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WEINBERGER SAYS U.S. HAS AND NEEDS A STRONG ALLIANCE WITH ISRAEL By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 2 (JTA) — Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger affirmed that the U.S. has and should have a strong alliance with Israel because "we are both very helpful to each other." But he refused to say, in a Israel Radio interview from Washington today, whether the U.S. will now sign a memorandum of strategic cooperation with Israel.

Asked about a strategic accord long sought by Israel, Weinberger replied, "I think the main effort now ought to be on trying to get the President's peace initiative adopted and the first step of that is to get Lebanon on its feet as a strong sovereign nation with all foreign forces removed."

He indicated that the U.S. will not now lift the freeze on delivery of 75 F-16 jet fighters to Israel, imposed when Israel invaded Lebanon last June. Weinberger said there has been no change as yet and he knew of no contemplated change with respect to the deliveries.

He also observed that U.S. aid to Israel would be better served in other ways than by helping Israel build its Lavie fighter plane "which would contribute little to Israel's air power, considering the planes it already possesses."

The U.S. defense chief made the point that "America needs several friends in the Middle East and I think Israel needs several friends in the Middle East so that we should broaden these relationships and alliances."

He also told Israel Radio that he got along well with former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and with Sharon's successor, Moshe Arens, who was the Israeli Ambassador to Washington before he was named Defense Minister last month. He indicated he would like to maintain telephone contact with Arens to avoid misunderstandings.

GHALI OUTLINES BASIS FOR RESUMING AUTONOMY TALKS By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, March 2 (JTA) — Boutros Ghali, the Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said here yesterday that Egypt would not participate in resumed autonomy talks with Israel that do not include "a Jordanian delegation containing Palestinian representation." According to Ghali, who addressed a press conference at the Egyptian Embassy, "past experience proves that any other combination does not work."

But Ghali was critical of the recent meeting of the Palestine National Council in Algiers, not simply because of the "unkind" remarks about Egypt but because the outcome of the meeting was "mostly contradictory."

There were three "contradictions," Ghali said. The Palestine Liberation Organization approved initiating talks with Jordan but at the same time insisted on Palestinian independence; it rejected Camp David but not President Reagan's plan if changes are made; and it approved of the Fez plan which implied

recognition of Israel, he said. The Egyptian diplomat said his country remains committed to the Camp David accords and peace with Israel. But it will be a "cold peace" as long as Israel does not withdraw its forces from Lebanon, he said. He said he and Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo agreed at their meeting yesterday that "Europe can play an important role in helping to find a peaceful solution in Lebanon."

RACE ON FOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 2 (JTA) — With the Knesset's election for the next President only three weeks away — March 22 — the political parties are moving into high gear in their efforts to select candidates.

Both Likud and Labor have set up small committees of leading Knesset members to work on this issue.

Political pundits say veteran National Religious Party leader Yosef Burg seems the most widely supported possible candidate at this point.

Within the Likud coalition, Herut, La'am, Agudat Israel and the NRP are known to be prepared to back Burg, though Tami will oppose him because of the long-standing feud between Burg and Tami's leader Aharon Abu Hatzeira.

Burg himself, however, has not yet agreed to confirm his candidacy. He has indicated that he will do so only if and when it becomes clear that he would receive broad support, not only from coalition quarters but from sections of the Labor opposition, too.

So far, Labor has been reserving its position. Within the party there are two men who are seen as possible candidates themselves: MK Shlomo Hillel and MK Chaim Herzog. Hillel has the advantage of being a Sephardi, and Herzog has the advantage of being the son of the late Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog (and thus likely to be an acceptable choice among the religious parties). It is unlikely, however, that either of these Labor men would win support from the coalition.

Coalition members would consider it unacceptable for a Labor opposition figure to be elected. President twice in a row during Likud's incumbency in government. President Yitzhak Navon was a front-bench Labor MK before becoming President in 1978.

Tami is still pushing the candidacy of Beersheba Mayor Eliahu Nawi, and Tami's Swiss patron Nessim Gaon was reported to have canvassed Premier Menachem Begin on Nawi's behalf this week — and to have drawn a blank. Gaon would also presumably support a Herzog candidacy, since the two men are related by marriage.

