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BEGIN SAYS ISRAEL DOES NOT INTEND TO ATTACK SYRIA, NOR DOES HE BELIEVE SYRIA WILL ATTACK ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 31 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin said today that Israel "certainly has no intention" to attack Syria, nor does he believe Syria intends to attack Israel. He made those comments to reporters in response to a warning carried by the official Soviet news agency, Tass, yesterday, claiming that Israel was preparing a "piratic strike" against Syria and assuring Damascus that it had the Communist bloc countries and the Arabs on its side.

Begin's press spokesman, Uri Porat, said Israel should "neither treat the Soviet statement lightly nor be frightened by it." He said Israeli analysts were studying the Tass statement but were frankly puzzled by its nature and timing.

Israel Radio reported today that the government sees the Soviet warning aimed at the U.S., although it was addressed to Israel. Porat denied that the report was inspired by the Prime Minister's Office. The Tass statement alleged Israel-American collusion against Syria and warned that Syria was "not alone."

Tass spoke of Israel's "barbarous aggression" against Lebanon and claimed that Washington's "unconditional support" for Israeli aggression was a prelude to U.S.-Israeli domination of the entire Middle East. (U.S. reaction, p. 2.)

Sharp Tone Should Be Taken Seriously

Begin met with reporters briefly after conferring with Shimon Peres, chairman of the opposition Labor Party. They are believed to have discussed Peres' recent meeting with President Nicolai Ceausescu of Rumania. Peres said afterwards that Israel was not planning any attack, but warned that the sharp tone of the Soviet statement should be taken seriously.

The Tass statement said Israel's "criminal designs" against Syria must be foiled, but did not say Moscow would take any action if Israel did attack Syria. There have been reports in recent weeks that Israel might be contemplating a pre-emptive strike to knock out the Soviet-built SAM-5 anti-aircraft missiles deployed in Syria.

The SAM-5s have sufficient range to hit Israeli aircraft in Israel air space or off the Syrian coast. The fact that the missile launchers are manned by Soviet rather than Syrian technicians was seen as a deterrent to an Israeli attack.

Begin said today that the Tass warning was based on "a totally artificial foundation." But it recalled to some Israelis the critical period of April-June, 1967 when similar Soviet allegations of an imminent Israeli attack on Syria were a key factor in raising tension in the area prior to the outbreak of the Six-Day War.

Very Concerned By Soviet Rhetoric

Gideon Rafael, a senior diplomat at that time who was sent to Moscow to try to ward off Soviet provocations, said today that he was "very concerned" by the current escalation of Soviet rhetoric. He said the Russians had proved by the complicity with

Syria and Egypt in the 1973 war that on occasion they would not object to an outbreak of hostilities in the Middle East if they thought it would serve their interests.

Rafael pointed out that Yuri Andropov, a new and still untested Soviet leader, might be seeking a peripheral showdown with the U.S. in an area where Soviet arms employed by Syria were decisively defeated by American-armed Israeli forces in Lebanon.

But Rafael and other analysts do not predict Soviet-provoked hostilities between Israel and Syria this spring, although they do not rule out the possibility. They contend that Moscow's basic aim is to restore its position of power and influence in Middle East politics to match the influence of the U.S.

Signs Of Increased Soviet Activism

The stepped-up Soviet rhetoric is consonant with that aim, Israeli analysts say. They noted several recent developments in the region pointing to increased Soviet activism.

These are an expanded Russian military presence in Syria; Soviet wooing of Egypt; the recent Syrian-Soviet joint statement denouncing President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative; and energetic Soviet efforts to influence the Palestine Liberation Organization away from participation in or enforcement of the American initiative.

HABIB RETURNING TO WASHINGTON AFTER FAILING TO BRIDGE GAP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND LEBANON ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 31 (JTA) — U.S. special envoy Philip Habib flew back to Washington today after two weeks of unsuccessful efforts to bridge the gap between Israel and Lebanon over security arrangements in south Lebanon.

Habib held a final meeting with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens here yesterday. Israeli sources said afterwards that the American diplomat offered "no new ideas" and the impasse has not been broken. Habib is expected to return to the region in about a week to resume his efforts.

