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ISRAEL EXPECTS RELATIONS WITH U.S. TO WORSEN OVER LEBANON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Israeli government sources were markedly downbeat today as U.S. special envoy Philip Habib returned here from weekend trips to Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. The sources, speaking after a lengthy Cabinet debate, seemed to expect a worsening of relations with the U.S. in light of Habib's failure to make progress over Lebanon.

The sources expected the U.S. to publicly blame Israel for the stalemate on the withdrawal of Israeli forces and negotiation package in Lebanon. They said they detected signs of this trend in recent media leaks emanating from Washington.

This downbeat view was expressed as Habib and his deputy, Morris Draper, were scheduled to meet tonight with Premier Menachem Begin and other Israeli officials for a summation of Habib's efforts so far to get the Israel-Lebanon talks off dead center.

There is a feeling in Israeli government circles that Israeli and American interests in Lebanon are fundamentally divergent and that the U.S., for reasons connected with its policies vis-a-vis the wider Arab world, does not wish to see Israel achieve a political success in Lebanon.

American officials argue that this is not at all the case, but rather that Lebanon itself cannot agree to the political and other demands that Israel is making of it because of Arab world pressures and because of the delicate situation within the country itself.

At the end of Habib's week-long efforts here, in intensive talks with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other Israeli officials to speed up the negotiation and withdrawal process, Israeli sources said the U.S. envoy has made no real progress.

Key Disputed Points

They listed the following key disputed points on which there had been no narrowing of the gaps between Israel and the U.S.:

Israel's demand for IDF-manned warning stations at three sites in Lebanon -- Sidon, Nabatiya and Jebel Barukh; Israel's demand that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) leave south Lebanon and that Maj. Saad Haddad's militia have a built-in role in policing the area; and Israel's desire for maximum normalization with Lebanon.

Reports from Beirut over the weekend said Habib had obtained Lebanese support for a proposal that American personnel man the projected warning stations in the south. Israel, however, rejects this solution, according to sources here.

Different Views About UNIFIL

On UNIFIL's future role, the Israeli sources said, Habib was deliberately vague, leaving details to be worked out in negotiations. But the American envoy was firm in the view that UNIFIL's continued presence was necessary in the south to bolster the Lebanese army's efforts to keep the peace and keep the area terrorist-free.

In this, Habib said, he was reflecting the Lebanese own conviction that, with their army still in an early stage of reconstruction, they need UNIFIL's help.

Israeli sources maintain, however that UNIFIL would hinder rather than help in keeping the security zone of southern Lebanon free of terrorists. The Israelis cite past experiences involving UNIFIL, which has been in place since 1978, which, they say, often showed the UN force was lax towards the Palestine Liberation Organization and ineffective in preventing incursions.

UN officials, in private conversations, hotly dispute these allegations. They claim there were scores, perhaps hundreds of incidents in which UNIFIL had acted to prevent PLO incursions that might have reached the Israeli border. And they cite current occasional terrorist acts within the IDF-controlled areas of Lebanon to prove that no security system can be totally effective in a thickly populated area.

Regarding normalization, Habib's position during the talks last week was, according to the Israeli sources, that broad principles be agreed upon now, such as the principle of open borders, but detailed arrangements should be made only after the withdrawal of IDF and other foreign forces from Lebanon. Israel wants the details determined before the withdrawal.

SIMONE VEIL: 'I HAVE HAD ENOUGH' OF TRIALS OF FORMER NAZIS OR COLLABORATORS 40 YEARS AFTER WWII

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Simone Veil, former President of the European Parliament and a survivor of Auschwitz, said she has "had enough" of trials of former Nazis or Nazi collaborators. In an interview with *Le Monde*, Veil said: "My views on this subject might shock some and might be misunderstood by others but 40 years after the war, I have had enough of these trials."

Mrs. Veil, a former magistrate, was questioned about the "Papon affair," the case of former Budget Minister Maurice Papon who was charged last week with "crimes against humanity" for his alleged role in the deportation of 1,690 Jews from Bordeaux when he was an official of the Vichy regime during World War II.

