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ISRAEL, LEBANON AGREE TO SET UP THREE MORE SUBCOMMITTEES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Israel and Lebanon agreed today to set up three more subcommittees to deal directly with various items on their negotiating agenda. The delegations, with the U.S. also participating, met for the second time this week, today at the Israeli border town of Kiryat Shmona.

At their meeting in Khalde, Lebanon Monday, the two sides established a subcommittee to deal with ending the state of war between Israel and Lebanon. At today's session, subcommittees were set up on security arrangements, the framework for mutual relations and the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, it was announced by Avi Pazner, spokesman for the Israeli delegation.

Pazner did not disclose the working schedules of the subcommittees. But according to reliable sources, Israeli and Lebanese delegates will be getting together on almost a daily basis from now on instead of the earlier format of meetings twice a week.

U.S. special Ambassador Philip Habib remained in Jerusalem, meanwhile, to continue his parallel talks with a high level Israeli negotiating team consisting at the moment of Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his senior aides. Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, another member, is on an official visit to Zaire.

Fail To Reconcile Serious Differences

Habib is dealing with essentially the same issues as are being taken up at the Khalde and Kiryat Shmona meetings. But so far he has apparently failed to reconcile the serious differences between Israel and Lebanon over the proposed security zone in south Lebanon. The Lebanese object to Israel's insistence that early warning stations there be manned exclusively by Israeli soldiers and that Israel's main ally, Maj. Saad Haddad, be assured of a role in policing the zone. Haddad is considered a renegade in Beirut.

Shamir yesterday categorically rejected a proposal attributed to Habib that American personnel could man the advance warning outposts. Israel is also complaining that the U.S. backs the Lebanese in their dispute with Israel over the nature and extent of normalization. Lebanon is reluctant to agree to provisions that would mean extensive exchanges of people between the two countries.

U.S. sources have refused to comment on any developments, which is usually the case when Habib is in the midst of negotiations.

ATTORNEY CLAIMS SOLDIERS USED EXCESSIVE FORCE ON WEST BANK AT DIRECT ORDERS FROM THE C.O.S.

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- The defense attorney for an Israeli major and six soldiers accused of using excessive force to subdue Arab demonstrators on the West Bank claimed in court today that the defendants were acting under the direct orders of Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan.

The attorney submitted for the record documents containing the minutes of a staff meeting at which Eitan allegedly ordered indiscriminate harassment of the Arab civilian population on the West Bank to curb disturbances in the territory last March. He also instructed military courts in the area to impose stiffer punishment on Arabs arrested for disorderly conduct.

The full contents of the documents were not made public. If they are challenged by the military prosecutor's office, Eitan may be summoned to testify at the trial.

The operations officer of the Judea district testified yesterday that orders were issued to soldiers to shoot at solar water heaters on the roofs of Arab buildings, to smash wristwatches and to shoot into alleys in order to enforce curfews. The seven defendants are charged specifically with assaulting Arab students at the Islamic University in Hebron and mistreating other Arabs. The trial is expected to end next week.

POLL SHOWS LIKUD WOULD RETAIN ITS PRIMACY IN NEW ELECTIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Likud would win more votes than any other single party in new Knesset elections in which the Labor Party list was headed by President Yitzhak Navon and a new party headed by former Defense Minister Ezer Weizman was also in the contest, according to the latest public opinion poll here.

Likud would still fall short of a majority in the 120-member Knesset but it would nevertheless be in a more advantageous position than its rivals to form a governing coalition, according to Sara Shemer, leading pollster of the Modin Ezrachi organization which conducted the survey for The Jerusalem Post.

The findings, based on a sampling of nearly 2,000 Israelis of voting age, showed that Likud would lose three seats to the Labor Alignment if Navon headed that list and four seats to a centrist party headed by Weizman. In such an election, the results would be, according to Shemer:

Likud, 52; Labor, 42; National Religious Party, 5; Aguda Israel, 4; Weizman's party, 4; Tami, 3; Civil Rights Movement (now aligned with Labor) 2; Shinui, 2; Tehiya, 2; Rakah (Communist) 4.

