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REAGAN'S WITHHOLDING OF JETS TO ISRAEL EVOKES ANGRY RESPONSES FROM ISRAELI, U.S. JEWISH LEADERS

WASHINGTON, April 3 (JTA) -- President Reagan's assertion that he will not approve the scheduled delivery of 75 F-16 jet fighter-bombers to Israel until Israel withdraws its forces from Lebanon because "while these forces are in the position of occupying another country ... we are forbidden by law to release those planes," drew angry responses from Israeli officials and American Jewish leaders over the weekend.

Reagan, who made his remarks in reply to questions from the audience after he delivered a televised speech on arms control in Los Angeles last Thursday, did not say explicitly that Israel violated the terms of its arms sales agreements with the U.S., under which American weapons can be used only for defensive purposes.

State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg stressed to reporters Friday that the President's decision did not mean that he has determined that Israel's operations in Lebanon violated that law. He added, however, that while Israeli forces remain in Lebanon "concerns arise as to whether it will be consistent with the spirit of the law" to go ahead with the delivery of the aircraft. (See separate story.)

Shamir Calls Reagan's Move 'Regrettable'

Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said in a radio and television interview in Jerusalem Friday that the President's remarks were "very regrettable." Shamir maintained that the U.S. "knows very well that we entered Lebanon to defend ourselves from the murderous attacks of the Palestinian terrorists who were using Lebanon as their base."

He added that the U.S. also knows Israel has no territorial claims on Lebanon and wants to withdraw its forces. "But Israel's security requirements to prevent Lebanon from again becoming a terrorist base must be met," Shamir declared.

A Foreign Ministry official called Reagan's statement "most unfortunate" because "the notion that our forces are in occupation is erroneous because our action against the Palestine Liberation Organization was an act of legitimate self-defense."

Shamir claimed that Reagan's remarks came at a time when Israel and Lebanon were "close to agreement," implying that an agreement may now be hampered. Shamir did not elaborate. The Israel-Lebanon-U.S. negotiations, which began four months ago, were deadlocked last week over the issue of security arrangements in south Lebanon.

Israel demands that its ally, Maj. Saad Haddad and his Christian militia, remain in control of security in the region after Israeli forces withdraw. The Lebanese government, backed by the U.S., refuses to assign any such role to Haddad.

Answer To A Question

Reagan spoke in Los Angeles several days after his special envoy to the Middle East, Philip Habib, returned to Washington, apparently to report on the impasse in negotiations.

As is frequently the case with Reagan, he made his remarks in the course of an impromptu question-and-answer session rather than in a formal statement. The President was asked why the planes had not been delivered to Israel in view of the Soviet military build-up in Syria, including the deployment of long-range SAM-5 anti-aircraft missiles.

Reagan replied: "You must realize that under the law -- the law exists now -- those weapons must be used for defensive purposes, and, this is again, one of the obstacles presented by the stalemate in Lebanon." He added:

"While those (Israeli) forces are in the position of occupying another country that now has asked them to leave, we are forbidden by law to release those planes, and it's as simple as the other forces returning to their own countries and letting Lebanon be Lebanon."

The President reiterated what he has said on several previous occasions, that "Israel can only know real security if it doesn't have to remain an armed camp far beyond what its size warrants." The goal of his Mideast policy, he said, was "to create more Egypt," meaning more Arab states ready to live in peace with Israel.

Reactions By Jewish Representatives

Julius Berman, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said: "We are deeply distressed by President Reagan's statement which can only encourage Soviet adventurism in the Middle East. By conditioning the delivery of the long-promised F-16s on Israel's political behavior in Lebanon, the President is acting not only against Israel's ability to defend itself from Arab aggression but is jeopardizing the U.S. - Israel alliance, on which both peace and stability in the Middle East depend."

Henry Siegan, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said the President's assertion that the U.S. is forbidden by law to release the aircraft because American weapons must be used for defensive purposes "does not accord with the facts. Israel's operation in Lebanon was a defensive act, aimed at eradicating the PLO's 'state within a state' in Lebanon."

He called on the President "to rescind a decision which undermines America's interests no less than Israel's security at a time when the Soviet Union is rushing huge quantities of offensive weapons to radical Arab states."

