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ISRAEL BITTER ABOUT U.S. PROMISE TO HUSSEIN THAT IT IS 'DETERMINED' THAT ISRAEL WILL FREEZE ITS WEST BANK SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES
By David Landau and Gil Sedan (Jerusalem) and David Friedman (Washington)

April 10, (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration's public promise to King Hussein of Jordan that it is "determined" to "assure" that Israel will freeze its settlement activities on the West Bank if Hussein joins in the Middle East peace negotiations, drew bitter responses from top Israeli officials today. But the Cabinet refrained from issuing an official reaction statement, apparently having been persuaded not to by Premier Menachem Begin.

This was the second time in 10 days that Israeli officials lashed out against what they perceived to be the application of pressure by the Reagan Administration to extract concessions from Israel.

President Reagan's remarks in Los Angeles on March 31 that he would not authorize the sale of 75 F-16 fighter-bombers to Israel until Israeli forces were withdrawn from Lebanon, elicited angry comment from ranking Cabinet members and others. But there was no official government reaction.

Arens Accuses The U.S.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens returned to that issue at today's Cabinet meeting, accusing Washington of seeking "to dictate to another state its security requirements." But the government's anger focussed mainly on the settlements issue.

Officials accused the U.S. of "looking for an excuse" to account for the collapse of Reagan's peace initiative, announced last September 1 and rejected by Israel at the time. They quoted Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir as telling the Cabinet that the latest U.S. statement was a transparent attempt to woo Hussein into the peace process. He predicted that it would fail.

Jordan Abandons Talks With The PLO

Reports from Amman today said that Jordan has abandoned its talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization on joint political action with respect to negotiations with Israel. Those talks, spread over the past month, involved mainly Hussein and PLO chief Yasir Arafat. Arafat broke off the talks last week and went to Kuwait.

A PLO official, Khalil Wazir, said in Amman yesterday that Arafat might not return to Jordan for further meetings with Hussein before the Arab summit meeting scheduled to be held in Morocco April 16-17. He said the PLO had "no confidence" in American pledges to have Israel freeze its settlement-building in the occupied territories.

The furious reaction in Israel today stemmed from remarks by State Department spokesman John Hughes on Friday. Hughes said "direct negotiations based on UN Resolution 242, which is the basis of the Camp David accords, has been the goal to which all of our efforts have been addressed since the President announced his 'fresh start' as part of his September 1 initiative.

"If Jordan publicly announces its willingness to enter such negotiations, we are determined to do our best to assure that the results of these negotiations are not prejudiced from the outset by activities of any party which reduce the prospects of a negotiated peace," he added. The only one of the "activities" that Hughes would define was Israeli settlements on the West Bank.

The State Department spokesman would not specify what the U.S. might do to prevail upon Israel to freeze settlements. He stressed, however, that his statement did not imply a "threat" of any kind, including a cut-off of U.S. economic and military aid to Israel.

Hughes' statement is believed to be the first official confirmation of what Reagan told Hussein in a telephone conversation last month and what American diplomats have been saying privately to Jordanians. Meanwhile, Victor Harel, spokesman for the Israel Embassy in Washington, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the freeze issue was being used "as an excuse" by Jordan not to join the negotiations. "We will not accept any preconditions for negotiations from any party, including Jordan," Harel said. He observed that Hussein could emulate the late President Anwar Sadat of Egypt by entering negotiations without preconditions.

The Embassy spokesman noted that the U.S. position on settlements is "well known" in Israel. He reiterated Israel's contention that the settlements are not an obstacle to peace and that Jews have a right to settle anywhere in the territories.

Reiterates Israel's Settlements' Position

Cabinet secretary Dan Meridor, who was authorized to convey to the media in Jerusalem the sense of today's Cabinet debate, declared that Israel's position regarding settlements are "known and are unchanged." He claimed that those who sought peace in the area need not be deterred by the prospect of Jews living in Judea and Samaria.

Hughes made his remarks on a settlement freeze in response to questions about a column in The Washington Post Friday in which columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak charged that Israeli officials were trying to sell land on the West Bank to American Jews. According to the writers, the sales efforts were made at a conference in New York on March 13 by an organization called Americans for Safe Israel (SAFE).