An earlier poll by Shemer, in which neither Navon nor Weizman was among the candidates, showed 57 seats for Likud to 39 for Labor.

"The involvement of new faces in politics at this time would not cause an immediate upheaval," Shemer wrote. "However, they do have voting appeal... Although Likud retains its primacy in the capacity to form a coalition, the starting point of the alternative coalition forces appears to be fairly advantageous."

ORTHODOX RABBI SAYS HE WILL APPOINT COMMISSION TO EXPLORE HALACHIC IMPLICATIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ARMS, WAR

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, said he would appoint a new commission to explore the halachic implications

of the nuclear age, including the development of nuclear arms and nuclear war.

Addressing more than 200 rabbis at the closing session of the Council's two-day meeting here at the Homowack Lodge, Klaperman said he decided to appoint the commission because "We have to extrapolate new applications from halacha, within a totally new framework, to deal with the morality of nuclear weapons escalation."

The Orthodox rabbi noted that he "could not see how the normally applicable categories of Jewish law (halacha) such as self-defense, endangerment, over-reaction to attack, and legal restraints, could possibly be directed to the contemporary nuclear age in which the two super-powers are already facing each other with taut trigger fingers on cocked nuclear weapons."

'Time For Collective World Sanity'

Stressing that "if ever there was a time for collective world sanity, it is now," Klaperman called for a nuclear freeze by the super-powers provided that any agreement arrived at would be subject to adequate inspection and control and that the United States would not be potentially at risk as a result of the agreement.

"There are enough nuclear weapons already in existence in the arsenals of world powers to destroy the world a number of times over," Klaperman said. "Each great power has enough destructive potential now to maintain an effective mutual deterrent against a first strike without the need to build more nuclear weapons."

Continuing, he declared: "We must defuse the nuclear arms race and make every effort to reduce the escalation of nuclear arms. Perhaps as we wind down the expansion of weaponry, we will also wind down the threat of nuclear havoc and holocaust." Klaperman pointed out that "The immense colossal, inconceivable destruction that could result from a nuclear war is a quantum leap from the destruction resulting from the use of conventional weapons."

Question Of Nuclear War Is Top Priority

Rabbi J. David Bleich, professor of Talmud at Yeshiva University and Tenzer Professor of Jewish Law and Ethics at the Benjamin Cardozo Law School at Yeshiva University, said there is no more significant social, political issue to which rabbis could now turn their attention than the question of nuclear war.

He said that according to Judaism, war is absolutely forbidden, other than at specific divine behest. The only time when one can use arms, other than at divine behest, is for self-defense. But, Bleich noted, self-defense is not characterized as war. "Self-defense give the intended victim the right to eliminate aggression, but not the right to sacrifice the lives of innocent bystanders," he said.

The rabbinic scholar pointed out that war, "when theologically sanctioned, generates the right to go to battle even though there may be casualties among non-combatants. Nuclear warfare, such as occurred at Hiroshima, involved intentional annihilation of innocent combatants." The direct intention to kill non-combatants "such as in nuclear war is morally and theologically odious and morally indefensible," Bleich added. He stressed, however, that he is opposed to unilateral disarmament.

REBUILDING EFFORTS BEGUN BY CONGREGATION WHOSE SYNAGOGUE WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE

DETROIT, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Congregation Beth Abraham Hillel Moses in the suburban community of West Bloomfield has already begun its rebuilding efforts to reconstruct the sanctuary, social hall and two kitchens destroyed by fire Monday night.

The congregation will open an office in the largely-spared school wing today or tomorrow and expects to move its Hebrew classes back into the refurbished school wing within two weeks. In the meantime, weekday afternoon and Sunday classes will be held at a public elementary school one mile away.

Daily minyanim will be held in the home of a member of the congregation or in the home of Rabbi A. Irving Schnipper until the school wing is ready. The congregation will hold Sabbath services at the nearby First Church of Christ Scientist until their sanctuary is rebuilt.

