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## STATE DEPT. DENIES U.S. PLANS TO SELL 1,200 TANKS TO SAUDIS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 4 (JTA) -- The State Department denied a published report today that the U.S. plans to sell Saudi Arabia 1,200 M-1 Abrams tanks. The U.S. has only agreed to a Saudi Arabian request for a demonstration of the tanks, Department spokesman Alan Romberg maintained.

Romberg stressed that as "one aspect" of the long term U.S. effort to "assist the Saudis in enhancing their defense capabilities with a view to improving their own and regional security," the U.S. has "agreed to provide a demonstration of the M-1 tank and the M-2/M-3 APCs in Saudi Arabia this summer at Saudi expense. This demonstration is at Saudi Arabia's request following a similar demonstration in the U.S. last year," Romberg said.

He said the story which appeared in The New York Times today "contains many inaccuracies." He confirmed that there are a number of Saudis in training at Fort Knox, Ky. on the M-1 "in connection with this demonstration." The Times' story said a crew of 18 Saudi tank soldiers began training at Fort Knox in the Abrams tank two weeks ago.

### No Request From Saudi Arabia

"We have no formal request for the M-1 tank from Saudi Arabia," Romberg stressed. He said that if such a request was forthcoming from the Saudis, "this will be considered in accordance with established procedure, including consultation with Congress."

Romberg added that the U.S. also has "no plans for stockpiling M-1s in Saudi Arabia, nor have we ever discussed this matter with the Saudi government. This assertion is unwarranted speculation."

The Times' story claimed that Saudi Arabia will begin getting about 400 tanks in 1985, with some of them for possible use by the U.S. There have been reports that the U.S. plans to sell large numbers of the Abrams tanks to Saudi Arabia ever since it was first revealed that a demonstration was held for the Saudis last summer.

### IRC REPRESENTATIVE CONFIRMS THAT NO POISONING WAS INVOLVED IN WEST BANK MYSTERY AILMENT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 4 (JTA) -- A Swiss doctor representing the International Red Cross has confirmed the findings of the Israeli Health Ministry that no poisonous substance was involved in the mystery ailment which felled nearly 600 persons on the West Bank, most of them teen-age Arab girls.

Dr. Franz Altherr, who will return to Geneva tomorrow, reported to Health Minister Eliezer Shostak that his investigations on the West Bank, discussions with West Bank and Israeli physicians and with some of the girls afflicted with the illness showed absolutely no indication of poison.

The Health Ministry and army medical officials came to the same conclusion last week. Nevertheless, two epidemiologists from the United States Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta arrived in Israel today to carry out an independent investigation

at the request of the Health Ministry. They are Drs. Phillip Landrigen and Bess Miller. Israel invited the independent investigation by the Disease Control center, an agency of the U.S. Public Health Service, to put to rest charges by some Palestinian officials that the West Bank teen-agers were victims of an Israeli plot.

### Arabs Call For UN Security Council Meeting

(At the United Nations, members of the Security Council were scheduled to meet for consultations this evening to discuss an Arab request for an urgent Security Council meeting on the "poisoning" of Palestinians in the West Bank.

(The Arab states called for a meeting in a letter to the Council's president, Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick of the United States. The letter was signed by Iraqi Ambassador Riyadh Al-Qaysi, chairman of the Arab group of states at the UN, who charged that "the mass poisoning" affected more than 1,000 Palestinian school girls.)

### Cases Not Considered Serious

The ailment, first reported in the Jenin area last week, resulted in the hospitalization of hundreds of Arab high school girls who complained of fainting, dizziness, headaches and nausea. None of the cases was considered serious and most of the girls were quickly released from hospitals. A number were readmitted over the weekend, complaining of the same symptoms.

Israeli army doctors claimed that the symptoms, while genuine, were the result of mass hysteria induced by Palestinian terrorists to discredit Israel. That view was shared by Gen. Shlomo Illia, head of the Israeli civil administration on the West Bank.

Police reported today that they arrested the occupants of two cars who were touring Nablus warning the local residents not to drink the water because it was poisoned. The police did not identify them or say how many persons were arrested.

### ANTI-ZIONIST MANIFESTO SEEN AS NEW SOVIET GAMBIT TO CLOSE DOORS TO ANY JEWISH EMIGRATION

NEW YORK, April 4 (JTA) -- The anti-Zionist manifesto signed by eight prominent Soviet Jews and published in Pravda last Friday "might presage a period in which the iron gates of the USSR could be padlocked shut against any Jewish exit," two Soviet Jewish groups warned today.