Hughes said the State Department is looking into the legality of this. He indicated that one question raised is whether there is a possible violation of anti-discrimination laws if the land is being offered for sale only to Jews.

But the State Department spokesman stressed that "who is buying the land is not the primary issue. We have on a number of occasions stated publicly that the continuation of settlement activity is a major obstacle in the way of broadened negotiations." He quoted Reagan's September 1 statement that a settlement freeze by Israel "more than any other action could create the confidence needed for wider participation in these (peace) talks."

Israel Embassy spokesman Harel acknowledged that West Bank land was being offered for sale in the U.S., but stressed that the offers were made not by Israel government officials but by a private group, the "Eretz Yisrael Academy" which is seeking to sell land in Kedumim on the West Bank to potential immigrants from the U.S.

WZO's Settlement Plan

Meanwhile, the World Zionist Organization's Settlement Department predicted today that some 3 million Jews will live in 165 settlements on the West Bank within 30 years. The settlement master plan, directed by department chairman Matityahu Dabless, calls for a Jewish population of 100,000 in the territory in three years and another 57 settlements of various kinds by 1987.

The plan assumes a total Jewish population in Israel and the territories of 6 million through natural increase alone. The Arab population in East Jerusalem and the West Bank is expected to remain between 1.1-1.4 million, excluding emigration.

Israel's population is currently slightly over 4 million, including close to 700,000 Israeli Arabs. The Arab population of the West Bank and East Jerusalem is put at about 750,000 and of the Gaza Strip at 450,000.

GUNMAN KILLS A TOP PLO LEADER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 10 (JTA) -- Issam Sartawi, a moderate leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, who had met frequently with Israeli leftwing representatives, was shot dead today in the Portuguese town of Albufeira where the Socialist International was holding its congress. Sartawi, the first PLO representative to attend a Socialist International congress, was killed by a lone gunman at the entrance to the hotel where the congress was being held.

The extremist Palestinian group, headed by Abu Nidal, claimed responsibility for the killing. This group has been involved in similar actions in Europe, including the attack on Israel's Ambassador to London, Shlomo Argov, which sparked the war in Lebanon last June.

The Nidal group said after today's killing that it had "the honor of having carried out the death sentence on the traitor Sartawi," Israel Radio reported.

"Sartawi was a criminal, a traitor and an agent who had sold himself to American imperialism and its European allies. He was a cheap servant of the Israeli intelligence (Mossad) and the British intelligence."

A State Of Shock

A reporter for Israel Radio attending the Socialist congress reported that all the delegates appeared to be in a state of shock. Eulogies were delivered by the heads of most delegations, including Shimon Peres, who heads the Israeli delegation. He said he condemned the murder of a man who, while a PLO member, had tried to steer a more open approach of talks with leftwing Israelis. Peres also said he condemned the killing as a human being, a Jew and a Socialist. "The culprit who put an end to his life was aiming at the spirit of moderation," he said.

Following the shooting, Portuguese authorities sealed off all borders and ports of entry and exit to the country. Israel Radio quoted a government official this evening as saying that the assailant was "no more than 10 kilometers from the hotel," as all roads had been closed.

The gunman who pumped four or five bullets into Sartawi, whose blanket-covered body was left in the hotel lobby for several hours, was described by eye-witnesses as "of Middle Eastern appearance."

Eliav Mourns Death of Sartawi

In Israel, Arye Eliav, the leftwing Israeli who had frequently met with Sartawi in the past seven years, mourned the slain PLO leader as a "proud Palestinian and a brave man, a man who had been an enemy and also a close friend." He said his death was a blow to Israel, to those Palestinians and in the PLO who wanted peace, and to the peace effort as a whole.

Eliav said Sartawi had tried to bring about peace with Israel through compromise. He said the PLO leader was opposed to the PLO's official objective of creating a "secular democratic state" in "Palestine" because it would not give full rights to the Jewish inhabitants.

Sartawi, who had initiated the attack on an El Al plane in Vienna over 10 years ago in which Israeli actress Hannah Meron lost a leg, had, since the Yom Kippur War, decided that terrorism was a dead end tactic which should be replaced by negotiations for a compromise arrangement in which the area of Palestine in dispute should be shared between Israel and a Palestinian state on the West Bank.