Synagogue president Nat Fishman told the congregation yesterday that the synagogue has received an outpouring of donations from the Detroit area's Jewish and non-Jewish communities. Area synagogues are providing prayer shawls and prayer books, and arranging to host functions. Fishman said that Beth Abraham Hillel Moses plans to be back in its own sanctuary in time for the High Holidays next September.

Five Torah scrolls were destroyed in the fire, but fire fighters were able to save six large Torahs and three small ones from the synagogue's small chapel. With the aid of fire fighters, Schnipper entered his smoky but unscarred office during the fire to rescue a Torah he had inherited from an uncle.

Local and federal fire investigators yesterday told a meeting at the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit that they were upset with local press coverage of the fire. The press has stated that arson is suspected. The officials said that as of yesterday they had completed sifting through only one-third of the evidence and would not be able to say for several days what caused the fire.

The congregation built the synagogue in 1971 and paid off its mortgage last May.

GOLDBERG SAYS HE WILL 'RECONVENE' HOLOCAUST STUDY COMMISSION

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg said yesterday that he would "reconvene" the American Jewish Commission on the Holocaust which was disbanded last August because, according to Goldberg, the sponsor failed to provide the funds promised to carry out its project.

Goldberg said he would ask his associate, Prof. Seymour Finger of the City University of New York Graduate School, to call a meeting for that purpose in New York on February 9. The commission was established in 1981 to study what the organized American Jewish community did or failed to do to save European Jewry from the Holocaust in the years 1939-1945.

Goldberg said in a statement released in Washington that he would personally provide and assure the provision of the required funds to complete the study. Finger, who heads the research on the project, said earlier in the month that Goldberg was unable to finance the project alone after its sponsor, businessman and Holocaust survivor Jack Eisner, halted payments.

Eisner, in a special interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, said he was willing to provide funding for the reformation of the panel. (See January 20 Bulletin.)

INCIDENT IN TABA SAID TO BE THE RESULT OF AN ERROR

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Reports of a serious confrontation between Israelis and Egyptians in the disputed Taba region south of Eilat proved to be a false alarm today. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry said the incident which triggered the reports was the result of an error which has been corrected.

According to Israel Radio this morning, Egyptian forces broke down the border fence on their side of the Taba region last night, drove tractors in and started to erect a structure. Egyptian soldiers were said to be patrolling the damaged fence. The reports, picked up by foreign news media, described the incident as a clash between Israelis and Egyptians, the first since their peace treaty was signed in 1979.

But an Israeli army spokesman said later that there was only a "minor incident" of little importance and no loud dispute, as reported by the media, between the Israeli liaison officer in the region and the Egyptians. The Foreign Ministry in Cairo explained that a tractor had been driven into the disputed area by mistake and was withdrawn. They apologized for the error.

Taba, several acres of beachfront on the Gulf of Aqaba, is claimed by both Israel and Egypt. Under terms of the peace treaty, the dispute must be resolved by negotiation or arbitration. Negotiations were suspended after Israel invaded Lebanon last June.

Israel has since opened a resort hotel, the Sonesta, on the disputed land. The manager of the hotel told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that he was unaware of the tractor incident.

400 PEOPLE AT RALLY TO MARK SHCHARANSKY'S 35th BIRTHDAY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- About 400 persons demonstrated across from the Soviet Embassy here today to mark the 35th birthday of Anatoly Shcharansky, the Soviet Jewish activist who has been imprisoned since March, 1977.

The event, sponsored by the Washington Board of Rabbis, was part of the daily vigil maintained outside the Embassy for Soviet Jews and also part of a fast in solidarity with Shcharansky. He has been on a hunger strike since September to protest the denial to him of visits by members of his family and mail.

According to Samuel Sisen, of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, the number of participants in the vigil today is believed to be the largest since they were started. The Rev. Robert Drinan, head of the International Committee for Shcharansky, agreed. He noted that each time he participates in a vigil, the number of people seems to get larger. "That's beautiful," he said.