According to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ), the document's assertion that Russian Jews are "citizens of the USSR, part and parcel of the Soviet people" makes it clear that any Jew who wishes to go to Israel or applies for emigration "can be classified as an enemy of the state and treated as such."

The two groups pointed out that another article under the byline of Tsezar Soladar, a Jewish journalist, which appeared in the March 9 edition of Literaturnaya Gazeta, distinguished between capitalists, backers of Premier Menachem Begin and ordinary workers. Both represent "the newest and most frightening aspect yet of the Kremlin's anti-Semitic campaign," the groups said.

The anti-Zionist manifesto was signed by Gen. David Dragunsky and law professor Samuel Ziv, both of whom had previously denounced Israel and Jews seeking to leave the Soviet Union. The other signatories were writers Genrikh Gofman and Yuri Kolesnikov; Lenin Prize winner Martin Kabachnik; history professor Gregory Bondarevsky; filmmaker Boris Sheinin; and philosopher Henrikas Zimanos. Dragunsky's nephew emigrated in 1977.

They called for the establishment of an "Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public" and urged intellectuals, workers and farmers to be active in the "political exposure of Zionism and firmly rebuff its intrigues."

The SSSJ and UCSJ observed that "the only positive note is a rumor that other prominent Soviet Jews had bravely refused to sign the manifesto. They noted that there has been no public committee of Soviet Jews since the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee was established under Stalin during World War II to gain the support of Western Jews for Russia's battle against the Nazis. After the war, the group was disbanded and many of its members were later shot."

#### 101 JEWS LEFT THE USSR IN MARCH

NEW YORK, April 4 (JTA) -- One hundred and one Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union last month, it was reported here by the Soviet Jewry Research Bureau of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. This figure represents a 20 percent decline from the number of Jews permitted to leave the USSR in February and brings the total for the first quarter of 1983 to 307 people -- the lowest quarterly figure since 1968, the Research Bureau said.

#### U.S. STILL HOPEFUL HUSSEIN WILL JOIN THE TALKS ON AUTONOMY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 4 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration was still hopeful today that its appeal for "broadened negotiations" would convince King Hussein of Jordan to join the talks for Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza.

State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said the Administration remained "hopeful that the King would enter the talks. But he had no comment on reports from Amman, where Hussein has been meeting with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat, that the PLO has rejected giving its approval for Hussein to represent the Palestinians.

Romberg said he based his hope on the "serious and very well thought out proposals" made by President Reagan in his September 1 Middle East peace initiative and Hussein's "indication" that he would like to be able to join the talks after the consultations with the PLO and Arab leaders.

But so far none of the Arab states has given public support for Hussein's participation in the negotiations. Arafat said in Amman yesterday that there was "nothing of merit" in the Reagan plan and said he would never authorize allowing Hussein to negotiate for the PLO.

Reagan, in an apparent effort to convince Hussein telephoned the King from his home in Santa Barbara and reportedly offered to pressure Israel for a freeze on settlements if the King joined the negotiations. Romberg would not confirm this, but noted that the U.S. position on the settlements was made clear in Reagan's September 1 speech. At the time, Reagan said a freeze "more than any other action, could create the confidence needed for wider participation in these talks."

Meanwhile, the Baltimore Sun, in a dispatch from its Peking correspondent, reported that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who is visiting the People's Republic of China, urged at a press conference there yesterday that Arafat and Hussein agree to the "linkage" requested by Reagan.

Mubarak said that "the present is a golden chance" to resolve the Palestinian issue and other Mideast problems, and "we must not lose this good chance." He said the Arabs should "put the burden back on the Americans and the Israelis" so that it will be clear that failure to make progress is not the fault of the Arabs.

Mubarak was also quoted as warning "that if the talks are not entered into at an early time, the negotiations will be postponed" because of the 1984 U.S. presidential election campaign and he said continued rapid settlements on the West Bank by Israel will give it "permanent control of the territory."

#### BEGIN'S INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE

JERUSALEM, April 4 (JTA) -- Affirming Israel's continued "quest for peace" and commitment to the Camp David accords with Egypt, Premier Menachem Begin declared his government's intentions to move ahead with negotiations for an agreement on autonomy for the Palestinian people on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Noting that the peace treaty with Egypt "has withstood the test," Begin said in a statement in conjunction with Israel's 35th Independence Day, which will be marked April 18, that Israel wishes "to move ahead speedily to consummate the other part of the Camp David accords, namely the negotiations on the full autonomy for the Palestinian Arab inhabitants in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District. We want these negotiations renewed."