Israeli officials made it clear that Israel will not relent in its demand that Maj. Saad Haddad and his 2,000-man Christian militia police the security zone north of the Israeli border after Israeli forces withdraw from Lebanon. Israel is willing to have the militia integrated into the Lebanese army as the nucleus of a "territorial brigade" but insists that Haddad remain in command.

Beirut has refused to assign him any such role and reportedly has offered Haddad a diplomatic post abroad. Lebanon has said however that it would agree to absorb the militia into its regular army.

Continuing Deadlock Generates Tension

The tension generated by the continuing deadlock was evident when the Israeli, Lebanese and

American delegations met for another round of talks at Kiryat Shemona today. Israeli spokesman Avi Pazner said it was "inconceivable" that Lebanon would fail to take into account Israel's vital security interests in the border region.

According to the Israelis, those interests hinge on Haddad. But there was no softening of the Lebanese government's position with regard to the Israel-backed militia leader, Habib, who represents President Reagan, supports the Lebanese position.

At today's meeting in Kiryat Shemona, David Kimche, head of the Israel delegation, praised the Lebanese army. But he said Israel did not believe that in its present state, after six years of civil war, it was capable of policing the border region and ensuring that Palestine Liberation Organization forces would not return.

At the meeting with Habib yesterday, Shamir argued that the Lebanese army had proved ineffective for 15 years in preventing terrorist attacks on northern Israel and asked why it should be relied upon now to police the border region.

He said no Israeli leader would take responsibility for withdrawing the army from south Lebanon without first establishing effective security arrangements. Shamir and Arens both contended that Haddad and his men represented for Israel a force of proven trustworthiness and effectiveness.

No Concessions Over Haddad

Official Israeli sources have told reporters in recent days that there will be no concessions over Haddad. "We have made enough concessions," one well-placed source said. He was apparently referring to Israel's willingness to abandon its demand for Israel-manned surveillance outposts in south Lebanon for an indefinite period after the bulk of its forces withdraw from that country. "We have reached the limit of our flexibility," the source said.

It is clear now that the entire structure of the evolving agreement with Lebanon depends on the future status of Haddad. Some non-official observers have pointed out that Israel's publicly stated determination not to abandon him is a test case that will be watched carefully by other local Arab leaders.

Ever since the civil war broke out in Lebanon in 1976, Israel has armed and financed Haddad. His militia has been described by some observers as virtually a part of the Israel army. To abandon him now, the observers say, would seriously affect the attitude of the Village Leagues leaders and other West Bank moderates the Israelis are trying to build up to counter PLO influence in the occupied territories.

ATTACKS ON ISRAELI TROOPS ESCALATED DURING PASSOVER HOLIDAY By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 31 (JTA) -- Attacks on Israeli troops in Lebanon escalated over the Passover holiday. Staff Sgt. Yitzhak Orbacher, 37, of Ramat Gan, was killed Monday in an ambush near Kahale village, 12 kilometers east of Beirut. He was buried in Ramat Gan yesterday. Two other soldiers were wounded in the ambush.

An Israeli soldier was wounded Tuesday night when a patrol came under small arms and bazooka fire near Tyre. Another patrol was fired on at about the same time near the Ansar prisoner of war camp in south Lebanon, but without casualties.

Israeli tanks and artillery opened fire yesterday at houses near Dier Kharaf village, not far from the scene of the Monday night ambush. "Suspicious movements" were reported in the village which is behind Syrian lines and the nearest point to Beirut where Palestine Liberation Organization forces are stationed.

Sgt. Orbacher, a reservist on active duty, was one of 70 soldiers attending seder services Monday night when an Israel army patrol was caught in an ambush on the Beirut-Damascus highway near Kahale. The soldiers, hearing an exchange of fire, rushed to the scene. Orbacher, who was among them, was fatally shot.

VIOLENCE ON THE WEST BANK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 31 (JTA) -- Israeli Arabs demonstrated peacefully in observance of Land Day yesterday. But there was violence on the West Bank where an Arab youth was killed, five Israeli tourists were injured and about 20 persons were arrested in scattered rock-throwing and fire-burning incidents.

The death of a 17-year-old Arab in Tarkumiya village near Hebron is under investigation by the Israeli authorities. According to initial reports, he was shot by Israeli security forces during a violent demonstration in connection with Land Day. Israeli sources said later that the circumstances of his death were unclear and still under investigation.