Rabbi Joshua Haberman, president of the Washington Board of Rabbis, Marcia Weinberg, head of the Soviet Jewish Committee of the Greater Washington JCC, Joan Dodek, head of the Washington Committee for Soviet Jewry and Drinan tried unsuccessfully to present a petition to the Embassy. However, Sisen noted that Embassy personnel took leaflets that were being handed out to passers-by, indicating that the group's message did get the Embassy's attention.

GENERALLY ENCOURAGING PICTURE OF FALASHAS IN ETHIOPIA PRESENTED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- A generally encouraging picture of the life of the Falashas in Ethiopia's Gundar province, where Ethiopian Jews are mainly concentrated, and especially in Ambover, where there is a large community, was presented to the media here today by two Israeli "professional social workers" recently returned from Ethiopia.

Their report, at a press conference organized by the World Jewish Congress-Israel Bureau which was instrumental in arranging their visit to Ethiopia, was sharply contrary to most reports received hitherto which presented the plight of the Falashas as dire and indicated they were in danger of extinction.

The press conference was attended by Yehuda Dominitz, director of the Jewish Agency's aliya department and a key figure in efforts to promote the immigration of Falashas to Israel. He appeared to agree with the description of the situation presented by the social workers who were not identified by name.

Asked why their account differed so widely from many recent depictions of the Falashas' plight, a spokesperson for the group of four Israelis who had gone to Ethiopia, replied that perhaps the situation had been worse in the past. Two members of the group were absent from the press conference. Dr. Israel Lerner, WJC director in Israel, identified the spokesperson as "Ora."

Conditions Outlined

According to the report presented to the media today, the Falashas are living under conditions entirely comparable to those of their non-Falasha Ethiopian neighbors. They are not being persecuted because of their religion; they are not starving or living in fear of murder or mayhem; they have been allocated lands to cultivate under the agrarian revolution, along with other sections of the rural population; all-in-all, their condition is a far cry from the description of torture and tribulation that have emanated from Falashas abroad and from some Jewish organizations recently, according to the social workers.

Although there was no famine or large-scale persecution, many Falashas express a longing to live in Israel and/or be reunited with members of their families who have left Ethiopia--most of them for Israel, the social workers reported. Like all Ethiopians, they may not leave the country.

The social workers said restrictions on religious observances which were in force until a year ago have been eased. Synagogues have been reopened and services are conducted freely. The ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training) schools and other ORT institutions were closed down about 18 months ago, however, and this created a lapse in Jewish education for the Falashas, the social workers reported.

The spokesperson added that Falashas now living abroad were naturally exercised about the question of family reunion and that perhaps was why they tended to paint a picture of conditions at home in somber hues. But, she said, her group lectured and showed pictures to groups of Falashas in Israel yesterday and their leaders acknowledged that theirs was a correct description of the situation.

Lerner said the WJC had moved to arrange the group's visit in the light of a recent Reuters report filed from Nairobi in which the correspondent cited Ethiopian officials as inviting Israelis to visit the Falasha communities and see for themselves the true situation there.

ORT INCREASING ITS PROGRAMS IN MOST WORLD JEWISH POPULATION CENTERS

NEW YORK, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- ORT (The Organization For Rehabilitation Through Training) has seen a significant increase in its vocational/technical training programs serving Jews in most of the world's major Jewish population centers during the past four years.

At the same time ORT is being forced to end its programs for Jews in Iran and the Falashas of Ethiopia and to severely limit its programs in Rome for Jews leaving the Soviet Union, according to a report by American ORT Federation president Sidney Liewant which will be presented at the organization's national conference banquet Saturday.

Liewant, who will conclude his four years of AOF presidency at the conference, notes that "ORT has been a mirror of Jewish life and history during the past four years, as ORT has always been since it first began in Czarist Russia 103 years ago in 1880 and as ORT will continue to be in the future. We will expand our programs wherever possible."