"There are proposals, positions and plans, but there exists only one single document of an international character that is binding, and that is the Camp David agreement . . . . Just as we remained true to the date and dot to the other part of Camp David -- the peace treaty with Egypt -- so shall we remain true to the other at the heart which lies the autonomy program," the Israeli Premier said. "Its negotiations and realization is the key to the further advancement of the peace process to which Israel is firmly committed."

Begin said that despite the recent "strains in the relations between Israel and Egypt," the Jewish State looked forward to strengthening relations "through a progressive interchange of trade, culture and tourism between our two ancient peoples."

Begin also defended Israel's invasion of Lebanon last June, saying that the people of Israel's northern communities have now been granted "a new life of peace, serenity and security" after seven years of Palestinian terrorist assaults. He said the strength of the PLO "had reached a point that Nahariya and Kiryat Shmona faced the threat of physical destruction."

While maintaining that Israel does "not covet an inch of Lebanese territory," Begin reiterated that the "one goal of policy of the government of Israel is to live in good peaceful relations with our northern neighbor, Lebanon, whose sovereignty and integrity we respect, and to ensure and guarantee that never again will the blood of the Galileans be shed."

He said "the ultimate mission of our generation" is aliyah, but added that many Jews who wish to come to Israel cannot because of the "hostile policies" of the regimes in which they live, notably, Syria, Ethiopia, Iran and the Soviet Union. He praised the "unbelievable courage" of Soviet Jewry who live in "a state of distress. After some years of emigration, the doors of the USSR have been slammed shut," he noted.

**EXPERT ON NAZI WAR CRIMINALS  
SAYS BRITISH KNEW AS EARLY AS  
JULY 18, 1941 DETAILS OF NAZIS'  
'FINAL SOLUTION' AGAINST SOVIET JEWS**

NEW YORK, April 4 (JTA) — British military intelligence knew as early as July 18, 1941 the daily details of the Nazis' "final solution" against Soviet Jews as well as the mass killings of Russian soldiers and other non-Jewish Soviet peoples. British codebreaking operations — called ULTRA and Triangle — were immediately distributed to Prime Minister Winston Churchill as well as to the French and, possibly, American intelligence.

These revelations are contained in a detailed article by Charles Allen, Jr. in the spring issue of Reform Judaism, the nationally circulated magazine of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, that will be out in June. An advance copy of the article was made available to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Allen is a journalist who is internationally known for his work on Nazi war criminals and their utilization by American intelligence agencies. Last month he wrote a three-part series for the JTA on gestapo chief Klaus Barbie, the "butcher of Lyon," and how American intelligence aided his escape in 1951 to Latin America. The series, which was given worldwide distribution by the press, radio and TV, also detailed the help Barbie received at the time from the Vatican and the International Red Cross as well as his later employment by the CIA.

Evidence For The Revelation

Allen's evidence for his article in Reform Judaism was gathered from a little-read series of massively detailed studies called "British Intelligence in the Second World War" (1981). Some of the major findings are:

\* Item: "Between 18 July and 30 August 1941 (Ordnungspolizei/SS) police decrypts (British decipherings of the SS secret code) on at least seven occasions gave details of mass shootings in the central sector (of European Russia) of victims variously described as 'Jews,' 'Jewish plunderers,' or 'Russian soldiers' in numbers varying from less than a hundred to several thousand."

\* Item: "On 7 August 1941, the SS Cavalry Brigade reported that it had carried out 7,819 'executions' to date in the Minsk area ..."

\* Item: "... on the same day (7 August 1941), von dem Bach (General der Waffen-SS Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski, later in charge of all Nazi anti-Partisan and anti-Jewish warfare), commander of the police in the central sector, reported that 30,000 executions had been carried out since the police arrived in Russia ..."

\* Item: "... on September 12, 1941 ... near Ovruch, Police Regiment South disposed of 1,255 Jews 'according to the usage of war'."

British decrypts of Nazi Army, SS and collaborator military-police units revealed the details of massive imprisonment of Soviet citizens for slave labor in the Third Reich.