The five tourists were hit by flying glass, apparently the result of rock-throwing near the Dehaishe refugee camp not far from Bethlehem. A general strike by Arab merchants in the larger West Bank towns was broken up by Israeli troops who forced them to re-open their shops. But all Arab shops and businesses in East Jerusalem remained closed for the day, without interference from Israeli authorities.

Israeli authorities took the precaution of closing all Arab schools on the West Bank and East Jerusalem a day prior to Land Day. They will reopen next week. Nevertheless, Israeli vehicles were stoned by Arab youths near the Kalandia refugee camp north of Jerusalem and from the ramparts of the Old City. Arab youths set fire to trash piles in the narrow alleys of the Old City. Two persons were slightly injured by stones thrown at a bus on the Mount of Olives.

Non-Violent Rallies In Galilee

In Israel itself, local Arabs held non-violent demonstrations in Galilee, the Sharon valley and the Negev. Interior Minister Yosef Burg said on a radio interview later that the "most noteworthy fact about today's demonstration was their moderation." He said it reflected "a certain maturity of the Arab population which perhaps is learning that both Arabs and Jews must live together peacefully."

Land Day commemorates the death of six Israeli Arabs who were shot by security forces in 1976 during a demonstration protesting the confiscation of Arab land in Galilee by Israel. March 30 has since become a day of protest and mourning by Israeli Arabs. In recent years, they have been generally peaceful, in contrast to the violence on the West Bank engendered by the occasion.

7 KILLED, 24 INJURED IN ROAD ACCIDENTS

TEL AVIV, March 31 (JTA) -- Seven people were killed, including two tourists from Switzerland, and 24 injured in road accidents during the first two days of the Passover holiday. Four of the dead and 20 of those injured were in a multiple car collision some 12 kilometers north of Beersheba. Four vehicles were involved in the pile-up.

Also on the first day of the holiday, an 83-year-old pedestrian was knocked down and killed while

crossing the coastal highway north of Tel Aviv. The two Swiss nationals — identified as Pierre Marcel and Millar Pas, but whose home addresses were not disclosed — and four other Israelis were injured in a three-car pile-up on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway last evening.

U.S. CONTINUES TO HOPE THAT HUSSEIN WILL JOIN PEACE TALKS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 31 (JTA) — The Reagan Administration stressed today it still hopes that King Hussein of Jordan will decide to join the peace talks despite Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat's rejection of President Reagan's Mideast peace initiative.

"The important thing is the decision of King Hussein," State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said. A Department source noted that "the focus" was on Hussein, not Arafat. Hussein's decision is expected to depend on his meeting with Arafat.

Secretary of State George Shultz, while noting today that there is no new development, said he still maintains his position expressed 10 days ago that Hussein should decide now about joining the negotiations. "I still think it's time," he said in an interview on NBC-TV's "Today Show." Hussein had said earlier that he would make a decision sometime in March.

Romberg said he would not comment on Arafat's remarks made at a Land Day rally in Damascus yesterday. He said he had not seen the full text of the speech in which the PLO leader was quoted as saying: "There are quarters that wish the PLO would say yes to the Reagan plan so they may say we are traitors. I say to all: No to the Reagan plan or the liquidation plans." He added that any "solution" must be based on the "resolutions" adopted by the Arab League in Fez, Morocco, last September.

However, Romberg did note that the U.S. believes "the prospects for peace would be best served through broadened Arab participation in direct negotiations based on UN security Council Resolution 242."

Situation In Lebanon

On the Lebanese negotiations, Romberg denied that special envoy Philip Habib was returning to the U.S. today because of a deadlock in the talks for the withdrawal of all foreign forces. He said that Habib had long been scheduled to return at this time to fulfill "personal commitments." However, while in the U.S. he would be in Washington to discuss the situation. The other special envoy, Morris Draper, remains in the Middle East and was in Israel today, Romberg said.

He said he knew of no plans for Israeli Premier Menachem Begin to come to Washington. There were reports today that Begin would come here to negotiate an agreement on withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon with Reagan.