Sartawi, a doctor and specialist in cardiology, was born in a village now on the West Bank whose family had taken him to Iraq in 1948. Sartawi did much of his medical training in the U.S.

ROSENNE TO BE NAMED ISRAEL'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.

JERUSALEM, April 10 (JTA) -- The Cabinet confirmed today that veteran diplomat Meir Rosenne will be named Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., replacing Moshe Arens who left Washington to become Minister of Defense.

A formal announcement of Rosenne's appointment is expected shortly. He is presently Israel's Ambassador to France, a post he has held since 1979. Prior to that Rosenne served as legal advisor to the Foreign Ministry in which capacity he played an important role at the Camp David negotiations in September, 1978 and in the subsequent peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt. Rosenne also served as Israel Consul General in New York during the 1960s.

His appointment to Washington has long been predicted by the Israeli media. The Foreign Ministry reportedly is gratified that the most senior post in the Israeli foreign service will go to a professional diplomat rather than a political appointee. The tug-of-war between politics and professionalism is expected to focus now on Rosenne's replacement in Paris.

ISRAEL MARKS MEMORIAL DAY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 10 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin said today that the principal lesson of the Holocaust was never to underrate those who declare their intention to kill Jews. One of the reasons the Holocaust occurred, he said at the Martyrs and Heroes Memorial Day ceremony at the Yad Vashem here, was the lack of motivation among diaspora Jews to leave their countries and immigrate to Israel.

According to Begin, the Jewish partisans who fought in the ghettos during World War II raised their flag not only against the Nazis but against the enlightened world which knew of the annihilation of Jews but failed to save them.

Begin kindled the eternal flame at the Yizkor (Remembrance) tent at the Yad Vashem, opening the ceremonies which were attended by the entire Cabinet and members of the World Zionist Organization Executive. Inter-

ior Minister Yosef Burg recited the Kaddish. The ceremony ended in front of the Warsaw uprising monument outside the Yad Vashem building.

It was one of several memorial ceremonies which began last night at the Yad Vashem, attended by more than 1,000 Holocaust survivors, soldiers, new immigrants and others, including President Yitzhak Navon. The theme of the memorial is the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

2,500 PEOPLE MARK YOM HA-SHOAH AND THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 10 (JTA) -- Some 2,500 people, many of them survivors of Nazi concentration camps and others who fought in ghetto resistance movements during World War II, today gathered at Temple Emanu-El for the annual ceremonies marking Yom Ha-Shoah and the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Despite the torrential rainstorm outside, the sanctuary was filled to near capacity for the somber commemoration. But the weather had its effect. The bleachers which were erected across from the synagogue along Fifth Avenue were empty. Usually, hundreds of people, curious passersby and others unable to gain entry into the synagogue, listen to the ceremony which is amplified through large speakers.

The many speakers who addressed those gathered focused today on the need to remember and retell the story of the Holocaust. Governor Mario Cuomo of New York asserted that many remain "uncomfortable with hearing the truth" of what he termed "the war against the Jews." In an effort to explain why people are so willing to forget the Holocaust, Cuomo suggested two possible reasons.

The Disease Of Anti-Semitism

First, he said, because of persistent anti-Semitism. Cuomo called anti-Semitism a disease which never leaves but waits for an opportunity to rear its ugly hand. "It may appear with different ideology, justification or various terminology," Cuomo said. But overall, he continued, anti-Semitism continues to be used by people whereby "Jews are accused for being Jews, Jews (are) denied the right to be a people, singled out, vilified, persecuted and inevitably threatened with extinction."

Secondly, Cuomo suggested that all those who were responsible for "aiding and abetting" the Nazi war machine would like to see the memory of the Holocaust erased. Specifically, he said, these are the many clerks, stockkeepers, and others who were responsible for keeping the records and documentation of the number of shoes or the amount of gold taken from the teeth of Holocaust victims.

"The truth is that the barbarians by whose hands the atrocities occurred were aided and abetted by armies of people who chose not to oppose" Nazism and the attempt to liquidate the Jewish people, Cuomo said. He said these are the people "who had mouths but did not speak, ears but did not hear, eyes but did not see."