CARTER TERMS ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS 'ILLEGAL' AND AN OBSTACLE TO PEACE By Judith Kahn

CAIRO, March 2 (JTA) — Former President Jimmy Carter arrived last night in Cairo on the first leg of a visit to the region that will also include Israel, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

He met here today with President Hosni Mubarak as well as with U.S. special envoy Philip Habib, who arrived here last night for a brief visit to update the Egyptian President on events in the continuing negotiations between Israel and Lebanon.

In a statement at the airport last night, Carter, who was the architect of the Camp David accords signed in 1978, called Israeli settlements on the West Bank and Gaza "illegal" and said they represented an obstacle to the peace process. He also called for stronger pressure from the U.S. to ensure the withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian forces from Lebanon.

Carter, who will remain in Egypt for a week, said he was here on an unofficial visit during which he would meet with several senior government officials. He denied a recent report that he might replace Habib as U.S. envoy to the Middle East.

HEBRON AREA VILLAGE LEAGUE GROUP SAYS ISRAEL'S CIVIL ADMINISTRATION IS INTERFERING IN ITS AFFAIRS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 2 (JTA) -- The Village League Committee in the Hebron area has accused the Israeli civil administration on the West Bank of interfering in its internal affairs. Telegrams were sent yesterday to Premier Menachem Begin and Defense Minister Moshe Arens urging them "to put an end to the interference."

The episode is the first in which differences have emerged between the Israeli administration and the Village Leagues which Israel arms and finances as a counter-force to Palestine Liberation Organization influence in the occupied territory. It coincided with a new dispute over land between Arab villagers and the government elsewhere on the West Bank and a serious deterioration of relations between Jews and Arabs in the Hebron area.

The complaint by the Hebron Village League is over a demand by the civil administration that League chairman Mohammed Nasser resign and be replaced by his deputy, Jamil Al-Amle. The Village League Committee, at a meeting yesterday rejected the demand and decided to appeal against it to Israel's Supreme Court.

Nasser has been, in the past, one of the strongest advocates of a dialogue between the Israel government and local representatives of the Palestinians on the West Bank. As a result, he incurred the wrath of PLO supporters in the territory and his followers were branded "Quislings" for cooperating with the Israeli authorities.

Nasser apparently got along well with the former head of the Israeli civil administration, Menachem Milson, who resigned last September. But personal differences arose with Milson's successor, Gen. Shlomo Illia. These led to the demand that Nasser resign.

A Significant Fact

Observers say the personal differences were of little importance. What is significant is the fact that a Village League, for the first time, has clashed openly with Israel which is the sole source of its weapons, money and political support.

The demand for Nasser's resignation by the civil administration also indirectly confirmed charges that the Village Leagues are, in effect, puppet organizations established by Israel, the observers noted. The Leagues were originally set up by former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and were purported to be a spontaneous reaction by West Bank residents against the PLO.

The land dispute, which was also the subject of an appeal to the Supreme Court yesterday, involves the Arab villages of Rujeib and Azmout. The villagers are protesting against the civil administration's acquisition of Arab-owned land to build a road to the Jewish settlement of Eilon Moreh, near Nablus. They argue that the road is a prelude to the settlement's expansion by illegal means.

Police Probing Attacks On Arab Targets

Meanwhile, police are continuing their investigation of recent attacks on Arab targets in the Hebron area, apparently by Jewish settlers. Three Jews have been detained as suspects, all reportedly residents of Kiryat Arba, the religious township adjacent to Hebron.

The recent spate of shootings and a bomb attack on a Hebron mosque last Friday were believed to be in retaliation for the stoning of Jewish vehicles by Arabs. The Council of Jewish Settlements on the West Bank threatened yesterday that if the rock attacks did not cease, they would take measures to stop them. The Council did not specify what those measures would be but their statement implied that Jewish settlers would take the law into their own hands.