Romberg stressed that while the U.S. has always hoped for "more rapid progress," it is "bending all our efforts together with officials of Lebanon and Israel" in order to reach an agreement on the withdrawal of all foreign forces — Syrians, PLO, and Israel.

Negotiations are presently stalled over Lebanon's refusal with U.S. backing to allow Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian militia to continue to operate in south Lebanon. Israel is not confident that the Lebanese army can maintain security in the area by itself once the Israeli army withdraws.

U.S. ACCUSES THE USSR OF TRYING TO INCREASE MIDEAST TENSIONS

WASHINGTON, March 31 (JTA) — The State Department accused the Soviet Union today of trying to "exacerbate inflamed emotions and increase tensions" in the Mideast by charging that Israel plans a "piratic strike" against Syria.

Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said, "We don't have any information that a buildup is underway" by the Israeli army or that Israel plans any "military action" in the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon against the Syrians or against the SAM-5 surface-to-air Soviet-made missiles recently installed in Syria.

Romberg said the Soviet charges may be aimed at "undermining political efforts of all parties to achieve a fair and comprehensive settlement" in the Middle East.

TENNIS HISTORY FOR ISRAEL

By Haskell Cohen

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA) — Tennis history was made so far as Israel is concerned this week, on the first day of Passover at Monte Carlo when Shlomo Glickstein of Israel, ranked 42nd in world tennis, defeated top seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, generally regarded as the top player in world tennis, 6-2, 3-6, 7-5, in the opening round of the \$300,000 Monte Carlo Open tennis tournament.

Glickstein, who has developed into a consistent performer and has upset top seeded court players, completely destroyed Lendl with his chopping game and his ability to smash spinning returns of the Czech's service. Glickstein's moves, particularly on Lendl's first serves, appeared to set off balance Lendl's game and forced him out of his usually deadly serve-and-volley game.

A tremendous first service player, Lendl succeeded in only 38 percent of his first services. At the same time, Glickstein limited his errors to a minimum and moved with speed and agility at the net. Lendl is now added to a rather imposing list of Glickstein's victims which include Jose-Luis Clerc of Argentina, Brian Gottfried of the U.S., and Mats Wilander of Sweden.

LAWMAKER CALLS FOR REMOVAL OF NAZI COLLABORATOR FROM RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY PAYROLL

WASHINGTON, March 31 (JTA) — Rep. Barney Frank (D. Mass.) has called on the president of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty to remove Anton Adamovich, a known Nazi collaborator, from the radio's payroll where he has been employed in a number of capacities since 1957. Adamovich admitted on the CBS-TV "60 Minutes" program 10 months ago that he was a propagandist for the Nazis and later became an informant for U.S. Army Intelligence. U.S. law prohibits Nazi war collaborators from entering the country in most instances.

"The available evidence clearly shows that Mr. Adamovich was deeply involved with the Byelorussian Nazi puppet government. He should be immediately removed from his position which is paid in part by U.S. government funds," Frank said.

James Buckley, president of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, responded to Frank's initial request for action on this case by saying that, "To date there has been no evidence given to us which would justify our taking administrative action in the Adamovich case." John Loftus, a former Nazi investigator for the U.S. Justice Department, responded that "Anton Adamovich served on the Praesidium of the central governing body of a Nazi government in exile at war with the United States."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE CASE OF THE PADDED BILLS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 31 (JTA) -- My doctor's receptionist tells telephone inquirers that the doctor receives "urgent or important cases" in his surgery. But she does not tell them they will have to pay 600 Shekels (about \$16) for the visit, on top of their usual monthly payment to their Kupat Holim (sick-fund).

She doesn't have to. In this fifth week of a strike by the country's 8,500 salaried physicians in government hospitals and sick-fund clinics, patients in immediate need of medical treatment appear to be paying up without argument, albeit not too happily.

When I asked my doctor to renew prescriptions for medicines I have been taking for some time he told me: "Leave the list with my secretary and then come in again to pick up the prescription. If I see you face-to-face, I shall have to charge you the 600 Shekels."

The strike committee's system varies from sick-fund to sick-fund, but the special charge is country-wide. In my particular sick fund, where doctors receive in their own surgeries and issue prescriptions which are filled or supplied by private pharmacies, with the patient paying 10 percent of the cost and the sick fund the balance, matters are more or less straightforward.