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, warned that "continuing to withhold the planes will not help to defend the cause of freedom nor will it advance our country's strategic interests. To require that Israel must withdraw from Lebanon before it receives the F-16s is to punish our democratic friend and ally, Israel, for meeting the fundamental responsibilities of every government to protect the lives of its citizens and preserve its national existence which was the purpose of operation 'Peace for Galilee,'" Schindler said.

Kenneth Bialkin, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said Reagan's statement was "neither fair to Israel nor productive toward the goal of freeing Lebanon of foreign forces."

"Israel's decision to go into Lebanon last summer, as the Administration then recognized, was the result of PLO terrorist attacks and arms buildup in the south which posed a direct threat to northern Israel. In other words, clearly defensive. The fact that Israeli forces are still there, reflects the complicated process of finding real security in southern Lebanon to prevent a recurrence of terrorism and of finding a way to get Syrian and PLO troops out as well."

Ivan Novick, president of the Zionist Organization of America, said he was "surprised" that "at this crucial juncture the President would take an action which undermines the strategic viability of an ally and which further foments division between the two democracies." He urged the Administration to review its "dangerous approach."

Not An Unprecedented Action

Reagan's action is not without precedent. After Israel bombed Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981, the President held up delivery of 14 F-16s and two F-15s, informing Congress that Israel might have violated the arms sales agreements.

In June, 1982, when Israel invaded Lebanon and conducted daily bombing raids on Beirut, the Administration held up delivery of the 75 F-16s which are now at issue. The aircraft had been promised to Israel in 1978 to compensate for U.S. weapons sales to Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The Administration has since refrained from giving Congress formal notification of the sale, as required by law before the planes can be delivered.

STATE DEPARTMENT EXPLAINS REASON FOR HOLDING UP JETS SALE TO ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 3 (JTA) — President Reagan decided, a week after Israel went into Lebanon last June, to hold up notification of the sale of 75 F-16 jet fighters to Israel, the State Department revealed. But Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg stressed that this decision did not mean the President has determined that Israel's operation in Lebanon has violated United States law requiring that any weapons sold Israel be used only for defensive purposes.

Romberg's remarks Friday were made in an effort to explain Reagan's statement in Los Angeles last Thursday that the United States is "forbidden by law" to supply the planes to Israel while it is "occupying" Lebanon.

It was the first time anyone in the Reagan Administration had given any reason for holding up the sale after it had given Congress the required informal notification of it last May. Up to now, Administration spokesmen, when asked about the planes, said the President will decide, a situation which Romberg maintained still holds.

The Issue Of Law

"As the President pointed out (in Los Angeles), under law any weapons that are supplied must be used only for the purposes of legitimate self-defense," Romberg said.

"While Israeli forces remain in Lebanon, concerns arise as to whether it will be consistent with the spirit of the law to go ahead with the Congressional notification regarding the aircraft which has been held up ever since Israel went into Lebanon. However, the President was not stating that he is making a determination of whether Israel has violated the law.

Romberg maintained that Reagan had notified Congress last July that there was a possible "substantial violation" of the law in Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Israel regards the invasion as an act of self-defense. Romberg said the notification to Congress was contained in a classified letter. Later, it developed that the letter was declassified September 10. The law says that either Congress or the President can make a determination that a violation has occurred although neither is required to do so.

Romberg said he did not know why the President chose now to make public the reason for holding up the plane sale. The President's remarks were made after a speech on arms control when he was asked by a member of the audience why the planes were not being released, particularly in view of the military buildup by the Soviet Union of Syria.

Denies There Is A Contradiction

Romberg denied that there was any contradiction in holding up the F-16s and the recent announcement by the Pentagon of the sale of 200 Sidewinders to Israel. He said it is a "question of judgement" and the President has made a judgement in one case and not in the other.

The spokesman also denied that the delay in providing the F-16s was a reversal of the policy enunciated by Administration officials, particularly Secretary of State George Shultz, that the United States would not use military or economic aid to pressure Israel. On September 5, when he was asked specifically about using the F-16s as pressure, on CBS TV's "Face the Nation," Shultz replied: "Our emphasis will be... on the importance of peace. I think that's a tremendous pressure. Pressure isn't the right word. It's a tremendous objective that people have."

When Shultz was asked again about the use of pressure, he said: "We don't have any plans to try to maneuver people in a peace negotiation by talking about withholding aid or anything like that. I think the emphasis has to be on the positive side and that's where it has to be."

