

STUDY REVEALS JEWISH LEADERS IN PALESTINE SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH FRIENDLY TIES WITH THE PHALANGISTS BEFORE AND AFTER ISRAEL WAS FOUNDED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 6 (JTA) -- A study by a Hebrew University graduate student has produced documents related to attempts by Jewish leaders in Palestine to establish friendly ties with the Christian Phalangist party in Lebanon before and after the State of Israel was founded.

The student, Yaron Dan, found a report by Alexander Lutzki, of the Jewish Agency's Arabic department who visited Beirut in the summer of 1947 to establish contacts with various personalities. These included Pierre Gemayel, founder and leader of the Phalangist party who is the father of President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon and of the late Bashir Gemayel, assassinated last September shortly before he was to take office as President.

Recommendation To Ben Gurion

Lutzki's report to David Ben Gurion, chairman of the Jewish Agency, recommended that the Phalangists should be taken into consideration as a possible ally. Ben Gurion dismissed Gemayel as a man of "very little political wisdom."

Lutzki noted that the Phalangist leader left the door open for further contacts between his party and the Jewish community in Palestine and recognized that both could gain from cooperation. He thought there should be further study given the possibility.

Dan's research disclosed that Lutzki advocated relations with Elias Rabibi, editor of the Phalangist newspaper, Al Ammal. He said Rabibi showed more openness than Gemayel and hinted that bribing the editors of Lebanese Christian newspapers could advance the Jewish cause.

According to Dan, relations with the Phalangists continued into the early 1950s. Lutzki served later in the Foreign Ministry. His last post was as Israel's Ambassador to the Dominican Republic where he was killed seven years ago in a road accident.

BEGIN SUPPORTS CANDIDACY OF BURG TO BE ISRAEL'S NEXT PRESIDENT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 6 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin said publicly today that he supports the candidacy of Interior Minister Yosef Burg to be Israel's next President, succeeding Yitzhak Navon who will retire when his term expires next month.

Begin came out for Burg, a leader of the National Religious Party, at a meeting of the Likud coalition partners. But Burg is not expected to be nominated officially by the coalition until it is clear that his election by the Knesset is assured. The Knesset will choose Israel's next President on March 22.

Burg himself has said he would not run unless he was certain of support from both the coalition and the opposition. Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i observed today that "the coalition could not face the

shame of losing the vote" in the Knesset which is by secret ballot. The Labor Alignment is known to favor Chaim Herzog, former Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations, as its candidate. But it has not ruled out Burg.

Some observers believe Labor may support Burg in order to avoid a Likud candidate and possibly to woo the NRP out of the Likud-led coalition to renew its "historic alliance" with Labor. Until shortly before the 1977 elections, the NRP had been a coalition partner in virtually all Labor-led governments.

REAGAN'S WARNING THAT U.S. WILL SUSPEND RUMANIA'S MFN TRADE STATUS UNLESS IT ENDS ITS TAX ON EMIGRANTS IS HAILED BY PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, March 6 (JTA) -- A spokesman for 37 national Jewish organizations has hailed the Reagan Administration for its warning to Rumania that it will suspend the most-favored-nation (MFN) trade status unless it ends a tax on its citizens who want to emigrate.

Yehuda Hellman, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, declared in a statement that the American Jewish community "has consistently opposed any imposition of an education tax as a condition for emigration from any land and regrets the Rumanian government's action in this regard. We therefore fully understand and support the action of our government to defend the principle of free emigration."

Reagan's Deadline Is June 30

Hellman's statement followed an announcement by President Reagan in San Francisco last Friday declaring "my intention to terminate Rumania's most-favored nation tariff status and other benefits effective June 30, 1983, if the education repayment decree remains in force on that date."

Reagan said the Rumanian decree, which was published last November, conflicted with a 1974 U.S. trade law intended to remove barriers to freedom of emigration. The law was the Jackson/Vanik amendment to the Foreign Trade Act which links trade with the Communist bloc countries to their emigration policies.

