised the Aguda that he would do his utmost to get the amendment through the Knesset during his term in office. This was one of the many concessions he made in order to persuade the Aguda to join his narrowly-based coalition government. But it is one of the few on which he has been unable to deliver, mainly because of strong opposition within the Liberal Party wing of Likud.

FRENCH OFFICIAL DELEGATION TO VISIT ISRAEL THIS WEEK

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- A French official delegation will be in Jerusalem this week negotiating a new two-year cultural protocol within the framework of the 1959 cultural accord between the two countries.

Israeli officials are particularly pleased at this event, since France postponed the session in July when it was originally scheduled because of the Lebanon war. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir mentioned the meeting at the Cabinet meeting yesterday as an indicator of improving ties with France.

Some official observers here are seeking to set President Francois Mitterrand's invitation to President Yitzhak Navon to visit Paris within the same context of improving relations. The invitation was conveyed by the French Ambassador in Washington last week -- but it now appears that Navon will be unable to take it up on his way home from the U.S., as originally intended, because the prospective host, Mitterrand, will be abroad at that time. Israeli sources said there had been a mix-up on the French side, and that Navon would probably make the visit in two or three weeks time.

ADL REPORTS THAT ANTI-SEMITIC VANDALISM IN U.S. DECLINED IN 1982

NEW YORK, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- After more than doubling for three years in a row, anti-Semitic vandalism in the United States declined noticeably in 1982, according to the annual audit conducted by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The survey disclosed 829 reported incidents this year in 35 states and the District of Columbia as compared to 974 in 31 states and the District in 1981 -- a drop of 14.9 percent.

In making the findings public, Nathan Perlmutter, ADL's national director, noted that the number of arrests in connection with the anti-Semitic episodes increased nearly 50 percent -- from 114 in 1981 to 167 in 1982. Of those arrested, he said, more than 80 percent were under the age of 20.

The attacks included the defacement of Jewish institutions, stores, homes and public property with swastikas, anti-Jewish slogans and graffiti. Of the 829 total, there were 14 cases of arson or attempted arson as against 16 in 1981, and three bombings as against four last year.

Factors In The Decline Of Vandalism

The audit was prepared by the Research Department of ADL's Civil Rights Division based on information provided by the ADL's 27 regional offices in this country. It attributed the decline in vandalism, arson and bombings to a number of factors, including:

- * Exposure of the facts about anti-Semitic vandalism and other anti-Jewish activity, leading to greater public awareness of the problem;

- * The enactment of laws in several states against religiously motivated vandalism;

- * Stricter law enforcement in problem areas;

- * Security conferences -- many sponsored by ADL in cooperation with law enforcement authorities, educators and religious leaders -- which have led to increased police and civilian vigilance;

- * Educational programs in the schools that have focused on the evils of bigotry and prejudice.

The audit also revealed that while there was an increase in the number of harassments against individual Jews or their institutions -- 593 as against 350 recorded for 1981 -- the rate of increase was lower. In 1982, the rate of increase was 69 percent higher than the previous year. The 350 recorded in 1981, however, was 212.5 percent higher than the 1980 total of 112.

Downturn Should Be Kept In Perspective

In assessing the results of the report, Perlmutter warned that "the downturn in anti-Semitic vandalism, welcome though it is, should be kept in perspective. Hundreds of anti-Semitic episodes sadly suggest that any relaxation of vigilance or of prosecution of offenders would be premature."

He went on to point out that while anti-Semitic vandalism was declining in the United States, there was a "disturbing increase" in anti-Jewish violence in Western Europe which resulted in the deaths of six persons and the wounding of 216 others in 1982.

According to an ADL survey made public in October there were 41 episodes of terrorism --

including bombings and shootings -- in six West European countries in 1982 compared to 15 such terrorist attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions in 1981. The overseas audit was conducted by ADL's European office headquartered in Paris.

Most Incidents Occurred In Four States

Almost two thirds of the 829 anti-Semitic incidents in the U.S. occurred in four states.

New York, with 272 -- down from 326 the year before -- still led the nation. Next was California with 134, down from 150 in 1981; New Jersey with 69, down from 94; and Massachusetts with 62, compared to 59 in 1981. The total of 537 in these states was 92 less than the previous year -- a decline of 14.6 percent, mirroring the percentage decrease nationally.

The ADL audit also showed that:

- * The Northeast, with 467 incidents or 56.3 percent of the reported anti-Semitic episodes, was once again the geographic area reporting the greatest number. The 1982 total, however, went down 16 percent as contrasted with the previous year.

- * In the Middle West there were 73 reported anti-Semitic incidents in 1982, a decrease of 46 compared to the previous year. In percentage terms, this represented a 38.7 percent decrease;

- * Although California was once again the Pacific Coast state reporting the greatest number of anti-Semitic episodes, its total was 10.6 percent below 1981. The other West Coast states -- Washington and Oregon -- again reported small numbers: Four this year, the same as in 1981.

- * The South, including Texas, however, was an exception to the audit. These southern states reported 91 incidents in 1982 compared to 81 in 1981, an increase of 12.4 percent.

Need For Stronger Measures

Perlmutter expressed the hope that other states would follow the lead of the 12 thus far -- Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Washington -- which have enacted laws imposing stiffer penalties for persons convicted of religious or racial vandalism or other acts motivated by bigotry. Some of these statutes were based on a model law drawn up by the ADL.

"The 1982 audit, despite some encouraging signs," Perlmutter concluded, "still revealed hundreds of anti-Semitic incidents in this nation. Clearly what is called for are even stronger law enforcement measures, community action and educational efforts to stamp out this blight on American society."

JEWISH YOUTH TO BE DRAFTED INTO THE WEST GERMAN ARMY

BONN, Jan. 10 (JTA) -- The West German army (Bundeswehr), expecting a shortage of manpower over the next two years, is re-examining a long-standing unofficial arrangement whereby Jewish young men of military age have been exempted from the draft for historical and political reasons.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned of several cases recently where young Jews have experienced difficulty obtaining exemptions. This is because all 18-year-olds are now needed to fill draft quotas. Such had not been the case in the past. The recruitment of Jews has become a subject of discussion by State officials and by various Jewish institutions.

In several instances, Jewish leaders here have told young people that the issue could become a test of the Jewish community's will to be accepted as an integral part of West German society. Pressure is mounting to treat all recruits equally and exceptions are no longer tolerated.