Romberg noted that the decision to hold up the planes was made before Shultz became Secretary of State and a week after Israel went into Lebanon. He said it occurred on June 13, the day when the 20-day notification to Congress expired.

Israel, which already has 75 F-16s, was offered an additional 75 in 1978 after the United States made major arms sales to Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt. The planes are due for delivery starting in 1985. Romberg did not know whether the delay in notification to Congress would have any effect on the delivery date. Congress has 30 days, after being formally notified of the proposed sale, in which it can vote to reject it.

VIOLENCE FLARES ON THE WEST BANK

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA) — At least a half dozen people, Arabs and Israelis, were injured as violence flared anew all over the West Bank today and Arab merchants observed a commercial strike in East Jerusalem.

Two Israeli soldiers were wounded in Nablus when a hand grenade was thrown at troops outside a local hospital. An Arab youth from a refugee camp near Hebron was treated for a bullet wound in his hand. He was believed to have been shot by an Israeli civilian trapped by stone-throwing demonstrators. Police are searching for the man.

Police dispersed rock-throwing Arab youths in El Hadr village near Bethlehem. Similar disturbances were reported from El Bireh, Ramallah, Hebron and Halhoul. Police said a security officer was hurt by a stone near the Damascus Gate to the Old City of Jerusalem. Arab youths stoned an Israeli patrol on the Via Dolorosa.

The strike by East Jerusalem merchants was called to observe the first anniversary of the fatal shooting of two Arabs by an Israeli soldier who fired an army rifle into Moslem worshippers as they left their shrines on the Temple Mount. The soldier, Alan Goodman, a recent immigrant from the U.S., was tried for murder and is awaiting sentence.

Meanwhile, new violence was averted when Israeli soldiers prevented a group of Jewish religious zealots from entering the Temple Mount area to hold prayer services. Police closed the Temple Mount to all but Moslems. But about 40 Orthodox Jews prayed and sang nationalist songs outside its gate.

The latest unrest on the West Bank and East Jerusalem coincided with the arrival of hundreds of Christian pilgrims from all parts of the world for Easter Sunday services at Christian shrines in Jerusalem.

STATE DEPT. SAYS ATTACK AGAINST ZIONISM BY A SOVIET GROUP IS AN 'ANTI-SEMITIC DIATRIBE'

WASHINGTON, April 3 (JTA) -- An attack against Zionism by eight Soviet Jews was sharply criticized by the State Department as an "anti-Semitic diatribe." The eight, led by Col. Gen. David Dragunsky, denounced "international Zionism" for claiming to speak on behalf of Soviet Jews and proposed the establishment of an "anti-Zionist committee of the Soviet public."

The State Department, in response to the attack which appeared in Pravda last Friday, said: "It is particularly deplorable that the Soviet regime should now enlist some people of Jewish ancestry to participate in their anti-Semitic diatribes." It added: "The United States government calls upon the Soviet government to cease its so-called anti-Zionist propaganda campaign, since (it) will only inflame anti-Semitic prejudices."

The Soviet group, in its statement, called on the Kremlin to combat Zionism. Continuing, the statement said: "In its essence, Zionism concentrates in itself extreme nationalism, chauvinism and racial intolerance, justification for territorial seizures and annexations, armed adventurism, the cult of political permissiveness and impunity, demagoguery and ideological diversions, filthy maneuvers and perfidy."

The statement also "resolutely" protested the efforts by "Zionist leaders" to convince the world that there is a "Jewish question" in the Soviet Union. The group said Zionism sought to falsify the Soviet policy on nationalities, adding: "Soviet Jews contemptuously reject efforts by Zionist propagandists to meddle in their life, they angrily condemn the lies and slander of the socialist fatherland." The group also described as "absurd" any effort to equate criticism of Zionism or Israel's leaders with anti-Semitism.

Timing Of The Attack Noted

In New York, Ivan Novick, president of the Zionist Organization of America, noted that the Soviet group's statement came shortly after the conclusion of the third World Conference on Soviet Jewry in Jerusalem last month, at which Moscow's treatment of Soviet Jews came under severe criticism, and during which delegates from throughout the world heard reports of increasing anti-Semitic activity in the USSR.