Working Of Histadrut Clinics

But in the major Kupat Holim of Histadrut, to which most Israelis belong, things are more complicated. There, doctors receive mainly in the clinics. The sick-fund and the government have complained that the doctors charge extra fees for use of State-owned or Histadrut facilities.

Kupat Holim prescriptions are filled in sick-fund pharmacies which do not honor prescriptions by doctors receiving patients in emergency clinics established in hotels, against the 600 Shekel charge.

In hospital reception and emergency wards, doctors on duty are on a restricted Sabbath schedule, though emergencies, including accident cases, heart attacks and other sudden attacks, are attended to as promptly as before the strikes without advance special payment.

The extra payment demand has had one clear effect: the doctors' work load has been drastically cut. Patients visit their doctors only when it is really necessary. Doctors report they no longer see the many patients who would come to the clinics for minor cuts or aches. Hospital emergency rooms are dealing only with bona fide emergencies.

Health Care Is Not Deteriorating

In general, health care does not appear to have deteriorated because of the strike. Early reports that sick people were going untreated appear to have been disproved.

An afternoon newspaper splashed over its front page an alarming report that a woman, diagnosed as suffering from breast cancer, was sent home with instructions to "return after the strike ends." It published a correction the next day, tucked away on an inside page. The correction said the doctor had diagnosed a minor cyst which did not require urgent treatment.

Medical Association sources charge such reports were being spread by Health and Finance Ministry sources to discredit the medical profession while it is locked in a dispute with the government

on salary demands. They say that this is also the reason for a recent spate of reports that the income tax authorities have tightened their investigations into the tax returns of doctors.

The public, which is inconvenienced by the doctors' strike but is not receiving faulty medical care, seems to acknowledge the fact that young doctors, in the first few years of their medical careers, are grossly underpaid and overworked by excessively long hours on duty in hospitals. But in trying to play down or discredit the doctors' demands, the Finance Ministry has publicized the extremely large incomes of senior physicians who head departments after decades of medical practice. In Israel, as elsewhere in the world, a top surgeon is among the highest earners.

Meanwhile, the doctors and the government continue their negotiations for a reconsideration of the salary scale of publicly employed doctors. Both sides are considering suggestions of a technical committee consisting of doctors and government economists. They are trying to recast the salary scales to provide higher starting salaries for junior MDs and less killing hours.

DEMONSTRATIONS HELD AGAINST CONVENTION OF NEO-NAZI PARTY

By David Kantor

BONN, March 31 (JTA) -- About 30 people demonstrated in Frankfurt against the convention of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD), held in a municipally-owned auditorium. A last minute attempt by the city authorities to cancel the rental agreement was ruled illegal by a Frankfurt court. Use of the facility by the NPD had been protested by the local Jewish community, trade unionists and other anti-Nazi groups.

Four neo-Nazis were arrested outside the hall for carrying gas pistols, riot sticks and chains. A young neo-Nazi leader, Michael Kuhenen, distributed leaflets implying that the NPD as being persecuted. The leaflet claimed that the outlawed Third Reich Nazi Party has been active in the Federal Republic since 1971 without interference from the authorities.

Participants in the demonstration called for a nationwide ban on neo-Nazi organizations including the NPD. They placed a wreath at a nearby house which had been occupied by the family of Anne Frank before they emigrated to Holland in 1933.

Meanwhile, the NPD elected 72 year-old Erich Gutfahr as chairman of its Hesse branch and announced that it would participate in the next general elections in Hesse.

4 EX-SS OFFICERS FACE TRIAL

BONN, March 31 (JTA) -- Four former SS officers will go on trial here next fall on charges related to the deportation of 1,700 French Jews to the Auschwitz and Sobibor death camps during World War II. The accused are Walter Naehrich, Richard Freise, Modest Korff, all aged 74, and Rolf Bilharz, 73. The case against them is based on investigations conducted by Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld.

The ongoing trial of another former SS officer, Horst Czerwinski, 60, has been moved from Frankfurt to Celle in Lower Saxony where the accused lives. He is charged with murder and complicity in the murders of dozens of Auschwitz inmates. The trial has been interrupted three times because of Czerwinski's illness and was moved to Celle to relieve him of the need to travel to Frankfurt for each court session.