Repeated Warnings By The U.S.

After the Rumanian government published its decree, the Reagan Administration warned repeatedly that the education tax imposed on citizens who want to emigrate could affect Rumania's MFN status.

Last Wednesday, two days before Reagan made his announcement, Rumania's Deputy Foreign Minister Gheorghe Dolgu met with State Department officials to discuss the issue. Last January, Lawrence Eagleburger, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, went to Bucharest to warn the Rumanian government that they were in jeopardy of losing the MFN status.

According to the Rumanian decree, all would-be emigrants under retirement age would have to repay in hard currency the costs of education at about \$3,600 for a person of high school education and increasing by about \$4,000 for each year of college education.

This move was intended to stop the Rumanian "brain drain" abroad. Shortly after Rumania enacted its decree, Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen said it did not apply to Jews seeking to go to Israel because Rumania distinguished between emigration to another country and aliya to Israel. However, last month, Rosen said in Tel Aviv that the Rumanian law would now also be applied to Jews seeking to make aliya.

Consequences Of MFN's Suspension

The suspension of MFN would cost Rumania some \$200 million in sales to the U.S., because of sharply increased tariffs. Rumania's exports to the U.S. last year totalled \$400 million, while U.S. exports to that country were valued at \$225 million in 1982. In 1981, the U.S. imported \$560 million in Rumanian goods, and sold Rumania \$503 million in products.

In commenting on Reagan's announcement, White House deputy press secretary Larry Speakes said termination of MFN would mean that Rumania's exports to the U.S. would be reduced by half during the first year.

He added that the Reagan Administration still wanted good and constructive relations with Rumania. "We are prepared to recommend we restore the (MFN) status to Rumania if the Rumanian government stops implementing this decree and improves its emigration procedures," Speakes said.

Hellman, in his statement, also expressed the hope "that circumstances will so alter between now and June 30 that the cutting off of MFN status for Rumania will not be necessary, and that emigration will be able to proceed without encumbrance."

NO SIGN OF PROGRESS ON TABA TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT

By Judith Kohn

ISMALIA, March 6 (JTA) -- The latest round of talks between Israel and Egypt over the disputed area of Taba ended last Thursday night with little sign of progress.

The two sides, together with a delegation representing the United States, discussed the interim arrangement to be applied in the area pending final determination of the boundary demarcation, as well as procedural measures for settling the dispute.

"The meetings were conducted in a friendly and pragmatic atmosphere," read a joint statement issued at the conclusion of the final session, "with all delegations agreeing on the need to make positive progress and achieve tangible results in the shortest time possible."

But Egypt's chief delegate, Shafiq Abdel Hamid, said earlier that even efforts to define the points of agreement and disagreement had "failed to achieve satisfactory progress," and the final session concluded with no fixed date for resuming the discussion.

Potential Role Of The MNF To Be Discussed

According to the statement, consultations with the multinational force and observers (MNF) in Sinai on a potential role for the force in Taba will take place sometime before the end of the month. The two sides said they had also agreed to begin negotiations on the procedural measures for settling the border dispute "at an early date."

The peace treaty between Israel and Egypt stipulates that boundary disputes should be submitted to mediation and finally arbitration, if the two sides fail to negotiate a resolution by themselves. Egypt is reportedly in favor of proceeding directly to arbitration.

The two sides also appeared to remain far apart on the question of implementing the temporary agreement on the status of Taba, concluded between Israel and Egypt last April to define the area's status pending a final settlement.

Abdel Hamid said his country had demanded that the agreement be "adhered to in full." But interpretations of the agreement differ, with Egypt maintaining that operation of the recently opened Avia Sonesta Hotel in the disputed zone violates the accord and that security should be in the hands of the MNF.