Veil, who takes an active interest in Jewish affairs, also said she was adamantly opposed to retroactive laws. She stressed that Papon was being charged 40 years after the alleged events, after France's Parliament lifted the statute of limitations for war crimes or crimes against humanity. "I have always doubted the wisdom of changing existing laws to rule out the statute of limitations and apply a law retroactively," she said.

Veil, who lost her family in Auschwitz, said: (Adolf) Eichmann was a case apart. He had become a symbol. I also think that (Josef) Mengele (the Auschwitz doctor) were he to be found, would justify some special measures. As for the rest, I have had enough of these trials."

Veil said that people who committed war crimes or crimes against humanity and are only now being found out "should not be permitted to continue leading normal, quiet, everyday lives." She explained that the public revelation of their former acts would be sufficient punishment but ruled out any legal proceedings.

SHARON, MOBUTU SIGN 5-YEAR DEVELOPMENT AND ARMS AID ACCORD

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon returned Friday from his four-day official visit to Zaire after signing a five-year development and military aid agreement with President Mobutu Sese Seko.

Sharon stressed on his return that there was no danger that Israeli soldiers would become involved in the internal struggles of Zaire or in any wars in Africa. "We hope that by strengthening the forces of President Mobutu it will serve as a deterrent and bring about peace" in Africa, the Defense Minister said.

According to Sharon, Israel's relations with Zaire have been strengthened greatly since he visited Kinshasa secretly a year ago. Zaire restored diplomatic relations with Israel last year. Sharon said that Zaire has already purchased "millions of dollars worth of military equipment" from Israel "and paid for it promptly."

But "despite the economic advantage, this is not our main aim," Sharon said. "Rather, it is the means of strengthening Israel's foreign standing in the world and bringing it out of isolation."

Sharon said the weaponry already sold to Zaire was not booty captured during the war in Lebanon last summer but equipment captured in earlier wars and repaired and up-dated for use by the Israel army. According to reporters who accompanied Sharon on his visit, some of the equipment to be supplied by Israel in the future will be captured Soviet weapons and some will be Israel-made weapons. Some of it will be sold and some will be supplied free to Zaire.

LEGISLATION SOUGHT TO PREVENT ISRAELIS FROM MEETING PLO REPS

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- The government was reported today to be seeking legal means to prevent Israeli citizens from meeting with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Cabinet was believed to have discussed the matter at its weekly session this morning but there was no confirmation of that report.

Later, the Cabinet was reported to have asked Justice Minister Moshe Nissim and Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir to prepare a legal opinion on the possibility of amending present laws to make illegal any contacts between Israelis and the PLO.

The matter arose from the apparent meeting last week between three members of the Israel Council for Israel-Palestine Peace with PLO chief Yasir Arafat, believed to have taken place in Tunis. The Israelis involved were Gen. (res.) Mattityahu Peled, Uri Avneri, editor and publisher of the magazine Haolam Haze, and Dr. Yaacov Arnon.

The PLO announced that the meeting had taken place and Peled confirmed it on a television interview where he displayed a photograph of the three Israelis with Arafat. Neither the Israelis nor the PLO would confirm that the site was in Tunis.

Peled and his group, associated with the leftist Sheli faction, were fiercely denounced by several Cabinet ministers, most vociferously by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Meir who accused the Sheli group of treason.

The Labor Party was also sharply critical, observing that the meeting made it more difficult for Israel to persuade the U.S. and other Western nations to refrain from any contacts with the PLO until the latter abandoned the section of its covenant which calls for the destruction of Israel.

Peled insisted last week that he and his colleagues had violated no law. He said the purpose of the meeting had been to explore means of peaceful co-existence between Israel and a Palestinian state. He stressed there was nothing new in the policies of the Israeli Peace Council. Its aims and the meetings of its leaders with PLO representatives have been common knowledge for years, he said. Arafat was reported to have expressed satisfaction and admiration for the work of the "peace parties and groups" within Israel. The PLO was reported to be considering an invitation to Peace Council representatives to attend next month's meeting of the Palestinian National Council in Algiers. Peled has said if the Council were invited, it would attend the meeting as observers.