Novick said that the Soviet Union "is obviously upset by the outpouring of international support for Soviet Jews" at the world conference and "have

reacted by going on the offensive." Noting that the virulence of the anti-Zionist statements by the Soviet group, Novick said:

"It is a base attempt to discredit Israel, Zionism and the Soviet Jewry movement all in one cheap shot. However, no amount of orchestrated propaganda by the Soviets can divert the world's attention from the tragedy of human repression being played out in the Soviet Union, especially against Soviet Jews."

ISRAELI TROOPS CLAMP A CURFEW ON A WEST BANK VILLAGE NEAR HEBRON

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA) -- Israeli troops clamped a curfew on the West Bank village of Yatta, near Hebron, tonight after police were attacked there by stone-throwing youths. The police were sent to the village to investigate new complaints that Arab school girls were being poisoned.

More than 550 Arabs, mostly teen-aged girls, were hospitalized during the past week for symptoms attributed by Palestinian sources to poisonous substances introduced into their classrooms. Israeli health authorities who examined the sites and studied the symptoms stated flatly that there was no evidence that poison was the cause of the mysterious ailment.

Nevertheless, the Health Ministry announced last Thursday that it has asked the United States Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta to send a team of experts to assess the Israeli findings and to confirm them. It is not yet known whether the Atlanta center has responded.

The Ministry stressed that the negative findings yielded by its investigation of alleged mass poisoning were indisputable. It made the request, however, to allay widespread suspicion, generated by Palestinian sources, that the teen-agers were victims of an Israeli plot.

Mass Hysteria Suggested

According to Dr. Baruch Modan, director of the Health Ministry, the clinical symptoms -- dizziness, fainting, headache and nausea -- first reported in the West Bank town of Jenin and its vicinity, are unrelated to poisoning. He said at a press conference Thursday that this was determined by thorough tests in the area and in laboratories.

The chief army physician, Gen. Moshe Revah, who was present at the press conference, suggested that the illnesses were a psychosomatic manifestation of mass hysteria.

Revah noted that such phenomena was not uncommon among girls in the 14-17 year-old age bracket. He said scientific findings elsewhere in the world supported the conclusion that the symptoms were an hysterical reaction to an event, the initial cause of which is unclear. He said that two border policemen who complained of the same symptoms could also have been subject to mass hysteria.

Gen. Shlomo Illia, head of the Israeli civil administration on the West Bank, said at the press conference that local political elements had a clear interest in causing mass hysteria in Jenin prior to Land Day, March 30, when Palestinians demonstrate against the confiscation of Arab lands in Galilee by the Israeli authorities in 1976. Some Israeli officials claimed last week that if there had indeed been a poisoning, it was the work of Palestinian terrorists seeking to inflame the populace against Israel.

Modan said none of the cases are considered serious. Most of the teen-agers admitted to hospitals were released. But in Nablus, 15 of 50 girls released were readmitted with the same complaints.

REPORT FRENCH INTELLIGENCE SERVICE EMPLOYED EX-NAZIS AFTER WWII

PARIS, April 3 (JTA) -- The French intelligence service employed former Nazis after World War II for intelligence gathering activities in the Soviet Union and its satellite countries and to keep tabs on attempts to resurrect Nazi groups in other parts of the world, *Le Monde* reported.

The paper stressed that these Nazis, unlike Klaus Barbie who was employed by the CIA after the war, were not involved in war crimes. Barbie, the wartime gestapo chief in Lyon, is presently awaiting trial there for "crimes against humanity." According to recent revelations, the CIA helped Barbie escape from Europe at a time when France was seeking his extradition from a U.S. detention camp in Germany.

According to *Le Monde*, the French secret services, like their American and British counterparts, selected Nazis with intelligence experience in the prisoner-of-war camps after 1945 to renew contacts with their agents in East European countries. Those agents had informed German intelligence of Soviet moves during the war.

View Of Ex-Nazis' Role

France believed that with Russian forces in occupation of all of Eastern Europe, it was essential to continue to receive information from those sources and the only way to do it was through ex-Nazis, *Le Monde* reported.

France employed the services of agents from Section VI of the Reichs Sicherheit Haupt Amt (RSHA) which had been involved in sabotage missions in regions under Soviet influence, such as Iran, Turkey, certain Arab countries and Eastern Europe. Also hired were former Abwehr agents, the German military intelligence service, which was active until February, 1944.