Beginning Of A Break In The Lull

Despite the apparent lack of progress in the talks last week, the renewed contacts between Egypt and Israel suggest the beginning of a break in the long lull in substantive diplomatic activity which set in when Egypt brought the normalization process to a virtual halt following the outbreak of the war in Lebanon and the massacres of Palestinians in Beirut last September.

Discussions on trade relations are expected to take place sometime this week, and Israel has been invited to participate in the international trade fair to be held in Cairo at the end of the month. Israel was not invited to the annual International Book Fair which took place here at the end of January.

EITAN SAYS ISRAEL HAS NO INTENTION OF ATTACKING THE SOVIET MISSILES IN SYRIA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 6 (JTA) -- Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan told Israel Radio that Israel had no intention of attacking the newly-emplaced Soviet-made and apparently Soviet-manned SAM-5 missiles inside Syria.

In an interview with the army radio, Eitan said: "I don't know on what basis they (the Syrians) are ascribing or announcing such intentions. It may be that they are simply making mistaken assessments, and it may be that with such words they are disguising their own intentions."

He said he would not completely eliminate the possibility that the Syrians, under Soviet urging, might take "some sort of initiative against Israel."

Some Israeli military leaders have said recently that the missiles are only a relatively minor problem tactically, and that Israel has the capability to deal with them. But the political aspects are said to be more complicated and worrying, indicating an increased Soviet involvement in the area.

Recently appointed Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Amos Lapidot last week down-graded the military importance of the Soviet-made SAM-5 missiles on Syrian territory.

In his first interview since taking over the command, in the current issue of the Israel Air Force magazine, Lapidot said the missiles were a "tactical problem" with which the Israel Air Force could deal.

"There may be political aspects -- such as deeper Soviet involvement in Syria and the entire area. But that is not within my province. They are older missiles, developed some time ago and based on technology which is not too sophisticated," the commander said.

THREE SENTENCED IN SHOOTING OF ISRAEL'S ENVOY TO BRITAIN

LONDON, March 6 (JTA) -- Three members of a Baghdad-based Palestinian terrorist group were sentenced to 30 and 35 year prison terms in Central Criminal Court here yesterday for the attempted assassination of the Israeli Ambassador to Britain, Shlomo Argov last June 3.

Hassein Said, 23, a Jordanian national who fired the shots that left the 53 year-old Israeli diplomat almost totally paralyzed, and Marwan Banna, 20, also of Jordan, who drove the getaway car, were given 30 year sentences by Judge William Mars Jones. Nauoff Rosan, 36, an Iraqi citizen, described by the prosecution as the leader of the gang, received a 35 year sentence.

The prosecutor said the three were members of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, a breakaway faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization, headed by Sabri Banna who is known as Abu Nidal. They arrived in Britain in 1980 and attended language courses while preparing "for acts of assassination and sabotage" aimed at Israeli targets, the prosecution charged.

Argov, who sustained severe brain damage when he was shot as he left a diplomatic dinner at a London hotel, was hospitalized here until he was returned to Israel last August for further treatment. He is confined to a wheelchair, is partially blind and has difficulty speaking.

ISRAELI EDUCATOR SAYS ISRAEL IS 'HEADING' TOWARD CLOSING SOCIAL GAP BETWEEN SEPHARDIM, ASHKENAZIM

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 6 (JTA) -- An Israeli sociologist and educator declared here last night that Israel was "heading" toward closing the social gap between Jews of European origin and those who came from Arab and Asian countries.

"But we are not there yet," Dr. Chaim Adler told some 1,000 persons attending the 35th convention of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW). The four-day convention, which ended today, also marked the beginning of the 90th anniversary of the NCJW, the oldest Jewish women's volunteer organization in the U.S. Barbara Mandel, of Cleveland, was installed today to a two-year term as NCJW president, succeeding Shirley Leviton who ended her four-years as president.

Adler, who is director of the NCJW's Institute for Innovation and Education at the School of Education of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, said indications of the closing of the social gap are that the differences in family size between Ashkenazic and Sephardic Jews have disappeared and that the disparities in education are "shrinking."