There is, apparently, no law on the books at this time that makes such meetings illegal. Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i reportedly raised the need for such a law at today's Cabinet meeting. He said prior to the meeting that it was unfortunate that Israel would have to resort to legislation on issues which were obvious to the U.S. and to Britain.

The U.S. has refused any contact with the PLO unless it recognizes Israel and accepts UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher recently refused to receive an Arab League delegation, headed by King Hassan of Morocco, because one of its members was Farouk Kaddumi, PLO's foreign affairs spokesman.

Cases Still Pending

The lack of a pertinent law has prevented Attorney General Zamir so far from instituting legal action against Peled, Avneri and others in the Peace Council who have met with PLO representatives abroad in recent years. But a Likud lawyer, Yedidya Be'eri, has appealed to the Supreme Court for a ruling that would allow action against Peled. The case is still pending.

Also pending is a decision whether to bring legal action against Avneri and two of his reporters who met with Arafat in west Beirut while that city was under siege by Israeli forces last summer. The matter is awaiting a decision by a Haifa district court where the complaint was filed.

ATTENTION FOCUSED ON DRACONIAN MEASURES ALLEGEDLY ORDERED BY C.O.S. TO QUELL WEST BANK RIOTS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Draconian measures allegedly ordered by Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan to quell disturbances on the West Bank last spring became the focus of attention over the weekend in the court martial trial of an Israeli major and six soldiers accused of using excessive force against Palestinian civilians in the territory.

Their defense attorney, contending that the accused were only following orders from the highest echelons of the military establishment, presented documents as evidence last week. The Jerusalem Post reported Friday that the documents show that Eitan had proposed "punishment by expulsion," deliberate harassment of West Bank Arabs to enforce law and order and the establishment of detention camps to hold detainees pending trial.

According to the Post, the Chief of Staff suggested "repeated and arbitrary arrests, punishing parents" of youths charged with disorderly conduct "and using

collective punishment such as curfews and economic sanctions against troublesome villages."

Eitan also suggested, according to the documents reported by the Post, that a "detention/exile camp" be built where "normal prison conditions" need not pertain "to hold detainees until the end of their investigation." The Chief of Staff reportedly recommended "carrot-and-stick" tactics whereby "good" villages would be rewarded and "bad" villages punished.

Charges that harsh measures were being used by the Israeli military in the territory against local demonstrators were first voiced by members of the Peace Now movement who had done their military reserve duty on the West Bank and purportedly witnessed various incidents of maltreatment. They have asked Premier Menachem Begin to publicly dissociate himself from the guidelines proposed by Eitan.

Eitan Defends His Record

Eitan defended his record in an interview published in Yediot Achronot Friday and said he stood by his orders to the troops on the West Bank. He said that tanks had not been used in Nablus during his first four years as Chief of Staff, and that only 44 Arab homes had been destroyed in that period compared to 163 four years earlier. According to Eitan, from 1967 until he became Chief of Staff four years ago, 853 persons had been expelled from the occupied territories compared to only four persons during his tenure.

ISRAELI PRESS NOMINATED FOR INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR ITS FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- The Israeli press has been nominated for the Golden Pen International Award for outstanding achievements in the struggle for freedom of the press. The nomination was made by Finnish and Scandinavian journalists to the International Association of Newspaper Publishers, which gives the award.

They nominated the Israeli press collectively, in honor of its coverage of the Lebanon war, noting that despite difficulties the Israeli press succeeded in informing its readers of the massacre in the Beirut refugee camps and played an important part in forcing the government to set up a judicial commission of inquiry.

The executive committee of the publishers association is to meet in Italy next week and decide whether to accept the nomination. An Israeli representative on the publishers body told his colleagues the decision should have no political tint or significance.

EL AL TO CLOSE 6 EUROPEAN OFFICES

TEL AVIV, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- El Al is to close six of its European offices within the next few days and dismiss dozens of its Israeli workers there, El Al managing director Rafael Harlev and the company's temporary receiver, custodian-general Amram Blum, have decided.