Reasons To Remember The Holocaust

Rep. Sam Gejdenson (D. Conn.), who was born in a DP camp in Germany, stressed another element in the need to remember the Holocaust. He said that if the life and culture that the Jews of Eastern Europe gave to the world is forgotten or not renewed and strengthened through continuity, then Hitler and his cohorts will indeed have won

after all. While the horrors of the Holocaust cannot be undone, he continued, they must be remembered so that the proper lessons can be learned.

Gejdenson asserted that one of the lessons of the Holocaust is that "Jewish security and safety can only be guaranteed by a proud people prepared to defend its existence. Our commitment to Israel is deep and profound. It serves not merely as a haven to the oppressed ... but as a reassertion of life in a world" of indifference.

With Metropolitan Opera tenor Misha Raitzin chanting memorial prayers and ghetto songs, 200 survivors of Nazi concentration camps, wearing white shirts lit six rows of 36 candles, using the multiple of six to symbolize the six million Jews who perished during the Holocaust.

Later, six survivors accompanied by second generation survivors lit six large candles while Raitzin recited Mole Rachamin. Kaddish was then chanted by Hersh Altusky, the executive secretary of the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization (WAGRO), sponsors of the event.

Israel And The Holocaust

Naphtali Lavie, Israel's consul general in New York, attributed the establishment of the State of Israel to the survivors of the Holocaust. "Had it not been for the survivors of the Holocaust ... I doubt whether the State of Israel would have been created," he said. Lavie added that had it not been for the Holocaust, "Israel would today have been richer in quality and quantity."

But Lavie, who was liberated by American troops from the Buchenwald death camp, condemned the use of the terms genocide and Holocaust for political purposes and by anti-Semites. He said that while other peoples were and are victims of mass slaughter, only the Jewish people were singled out for deliberate and planned extermination. Hence, the terms genocide and Holocaust are uniquely applicable to them.

Lavie also stated that these terms, used loosely to characterize what is happening to people in many parts of the world today, are being employed by people in the free world who stood by idly while European Jews were being slaughtered.

Mayor Edward Koch of New York spoke of the bravery of those who took arms against the Nazis and fought in the ghettos. He said "we are duty bound to remember and actively commemorate" the memory of the Holocaust. Koch proclaimed today "Warsaw Ghetto Commemoration Day," calling on all people to remember the courage and valour of the victims and survivors of the Holocaust.

Steven Meed, son of Benjamin Meed, honorary president of WAGRO, spoke on behalf of his father who is in Washington for tomorrow's opening ceremonies of the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors. He, too, cited the need to remember the Holocaust and the ghetto uprising, and also referred to the world that stood by indifferently, while Jews were killed during World War II. He compared this indifference to the nations that today have turned their backs on Israel.

Some 1,000 people who attended the commemoration service here today were scheduled to leave immediately after the event to Washington in 25 buses to participate in the opening ceremonies of the four-day American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors, according to a spokesman for WAGRO. An estimated 12,000 survivors and their families are expected for the American Gathering.

AJCOMMITTEE ISSUES MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT ON THE MIDEAST

NEW YORK, April 10 (JTA) — The American Jewish Committee, in a major policy statement, took issue with Israel's West Bank settlement policy as unhelpful to the peace process with Jordan in accordance with the Camp David accords. At the same time, it called on King Hussein of Jordan "to seize the opportunity offered him" in line with the accords "to join unequivocally and without preconditions in peace negotiations with Israel."

If he does so, the policy statement said, the AJCommittee "would be prepared actively to urge the government of Israel to be flexible in such negotiations and to make significant compromises for the sake of peace, as it did in response to the peace initiative of President (Anwar) Sadat of Egypt."

But if Hussein "and moderate Palestinians once again reject the opportunity for full participation offered them by President Reagan (in his September 1 initiative) or if their acceptance is hedged by crippling preconditions then it should be made clear to the American public that the absence of peace is due not to Israel's settlement policies or alleged 'intransigence,' but rather to the fundamental refusal of the Arab world to accept the permanent reality and legitimacy of the State of Israel."