The study — Appendix V in Volume Two of the three-volume set — also shows that daily information on "the daily return of prisoners at Dachau, Buchenwald, Auschwitz and seven other concentration camps" were carefully logged by British intelligence which kept population rosters on the camps from 1942.

Significant reductions in camp populations were accounted for "primarily by deaths." In Auschwitz, the British (incorrectly) inferred from the reports,

"illness" was the "main cause of deaths, but (this) included ... shootings and hangings."

The study stated: "There were no references in the (SS police) decrypts to gassing." As the years passed, references to the concentration and death camps became "infrequent."

As early as the fall of 1941, an SS chief in Berlin "warned police commanders throughout Russia that there was a danger that matters of great secrecy, such as the exact number of executions, might be deciphered by the enemy." This alarm neither deterred the Nazis nor prompted the British (French and Americans) to reveal the "terrible secret."

Says Holocaust Studies Will Need Rewriting

Allen wrote in Reform Judaism that virtually all of the authoritative studies on the Holocaust will have to undergo "considerable rewriting" for having "failed to take into account the certain and earliest knowledge that was (and remains) contained in ULTRA and Triangle."

Allen concluded: "Looming even larger and far more scandalous than the Allied failure to bomb the rail lines into Auschwitz are the 'terrible secrets' of ULTRA and Triangle which, if fully released, will unleash a veritable hurricane in the post-Holocaust world."

CONTROVERSY OVER COLLAPSE  
OF ABANDONED MOSQUE IN JAFFA  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 4 (JTA) — The collapse of the minaret of a long abandoned mosque in Jaffa has raised tension in Arab and other Moslem communities in Israel and triggered a controversy between the Tel Aviv municipality and the government over which was responsible for delaying repairs on the structure, the Hassan Bek mosque.

The minaret, a slender tower from which the Moslem faithful are summoned to prayer, collapsed early Saturday morning. No one was injured. Police engineers ruled out an explosion and said the structure fell apart because of neglect. The mosque has been abandoned since the Israeli state was founded in 1948. Jaffa, once an Arab town, was subsequently incorporated into Tel Aviv.

Two years ago, a private contractor attempted to lease the roofless, unused structure to turn it into a tourist shopping center. The bid was blocked by Moslems and by the Tel Aviv municipality. The Tel Aviv authorities and the local branch of the Wafk, the Moslem property association, agreed that the mosque should be repaired and used once again as a house of worship, although few if any Arabs or Moslems now live in the vicinity.

According to Mayor Shlomo Lehat of Tel Aviv, city engineers drew up plans for the repair work and the necessary funds were promised by the Religious Affairs Ministry. Lehat says the funds have not been forthcoming despite his repeated requests. Ministry sources blame the municipal authorities for the delay. Meanwhile, Moslem groups have been holding a vigil outside the collapsed structure.

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NEW YORK (JTA) — A group of prominent Americans and Israelis, led by former Presidential assistant Stuart Eizenstat and former Knesset member S. Zalman Abramov, met recently in Jerusalem to plan programs aimed at enhancing understanding between the American Jewish community and Israel. It was the first joint meeting of the Israeli and American advisory boards of the recently formed Institute on American Jewish-Israeli Relations, an arm of the American Jewish Committee.

## FOCUS ON ISSUES A REMINDER OF TERROR AND BRUTALITY By Philip Slomovitz

DETROIT, April 4 (JTA) -- Kishinev is a term reminiscent of terror and brutality. The name of the Bessarabian city is a reminder of one of the most inhuman bestialities perpetrated against Jews.

On the 80th anniversary of the brutalities of Kishinev there also are reminders of the historic role that was played by America and Americans -- Jews and Christians -- in the protests against the Czarist-encouraged pogrom. A similar role is now being played by America and Americans in human rights declarations against the practice of the Kremlin to persecute and imprison Jewish as well as non-Jewish activists and dissidents in the Soviet Union.

Kishinev is now a mere memory, steeped in tragedy, denoting the destruction of generations of life and achievements of many Russian-Jewish communities. At the time of the Kishinev Czar-inspired massacre in 1903 there were 80,000 Jews in that city's population of some 115,000.

The present record of their existence there is a shambles of a synagogue, the last of the perhaps 25 or more of 80 years ago. (The Kishinev pogrom was not an isolated incident. It was followed by others in the Ukraine and White Russia. There was also a second pogrom in Kishinev on October 1905.)