Closure of the offices in Brussels, Copenhagen, Marseilles, Bucharest, Munich and Lisbon will save an estimated \$550,000 annually. Airline sources say a list of half of the 750 permanent El Al employees who are to be dismissed has already been prepared, and the entire list will be completed shortly.

Meanwhile, the new El Al management's plans for special \$499 round-trip fares from New York to Tel Aviv and equally low fares from Tel Aviv to Europe have met with resistance from other airlines which have threatened to take action, possibly by cancelling their flights to Israel because of what they term "unfair competition."

El Al is said to be readying a "take your wife free" to Europe campaign -- offering two tickets for the price of one, for a limited period until El Al's sales organization gets back into its stride.

EXTREMIST LEADER CHARGED WITH MURDER OF JEWISH PUBLISHER

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Karl-Heinz Hoffmann, who headed a group of West German rightwing extremists who received military training in PLO installations in Lebanon, was last week charged in Nuremberg with the murder of Jewish publisher Shlomo Levin and his companion Frida Poeschke in Erlangen on December 18, 1980. At the same time, the state prosecutor charged Hoffmann's friend, Franziska Birkmann, with complicity in the murder.

Hoffmann was the leader of a so-called sports group named after him, which was outlawed in 1980 by the then Interior Minister Gerhard Baum. Some 15 members of the group, led by Hoffmann personally, later turned up in PLO military camps where they trained in the use of arms.

Meanwhile, most members of the group returned to Germany, and some of them were taken into custody on various charges, including the murder of a comrade who trained with them in Lebanon.

Police claim that Hoffmann killed Levin for political reasons. While Levin held no official post shortly before his death and was at odds with the local Jewish community he had made a name as an outspoken and eloquent representative of German Jewry. Before coming to Germany he lived in Israel and has left a family in Haifa.

FIRST AMERICAN BEER TO BE PRODUCED IN ISRAEL

NETANYA, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- An Anheuser-Busch beer will be brewed in Israel and distributed nationally under a licensing agreement signed here. It will be the first American beer to be produced in Israel.

The agreement by Anheuser-Busch International, Inc. licensed National Brewery Limited to brew and distribute one of Anheuser-Busch's beers for sale in late 1983 or early 1984. The brand was not specified, but Anheuser-Busch products include Budweiser and Michelob.

August Busch III, chairman and chief executive of Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc., said upon signing the agreement here, "We are delighted with this important development for our company and are confident that, as with all our international licensing agreements, National Brewery will brew our beer in their excellent facilities to our rigid specifications for taste and quality control."

National Brewery Limited, which is an Israeli company, produces 90 percent of all beer brands marketed in Israel. The remainder is imported from Europe. Murray Goldman, owner of National Brewery, said the company is proud of its achievement of standards which enables it to join the Anheuser-Busch family of international licensees.

Anheuser-Busch International brewmasters have worked closely with National Brewery for more than seven months, and the first test brew is expected to be ready soon.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- One Israeli in five has taken part in a demonstration, according to a study undertaken by Bar-Ilan University professor Shmuel Lehman. It showed that 21 percent of all Israelis had demonstrated, compared with 11 percent in the U.S.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES REPORT ON FALASHAS WELCOMED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- A noted writer and researcher on the Jews of Ethiopia (Falashas) has welcomed the report by a group of Israeli social workers that the condition of the Falashas has generally improved.

But the expert, Louis Rapoport, author of "The Last Jews -- The Last of the Ethiopian Falashas" (Stein and Day), told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the group's report could not purport to be a comprehensive picture, since it covered less than one half of the Falasha community in Ethiopia.

The group, which recently returned from Ethiopia, held a press conference in Jerusalem last Thursday organized by the World Jewish Congress-Israel Bureau which was instrumental in arranging their visit to Ethiopia. (See full report in the Bulletin, January 21.)

Says Report Is 'Good News'

The four-member group had not visited the nearly inaccessible Tigre regions nor the Semian mountains, but had toured only the Gondar region where less than half of Ethiopia's 20,000-25,000 Falashas live. Rapoport, however, termed the group's report "very good news ... A very positive development." He told the JTA that the report seemed to show that the Ethiopian authorities had reacted to public protests abroad generated by somber reports of the Falashas' condition during recent years.