He said he hoped that Israeli Ashkenazim and Sephardim will soon achieve the same situation as Jews from Eastern Europe and Germany have in the U.S. where the gap that once existed between them is no longer there.

But Adler said, there is a new "urgency" because the ethnic split in Israel has been introduced into the country's political disputes. The institution headed by Adler was estab-

lished by the NCJW to develop, implement and evaluate programs for the disadvantaged in Israel.

At a dinner Friday night, Jeane Kirkpatrick, the U.S. Ambassador to the UN, said that the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism has been used to deny Israel the "legitimate rights of self-defense." She said the "obnoxious phrase Zionism is racism" symbolized the agreement of African countries to support the Arabs against Israel in return for Arab support against South Africa.

Kirkpatrick said the UN political system protects some countries against censure while subjecting others. "Israel is the principal example," to continuing censure. She charged that there is a "terrible double standard" on human rights in the UN in which nations of the Soviet bloc, Africa, except South Africa, and Asia are protected from criticism while Latin American countries and "especially Israel" have no such protection.

"Israel has been the object of so many human rights actions that it takes ... computers to keep track," she said.

Dangers Facing Israel and World Jewry

Leviton told the delegates at the opening dinner last Thursday night that the NCJW faces issues today that "are not new to us but represent struggles we thought had been concluded.

"When we hear Zionism called racism and see Israel isolated in the halls of the UN; when we find the intimate bonds that tie the U.S. to Israel strained, how can we rest secure that the Jewish State is indeed in safe harbor? And when we hear of the persecution of our sisters and brothers in the Soviet Union and in Ethiopia, in Syria and Iraq, can we believe that Jews anywhere can afford to stand idly by?"

Domestic Issues Cited

On the domestic scene, Leviton noted that when President Reagan calls 1983 the year of the Bible, "can we believe that American democracy rests on the principle of separation of church and state?" She also scored the Reagan Administration's programs on such traditional NCJW concerns as women, children and youth and the elderly.

She criticized in particular what she called the threat to "a woman's constitutional right to reproductive freedom;" the decrease in social spending and changes in the child labor laws which, she said, would "leave 14 and 15 year olds working in unsafe environments." Many of these issues were discussed at workshops during the convention.

JEWISH EXTREMIST GROUP SUSPECTED OF PLANTING BOMB AT TEMPLE MOUNT

JERUSALEM, March 6 (JTA) -- A Jewish extremist group is suspected by police of having planted a bomb at the entrance to the Temple Mount Friday as hundreds of Moslem worshippers were on their way to pray at the mosques there. The bomb was discovered and dismantled safely.

The incident was the second of its kind in a week. A week earlier a bomb exploded outside a Hebron mosque where worshippers were finishing their morning prayers. No one was hurt but police said the bomb would have caused casualties had it detonated a few minutes later when people were leaving the mosque.

Arabs in the Hebron area continue to complain of harassment by Jewish settlers. Leaders of the settlers have denied any connection to the harassment but warned they would react strongly to rock throwing attacks on Jews by Arabs.

POLISH AUTHORITIES PREPARING TO COMMEMORATE THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 6 (JTA) — The Polish authorities plan to give the utmost solemnity to the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising next month, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told by Stefan Grayek, president of the World Federation of Jewish Fighters, Partisans and Camp Inmates, who just returned from Warsaw.

President Vladislav Jablonsky of Poland and members of the government, as well as representatives of the Communist Party's secretariat, will attend the ceremonies on the site where the ghetto was situated and which is now marked by a statue representing the heroism of the city's last Jewish fighters.

Grayek said that more than 1,000 delegates from 24 countries, including Israel and the Soviet Union, will attend the ceremonies which will officially start on April 18. That day the old Warsaw synagogue, partially destroyed during the fighting, will be reinaugurated after having been rebuilt.