### Protests Then And Now

The American protests then, in 1903, equate with the nationwide protests now when Jews who are denied visas to emigrate to Israel and dissidents who will not knuckle down to Communist lies dare to speak their minds against tyranny.

It was as a result of the tragedies in Russia, primarily after the inhumanities in Kishinev, that the American Jewish Committee was founded. That's when Jacob H. Schiff, Cyrus Sulzberger, Julius Rosenwald, Louis Marshall and many of their associates came forth with a voice so strong that mankind was aroused.

Shortly thereafter, the Jewish Publication Society issued a full-length volume, "The Voice of America on Kishinev," in which there were recorded the hundreds of protest meetings, the many scores of sermons in churches, the innumerable editorials in newspapers throughout the land.

### The Role Of John Hay

A great Christian, John Hay who served as Secretary of State under Presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt -- the great scholar who had studied Hebrew -- then gained a permanent place in American history as chief interpreter of our foreign policy under two Administrations. Hay first recorded his name in defense of Jews who were oppressed in Rumania. Then came the Kishinev outrages. Once again he played a historic role in defense of oppressed Jews.

The Russian and Rumanian questions first came to the fore during the administration of President Rutherford B. Hayes. Hay was then acting Secretary of State. On October 22, 1880, he wrote a note regarding "the expulsion of American citizens from Russian cities on no other ground than profession of the Hebrew faith."

He continued the role of champion of religious freedom and on August 11, 1902, he stated that the United States "is constrained to protest against the treatment to which the Jews of Rumania are subjected, not alone because it has unimpeachable grounds to remonstrate against the resultant injury to itself, but in the name of humanity."

Then, as Secretary of State, Hay registered a protest against the violation by Rumania of the Berlin Treaty of 1878 under which Jews were to be accorded protections by Rumania.

Hay, humanitarian, had earlier expressed his personal feelings when he sent a personal check for \$500 to a relief fund that was established for Rumanian Jews. Yet there were some who felt that not enough was done for them. Schiff had written to him to express indignation and on May 30, 1903, Hay wrote to Schiff: "I feel precisely as you do in regard to it, but you are free to express your feelings and I am not."

### Diplomacy And Caution

It was in this exchange of letters that there was evidenced the state of affairs effected by diplomacy and the caution that often prevents action. A statement had been prepared by B'nai B'rith for presentation to the Russian Czar protesting the Kishinev pogrom. John Hay then said: "The fact that no civilized government has yet taken action would bid us to proceed with caution."

This statement is proof of the recurring eternal caution which often militates against prevention of repetitive crimes against humanity.

Roosevelt did receive an organized B'nai B'rith delegation that protested against the Kishinev pogroms, and he told them "In any way by which beneficial action may be taken, it will be taken to show the sincerity of the historic American position."

But all that ensued was a petition which the Czarist government rejected and the Russian Ambassador to the United States, Count Cassini, venomously attacked Jewry, thus adding insult to injury.

He did not succeed in securing assurances from Russia that there would be better protection for Russian Jews, but he had interceded and Roosevelt, in concert with him, expressed horror over the Kishinev happening. Is that experience being repeated today in the Communist language of rejecting Jewish protests against indignities?

### Background Of The Pogrom

The Kishinev agitation against the Jews started with the murder on February 1, 1903, of a wealthy young Russian, Michael Ribalenko. His body was found February 22, 1903, and it developed that he was killed by a relative who hoped to acquire his fortune. But the agitation against the Jews was pushed with vigor by the notorious anti-Semitic newspapers. The rumor was spread that Jews had used the murdered man's blood for Passover. The hoary blood libel instigated the April 1903 pogrom that lasted for three days.

The Kishinev outrage affected 2,750 Jewish families, of whom 2,528 reported damages amounting to 2,332,890 rubles -- about \$1,190,000 in American money at the rate of exchange of that time. The dead numbered 47, while 92 were severely wounded and 345 were less seriously wounded.

Protest petitions were signed by some of the nation's most prominent citizens, including former President Grover Cleveland. The voice of America spoke loudly against the discriminations, but the Russian Czar was too powerful to be swayed from anti-Semitic murderous instigations.

It was the Kishinev pogrom more than any other incident that inspired mass migration of Russian Jews to the United States, some to other countries, and an impressive number to Palestine. Then Zionism became recognized as the great libertarian movement in the ranks of men and women who later became the leaders in the establishment of the State of Israel.