According to *Le Monde* there was dissension between the RSHA which employed agents close to the Nazi movement, many former members of the SA, and the Abwehr which was less sympathetic towards the Nazis. Both groups were fiercely anti-Communist. They had worked with thousands of anti-Communist agents planted in the Eastern European countries while under Nazi occupation.

Le Monde said the French also needed the help of these former Nazi agents to prevent the reactivation of Nazi movements throughout the world. Former RSHA members were not too cooperative in that mission, the paper said.

The cooperation lasted four years, until the Berlin blockade in 1949. After that the efforts to revive anti-Communist networks in Eastern Europe ended. But the efforts against the revival of Nazi groups elsewhere continued for a much longer time, *Le Monde* said. Former French intelligence officers refused to reveal the names of the Nazi agents who worked for them.

EFFORT TO REVERSE DEPORTATION ORDER AGAINST TRIFA FAILS

DETROIT, April 3 (JTA) -- A suit filed against the federal government to reverse the deportation order against Archbishop Valerian Trifa of the Rumanian Orthodox Church in the United States, was summarily dismissed by U.S. District Court Judge Horace Gilmore here.

The suit was filed last month by eight members of the church. Their argument that the deportation of Trifa would mean the "virtual destruction" of the church and deprive its 35,000 members of the right to practice their religion, was described by Gilmore as "frivolous."

An eight-year investigation of Trifa's past by the Department of Justice and other government agencies determined that he had gained admission to the U.S. and obtained U.S. citizenship by concealing his Nazi activities when he was a leader of the anti-Semitic Iron Guard in Rumania during World War II.

Trifa was held directly responsible for a pogrom in Bucharest in 1941 in which hundreds of Jews and anti-fascists were murdered. As the evidence against him mounted, he agreed last October to voluntary deportation. However, his applications to emigrate to Switzerland, Italy and West Germany were rejected by the authorities in those countries, according to Neal Sher, acting director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI).

Judge Gilmore, in announcing his ruling, noted that the 69-year-old cleric "has admitted membership in the Iron Guard in Bucharest and the Movement of the Archangel Michael ... He admitted to fraud and misrepresentation in statements seeking U.S. citizenship in 1957," Gilmore said.

The attorney for the church members, Elliott Hall, said he would appeal the decision.

AUTHOR OF NAZI PROPAGANDA BOOK TO BE STRIPPED OF HIS DOCTORATE

By David Kantor

BONN, April 3 (JTA) -- The University of Goettingen will strip the author of a Nazi propaganda book of the doctoral degree he earned there in 1951. A university spokesman said the decision, by the Council of Deans, would be announced as soon as the author, Dr. Wilhelm Staeglich and his attorneys are officially informed of the action.

Staeglich, who lives in Hamburg and once served as a judge, is the author of "The Auschwitz Myth" which claims that the gas chambers and the murder of six million Jews during World War II was "Zionist atrocity propaganda" with no basis in fact. The book was published in 1979 by the Grabert Publishing House in Tuebingen and promptly became a best seller in neo-Nazi circles.

It was subsequently banned by a Stuttgart court which ordered the destruction of all copies in circulation and the printer's plates. That verdict was confirmed by a higher federal court last January 26.

Prof. Norbert Kamp, president of Goettingen University, said Staeglich was not entitled to retain his degree because he misused it to give an aura of scholarship to blatant Nazi propaganda. Kamp said he was shocked by the volume of mail he has received from persons all over the world supporting Staeglich's allegations.

UJA WASHINGTON MISSION RAISES \$3.4 M

NEW YORK, April 3 (JTA) -- One hundred fifty Jewish leaders from 20 communities throughout the United States pledged \$3.4 million for the United Jewish Appeal 1983 Regular Campaign and Israel Special Fund during the recent UJA National Leadership Mission to Washington, it was announced by Joel Sherman of Boston and Clarence Reisen of the Metropolitan New Jersey Federation, co-chairman of the event.

The totals included \$2,898,435 for the 1983 Regular Campaign, an increase of 39.3 percent over the amount pledged by the same donors in 1982. In addition, \$489,670 was raised for the Israel Special Fund. The mission participants have also raised a cumulative total of \$1,623,650 for Project Renewal.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The government and the World Zionist Organization will establish a joint fund of \$1 million to assist with loans to Israelis returning to Israel after an extended stay abroad.