Poland's Religious Affairs Minister Adam Loptka will symbolically hand over the building to the city's Jewish community. The Polish government has assumed the cost for the synagogue's reconstruction, reportedly at a cost of well above \$1 million. Three cantors will recite the traditional prayers.

On the same day, April 18, an exhibition will open at the Polish National Museum tracing the history of Poland's Jewish community and its contribution to Polish culture and Poland's struggle for independence.

Visits To Former Camps

For the next week, the participants will visit the sites of former concentration camps — Auschwitz, Treblinka, Maidanek, and countless other places where six million Jews suffered and ultimately died. Grayek said the Polish authorities are doing all they can to enable the participants to see all the "hells in which Jews suffered and died."

Among those expected to attend are survivors of Jewish resistance organizations from some 20 countries as well as the Chief Rabbi of Moscow, the Chief Rabbi of Rumania and delegates from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. War veterans from the Soviet Union will be officially represented as will war veteran organizations from the West.

Among those expected at the ceremonies are Education Minister Zevulun Hammer of Israel; Mayor Shlomo Lahat of Tel Aviv; Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress; Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and a past chairman of the President's Conference; and Greville Janner, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

More than 100 youngsters born in Israel will also attend the ceremonies as a reminder of their people's history. Some of the Israeli youth, high school students from all over the country, will participate in the honor guard along with

members of the Polish army on the site of the last bunker used during the ghetto uprising by its leader, Mordecai Anilewicz (1919-1943).

The official ceremonies will be preceded by a three-day seminar which will study Hitler's "final solution" and its application in Poland. Some 120 scholars and research workers from dozens of institutes and universities, including from Yad Vashem, will attend the seminar whose findings will later be published in book form.

JOSEPH LEFTWICH DEAD AT 90

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 6 (JTA) — Joseph Leftwich, the dominant literary figure in Anglo-Jewry, died at his London home last week at the age of 90. Poet, translator, biographer and journalist, he opened the treasure store of Yiddish literature to the English-speaking world.

Leftwich was a personal associate of many of the leading Jewish personalities of the 20th century, including Israel Zangwill, of whom he wrote a biography; Nahum Sokolow; Zeev Jabotinsky; Sholem Asch; and Stefan Zweig. A man of two cultures, he also corresponded with leading English literary figures, including George Bernard Shaw.

Leftwich was born in Holland, the son of a Polish cobbler. His family emigrated to London when he was five. Among his closest boyhood friends was Isaac Rosenberg, one of the outstanding English poets of World War I who was killed on the battlefield. Leftwich's day school education ended when he was 14, but through friends and private studies he widened his familiarity with English and Yiddish literature.

First Published Article Appeared in 1913

Before entering journalism, he worked as a furrier, tailor and baker. His first published article, an working class life in Whitechapel, appeared in 1913. Literary journals began publishing his poems, leading to his first regular newspaper post on the Yiddish daily, Die Zeit.

In 1920, Leftwich became the editor of the London bureau of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. London then was the political center of the world Zionist movement and it was through Leftwich's daily dispatches that the Jewish world followed the movement's development over the next 10 years. Despite his friendship with leading Zionists, Leftwich did not fall into any conventional political mold.

Known As 'Ambassador Of Yiddish Literature'

Through his translations, he became known as "the ambassador of Yiddish literature." He translated into English dozens of the giants of Yiddish literature as well as many whose greatness only emerged subsequently. Much of his work was collected in anthologies — "Yisrael," first published in 1933 and frequently reprinted; "The Golden Peacock," containing translations of Yiddish poetry, published in 1939; and the two-volume, "The Way We Think," containing essays by 80 Yiddish writers.

For more than 40 years he was the permanent delegate of the Yiddish PEN Club center in New York and on the executive of PEN, the world organization of writers, where he protested forcefully against the bloody purge of Yiddish writers in the Soviet Union. Until his late 80's, Leftwich was active as the director of the Federation of Jewish Relief Organizations. He was also on the executive of British ORT and British OSE.