During the three-day conference, which begins tomorrow, some 500 delegates from American Men's ORT groups throughout the United States will discuss the new directions to be taken by ORT in the 1980's and 1990's in its global network of 800 schools and training centers which serve some 100,000 students.

ORT's Role In Israel

According to Liewant, ORT Israel has become an increasingly important part of ORT operations in recent years, with a current total of 74,000 students in 104 schools and training centers. One of the most outstanding ORT projects is the ORT school of Engineering, located on the campus of Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

First opened in 1976 with a student body of 608, it was dramatically expanded with the dedication of the school's second stage last September. Current enrollment totals some 2,500 students training in high technology and computer based fields up to the level of practical engineering.

A part of the country's national fabric since the establishment of the State of Israel, during the hostilities in Lebanon, 32 graduates of ORT Israel schools fell in action, nearly 10 percent of the casualty rate.

Situation In France

In France, Liewant's report continues, ORT's second largest operation has grown to serve 8,500 students in eight schools throughout the country. Most of the students are children of the thousands of Sephardic Jews from North Africa who in recent years have swelled France's Jewish population to 700,000 making it the fourth largest in the world.

A new computer center at the ORT school in the Paris suburb of Choisy-le-Roi is in high demand among both high school students and adults.

Programs Expanded In Latin America

In Latin America ORT has expanded its existing programs of creative education, distance education projects and vocational/technical training at the high school and college level and last Spring ORT Argentina enlarged the ORT Technical Institute of Buenos Aires with a new

wing. At the dedication, Liewant presented a personal gift of a Torah scroll to the school's synagogue.

In the United States, ORT has upgraded its computer programming and ophthalmic technology courses at the Bramson ORT Technical Institute in New York City, the first and only technical college under Jewish auspices in the United States. Last December the school was granted an Absolute Charter from the New York Board of Regents.

ORT entered the American Jewish Day School System with a program of science and computer education at the Jewish High School of South Florida, which opened in 1981. Enrollment has nearly doubled to 200 for the current school year and the ORT program is in high demand.

In 1982, ORT opened its first operational presence since the 1940's in Great Britain with an ORT Workshop in the Jewish Cultural Center in Manchester, England, a program which currently has eight instructors and 30 trainees.

Situation In Other Countries

At ORT schools in Morocco and India enrollment has increased and new programs have been added. A new school in Bombay is currently under construction.

But, says Liewant, not all ORT operations have expanded in recent years. In 1980 the Iranian government seized the ORT school in Teheran and shut down all ORT operations in Iran.

The ORT-American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee program which helped the Falashas of Ethiopia with wells, roads, vocational training and medical care was closed down by the Ethiopian government in 1981.

The ORT program in Rome, which once provided thousands of Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union with vocational training for their new lives of freedom, has been greatly reduced since 1980 when the Soviet Union clamped down on Jewish emigration.

"In all the countries where ORT has been forced by turns of history and politics to limit or cease operations for Jews," Liewant notes, "ORT stands ready to re-establish its programs of schools and training centers whenever changing situations permit. ORT will continue to serve the needs of Jews throughout the world wherever it is possible to do so."

FORMER FRENCH OFFICIAL CHARGED WITH 'CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY'

PARIS, Jan. 20 (JTA) -- Maurice Papon, a former Cabinet Minister, was yesterday formally charged with "crimes against humanity" for his acts during World War II when he served as a high-ranking official in the Vichy government. Jewish organizations and surviving Jewish families accuse Papon of having collaborated with the Nazis in the deportation of over 1,000 Jews, including some 200 children, from Bordeaux.

Papon, who joined the French resistance in 1943, is charged with having signed a number of official documents providing for French police cooperation with the Nazis in the deportation of Bordeaux Jews. A jury of honor, called by Papon last year, to clear him of all guilt and suspicions, ruled that Papon had indeed been a resistance fighter but said that he should have resigned from his official duties in 1942 to avoid having to cooperate with the Nazis.