A group of residents from the Jewish township of Beit El demonstrated outside of the Prime Minister's Office last night after a vehicle belonging to one of them was attacked with rocks.

Arab students demonstrated in Ramallah and Nablus yesterday, burning tires on the roads and throwing stones at Israeli security forces. Those incidents are believed to be linked to the growing tension in the Hebron area.

ACKERMAN WINS HOUSE SEAT THAT WAS HELD BY THE LATE BENJAMIN ROSENTHAL

NEW YORK, March 2 (JTA) -- State Senator Gary Ackerman defeated three opponents in a special election in Queens yesterday to win the House of Representatives seat that was held by the late Benjamin Rosenthal.

Ackerman, a Democrat, will represent the Seventh Congressional District which covers central and eastern Queens. He will have almost a full two-year term as Rosenthal died on January 4 at the age of 59 at the beginning of his 11th term.

With Rosenthal's death, the number of Jewish House members was reduced to 37. But the victory of Ackerman, who is Jewish, will bring the number of Jewish legislators back to 38. Ackerman, who is 40 years old, is a part owner of a Queens newspaper, and has been active in Jewish affairs in both the Seventh and Eighth Congressional Districts.

Rosenthal had represented the Eighth District for 20 years until the area was redistricted in accordance with population changes in the 1980 federal census. Rosenthal was the senior Jewish member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and was a leading supporter of Israel in Congress.

CONTROVERSIAL ISRAELI PLAY TO OPEN THIS YEAR'S EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 2 (JTA) -- A controversial Israeli play which religious elements in Israel sought to have banned will open this year's Edinburgh Festival, regarded as one of the world's top artistic events.

Nefesh Yehudi (A Jewish Soul), by Yehoshua Sobol, presented by the Haifa Theater, deals with

the last hours of Otto Weininger, a Jewish anti-Semite who committed suicide in Austria in 1903, at the age of 23. It includes three erotic scenes passed by the film and theatre censorship board only after its members had seen a full dress rehearsal. The scenes were condemned by religious leaders as "blasphemous and offensive."

The play is to be performed on the opening night of the Festival in Scotland on August 22, in Hebrew, with a simultaneous English translation available to the audience. A Haifa Theater spokesman said the invitation was extended by festival manager John Drummond, who has been visiting Israel.

The invitation to open the Festival is regarded as a great honor, especially since it is the first time an Israeli play is being presented as an official part of the Festival, though Israeli works have been presented unofficially in Edinburgh during the Festival period.

CHRISTIAN CLERICS BACK FROM VISIT TO ISRAEL SAY THEY HAVE BROADER GRASP OF COUNTRY'S COMPLEXITIES

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, March 2 (JTA) -- Four New York City Christian clergymen who recently returned from a visit to Israel said yesterday they developed a broader understanding of the diversity of Israeli society, the complexities of the Middle East conflict and of Israel's need for secure border guarantees.

Rev. Robert Rodie of the Christ Episcopal Church told some 100 people at the international headquarters of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith that he was able to understand Israel's strategic needs for the Golan Heights after he visited the area. Until one has been in Israel and stood on the Heights, he said, "you cannot fully understand their (Israel's) on-the-ground military situation."

Asked to expand on his remarks, Rodie would not say whether, in view of his evaluation of the strategic role of the Golan Heights, he supports Israel's annexation of the area. Israel annexed the Heights in 1981.

Participating in a panel discussion with Rodie were: Rev. John Donohue of Holy Family Church; Rev. Martin Geraghty of Cathedral College of the Immaculate Conception; and Rev. Jack Kelly of the Diocese of Brooklyn. The talks were sponsored by the ADL's regional board and National Interreligious Affairs Committee.

Impressed By Israel's Democracy

Donohue, who made his last previous trip to Israel 30 years ago, said that Jerusalem at that time was not a "city of peace." He said "now it is one city, a city relatively in peace." He said he was impressed both by Israel's democratic process and pluralistic society, saying this was brought out by the Israel commission of inquiry into the killing of Palestinians in Beirut.