Rapoport had himself visited Ethiopia in the 1970's and, apart from his book, has written and researched extensively into the condition of the community. His book was one of the documents that caused a heightened awareness of the existence and difficulties of the Falashas, especially within the American Jewish community.

Many recent reports about the Falashas were bleak, especially about the estimated 10,000 Ethiopian Jews living in the Gondar region. They focused on the cruel activities of the governor of the area, a Major Malacca who apparently wielded his powers viciously and with scant reference to the central government in Addis Ababa. The WJC group's report seemed to show, Rapoport said, that this governor had been somehow restrained or else replaced.

Rapoport readily accepted the group's central finding -- which the group's members have repeatedly stressed in media interviews -- that the Ethiopian government does not discriminate against the Falashas. Rather, the Falasha villagers are treated in much the same way as the rest of Ethiopia's largely rural populace -- including as regards land-allocation under the agrarian reform.

Adds Note Of Caution

However, Rapoport pointed out, the Falashas did face considerable hostility from their neighbors. He doubted if an easing of government restrictions which had apparently taken place recently would have affected this basic antipathy from which the Falashas had suffered severely in the past.

The easing of government restrictions was noted by the WJC group -- particularly the reopening during the last year of Falasha synagogues which had been closed by order of the authorities.

The group was sent to Ethiopia under WJC auspices following a Reuter news agency report filed from Nairobi recently which contained, in effect, an invitation from the Ethiopian authorities to Israel to come and see Falasha conditions first-hand.

Rapoport pointed out, though, that the group had not visited the remote Tigre region, which is held in part by dissident factions involved in ongoing insurrection against the central government. Nor had the four Israelis visited the Semian mountains, ancient homeland of the Falashas where several thousand of the tribe are believed still to live. (The journey to this area requires many grueling days on mule-back.)

"You cannot get the overall picture by looking only at half of the tribe," Rapoport cautioned. "It is in Tigre that there is real poverty -- which is the real enemy of the Falashas."

Cites Possible Earlier Exaggeration

Rapoport noted that earlier somber reports, including chilling stories of atrocities, had focused -- like the report of the WJC group -- on the more readily accessible Gondar area. He acknowledged that some of the horror reports may have been exaggerated but he insisted that widespread cases of arrest, torture and other forms of repression were authenticated.

If the WJC group's report failed to reflect the prejudice and hostility of surrounding villages towards the Falashas, Rapoport said, then it was exaggerating the situation by making it seem more favorable than it in fact was.

Such exaggeration could harm the credibility of Jewish and other groups involved in pro-Falasha activities, Rapoport noted, by undermining the validity of their earlier depictions of Falasha conditions in the Gondar region.

He pointed out that the Israel government itself had carefully refrained over the years from making far-reaching statements about the Falashas' plight. The strongest and most somber statements -- which are most starkly contradicted by the WJC group's report -- came from non-government bodies, in Israel and in the United States.

Possible Harbinger of Change

Rapoport noted that reports of improvement in the lot of the Falashas "lag behind" these somber statements. This could help to explain the wide discrepancy between what the WJC group said they saw and the situation reflected in recent reports by other interested groups.

Rapoport felt the Ethiopians' invitation and the visit of the WJC group of Israelis could be significant as perhaps a harbinger of an opening towards the West on the part of the Addis Ababa regime, or at any rate a desire to blunt the thrust of international criticism relating to the Falashas.

BRACHA OSHRATT DEAD AT 43

CHICAGO, Jan. 23 (JTA) -- Bracha Oshratt, the Consul for Information at the Israel Consulate here, was killed in an automobile accident Friday while on a speaking tour in Indianapolis, Indiana, the Consulate announced today. She was 43 years old.

Born in Haifa, Oshratt was a graduate of the Reali High School in that city and held Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Arts degrees in Arabic language and Islamic culture from the Hebrew University. She joined the Foreign Office in 1960 and was appointed consul in the summer of 1981. She appeared frequently before Jewish and non-Jewish organizations as a speaker on the current Middle East situation.