The AJCommittee statement, titled "Position Statement on the Middle East," was issued by AJC's president Maynard Wisner. The statement, released publicly last Friday, had been unanimously adopted after extensive discussion by the AJC's Board of Governors at its meeting March 21. Wisner noted that the policy statement had been issued before President Reagan's comment on March 31 that he was suspending the sale of promised F-16 jet fighters to Israel until Israel completed its withdrawal from Lebanon.

Urges U.S. To Refrain From Applying Pressure

The policy statement emphasized that the U.S. "should refrain from applying unilateral pressure on Israel and should not slow down or stop the shipment of military equipment to Israel, our most important strategic ally in the Middle East." The statement also pointed out that Israel could not be expected to withdraw from Lebanon until effective arrangements for its security against terrorist attack from Lebanon had been negotiated and Syrian and PLO forces had also agreed to withdraw.

The statement noted that the Camp David accords led to the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. These accords also called on Israel, Egypt and Jordan and the Arab inhabitants in the West Bank and Gaza to proceed with negotiations on the future status of these areas. "The refusal of Jordan and the Palestinian representatives to participate in such negotiations has been the major impediment to achieving the broader peace foreseen at Camp David."

Israel's and Jordan's Responsibilities

Continuing, the statement said:

"The American Jewish Committee calls upon Jordan and the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza to join in direct negotiations, as called for in the Camp David accords. The American Jewish Committee is confident that an expression of willingness on the part of Jordan to commence negotiations — with or without participation by the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank — would be met by Israeli flexibility and willingness to make the necessary compromises to achieve peace, consistent with its security needs.

"Jordan, too, would be expected to make compromises. Therefore, no party should set preconditions to the negotiations envisaged at Camp David, for they serve only to delay their commencement."

"The American Jewish Committee believes that UN Security Council Resolution 242 embraced in the Camp David accords, as applied to the West Bank and Gaza, ought to lead to territorial compromise through negotiations and to full peace between Israel and her neighbors. As negotiations commence, we can expect the parties to place maximal positions on the table including their respective claims to sovereignty. These positions will have to be compromised in the course of such negotiations."

"Therefore, we view acts by Israel which could limit the flexibility necessary to enable the parties to reach agreement on the future status of the areas as being unhelpful to the peace process."

"Moreover, the American Jewish Committee shares the concerns of many Israelis that the continuing and indefinite Israeli administration of the West Bank and Gaza, with governance over the lives of more than a million Arabs who are not citizens of Israel, could in the course of time undermine the democratic and humane principles of the State of Israel."

"The American Jewish Committee believes that in the absence of negotiations concerning the West Bank and Gaza, it may well be that Israel's current settlement policy, if continued, may make withdrawal at a later date no longer a viable option for any Israeli government. There is an urgent need, therefore, for Jordan to enter into negotiations with Israel now."

1 ISRAELI SOLDIER KILLED, 3 WOUNDED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 10 (JTA) — An Israeli soldier was killed, three others were wounded, and three soldiers were treated for shock in five incidents in Lebanon today. The dead soldier was killed as a result of a road accident arising out of a terrorist attack. He was not immediately identified.

The army spokesman said that two soldiers were wounded when an explosive charge was detonated at the side of the road along which their convoy was passing near Kasr Chamoun south of Beirut. Another vehicle in the convoy tried to find a safer point from which to counter-attack an ambush but overturned, killing one of its occupants and injuring another.

In another incident, fire was opened on an army vehicle near the Galerie Sama, a former crossing point between east and west Beirut. The light arms shots appeared to come from a high-rise building in west Beirut. There were no casualties.

Two other incidents involved explosive charges set off at the side of roads, one south of Damour and another near the Zaharani River on the coastal road. There were no casualties. But in the bus carrying soldiers in the second incident three soldiers suffered shock. There were no casualties in the fifth incident, when small arms fire was directed at two army vehicles on the coastal road.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — At least five cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), a usually fatal disease common among male homosexuals and intravenous drug users, have been diagnosed in Israel, a meeting of doctors was told Sunday.

CORRECTION: Inadvertently omitted from Part Three of the JTA's interview with Dr. Gerhart Riegner in the Bulletin of April 8, page 4, was his answer to the question, "But all this was before the war ...?" His answer was, "The split was there all the time."