Furthermore, he said, he noted Israel's continued efforts to protect freedom of access to all religious sites in Jerusalem for all religious adherents. He noted that prior to the 1967 war, Israelis were banned from access to the old city, which includes the Western Wall.

On Israel's security needs, Donohue said he was appreciative of arguments for Israel's need for security arrangements on its border with Lebanon. He said he rejected the establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank because it would become an outlet for the Palestine Liberation Organization. He said he supported the autonomy proposals as laid out in the Camp David agreement.

The four clergymen were part of a group of 10 Christian leaders who visited Israel January 10-21 under the auspices of the World Zionist Organization. During the visit, the group met with Israeli political officials, residents of kibbutzim and yeshivas and visited Yad Vashem, Kiryat Shmona and other sites to obtain a perspective on the complexities of Israeli society.

REPORT FORMER TOP NAZI IS ALIVE IN A POLISH PRISON DESPITE HAVING BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH IN 1959

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 2 (JTA) -- Erich Koch, one-time Nazi gauleiter of the Ukraine, is alive in a Polish prison despite having been sentenced to death in 1959, the Daily Telegraph reported this week.

He was sentenced for the murder of 72,000 Poles and the official reason for him not being executed was that he was in poor health. But the Daily Telegraph believes he may have bargained for his life in return for a promise to help locate Nazi plunder. He is now 85.

Koch, who was also war-time Reich defense commissioner in East Prussia, is believed to be the most senior Nazi in captivity after Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy, who is held in Spandau Prison in West Berlin.

Telegraph reporter Robin Gedye wrote that Koch is in a top security prison in the picturesque village of Barczewo, in Poland's northern lake district. Koch was due to take charge of Moscow had the Nazis captured it. In the Soviet Union he was wanted for the murder of four million Russians and Jews and for sending two million people to forced labor.

As the war ended, he escaped to Denmark before returning to live under an assumed name near Hamburg in West Germany. The British found him there in 1949 and handed him over to the Poles.

According to the Daily Telegraph, his wife set up a fund for him in a Polish bank worth some 10,000 Pounds Sterling a year, from which he has bought the books on politics and economics which line the walls of his cell. A Polish journalist who visited him last year described him as well-preserved, small, thin and "sporting a small moustache like Hitler's."

Until a few years ago, Koch received infrequent visits from his niece, sister and wife but in recent years has been seen only by his Polish lawyer. He still receives food parcels from relatives in Germany, the Telegraph reported.

SHAMIR SAYS ISRAEL HARBORS NO HOSTILE INTENTIONS TOWARD JORDAN

JERUSALEM, March 2 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said yesterday that Israel harbored no hostile intentions toward Jordan and that none were implied when Israeli leaders refer to Jordan as the "Palestinian state."

According to Shamir, such remarks were merely a statement of a geographical and demographic fact, in Israel's view. He was responding to a comment by visiting Norwegian Foreign Minister Sverre Stray that Amman was apprehensive about Israel's intentions toward the Hashemite Kingdom. He told Stray that Israel hoped that Jordan would join the peace process within the framework of the Camp David agreements.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES A TOWN CALLED EMANUEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 2 (JTA) — Ultramodern electric trolley cars plying between pedestrian-only areas midweek, and furry shtrimeils parading around on Shabbat and festivals — these will be two of the special characteristics of the town of Emanuel, being built on the hills of Samaria.

The town planned as a new residential site for Orthodox young families from Israel and abroad, is going up at a rapid pace — and the first families are slated to move in during the summer.

Initiated by private Orthodox businessmen here and abroad, and now strongly supported by the government, Emanuel is planned eventually to house 10,000 Orthodox families. One thousand housing units — mainly apartments, but also some houses — are presently under construction. Some 800 of them have already been sold, according to the managing director of the firm specially set up to build Emanuel, Pinhas Ehrenreich.

Interviewed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency at the firm's Jerusalem sales office, Ehrenreich and his associate, Yosef Margulies, said that some \$50 million had already been invested in Emanuel and that it was the fastest-developing Jewish settlement in Judaea and Samaria (outside the Jerusalem area).

Visiting the site a few days earlier, this reporter witnessed huge earth-movers and bulldozers clearing land for new buildings, while teams of builders, plumbers, plasterers and electricians put the finishing touches to the first-phase housing complex.

Inducement For Prospective Buyers

An official of the Kochav Hashomron (Star of Samaria) company at the site claimed the firm used ultra-efficient and intensive techniques that enabled it to offer prospective buyers better-quality construction at relatively cheaper prices than were available elsewhere in Judaea and Samaria.

A four-room apartment with its own backyard and the possibility of building on at a later date sells for \$60,000, the official said. Government-financed mortgages on easy terms mean that in practice a buyer needs to spend only half of that sum to receive possession of the flat.

A similar housing unit would cost a great deal more in established cities — especially in the Orthodox communities of Bnei Brak and north Jerusalem where housing prices are even higher than the national average.

During my visit, a bus-load of potential buyers arrived from Bnei Brak to view Emanuel. The aim of most of them was to find reasonably-priced homes for sons or daughters about to be married. In the Orthodox communities, where families are large and men often spend years in yeshivas, how to afford a home for a young couple has become the major social problem.

Helping Young Orthodox Jews To Find Homes

It is with this social problem in mind that the Hasidic Rabbi of Gur, Rabbi Simcha Bunim Alter, has sponsored the construction of Hasidic settlements in outlying places; Hazer in the Galilee, Ashdod, and now, the most ambitious project of all — Emanuel.

It was reportedly Rabbi Alter who drew London-based Orthodox millionaire Zalman Margulies into financing part of Emanuel (Yosef Margulies is one of Zalman's sons). Margulies is the biggest private investor

in the project, and, says son Yosef, he is confident that with time he will make a profit — alongside building a new town in Eretz Israel and helping Orthodox young families find homes.

Margulies' investment is guaranteed by the government against political developments in the future that might affect Emanuel — as is the investment of each home purchaser who puts his savings into buying an apartment or house in Emanuel or any other West Bank government-approved settlement.

Skepticism Turns To Admiration

At first, the bearded, Hasidic-garbed Ehrenreich recalled, the government was skeptical of Kochav Hashomron's ability to carry off this ambitious project. Hence the company had to put up the first several million dollars out of its own private resources. One of the first things it had to do — and the government agencies apparently regarded this as something of a test of its seriousness — was to build a major approach road to Emanuel.

Skepticism has long since given way to admiration. Deputy Premier and Housing Minister David Levy has become an enthusiastic backer of Emanuel. And, in recognition of his support, the town has named a community center after Levy's late mother.

As befits an Orthodox community, Emanuel's first stage (1,000 homes) will boast seven synagogues and 12 kindergartens — apart from schools and yeshivas.

A mikva now being built at the cost of \$1 million will be the latest word in bathing luxury. The company is also planning factories and workshops in Emanuel. There is a large industrial park beginning to be built at Rechan, nearby, to serve Ariel, Emanuel and other townships planned for central Samaria.

Home Owners Must Be Orthodox

Ehrenreich, himself a Gur Hasid, stresses that Emanuel will not be an exclusively Gur or indeed exclusively Hasidic community. Other Hasidim have homes, as well as non-Hasidic Orthodox Jews — including a group of 100 professionals and scientists from the U.S. "All we require is that people are Orthodox — what brand of Orthodoxy doesn't concern us," he explained.

Town-building is "in the family" with Ehrenreich: half a century ago his grandfather founded Bnei Brak and became its first mayor. Ehrenreich was a school principal before the building bug got to him. What will he do when Emanuel is finished? "Build another town," is his prompt reply.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The war in Lebanon has added another 1,100 members to the Association of Disabled War Veterans, according to its chairman, Yaacov Maoz, in an interview with the current issue of the army's Bamahane weekly magazine. The association now has some 37,000 members, 97.5 percent of whom are self-supporting, Maoz reported. The membership is probably among the highest in the world on a percentage of population basis.

LONDON (JTA) — Britain has finally agreed on the composition of an Arab League delegation which will come to London this month to discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict.