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ISRAEL VIEWS JORDAN'S DECISION AS A STUNNING BLOW TO REAGAN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 11 (JTA) -- There was no official reaction here today to Jordan's announcement that it has dropped its efforts to negotiate with Israel on behalf of the Palestinians because of its failure to obtain approval from the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But there was barely concealed relief in government circles which viewed the Jordanian decision as a stunning blow to President Reagan's September 1 peace initiative which called for a self-governing Palestinian "entity" in association with Jordan and urged a freeze of Israel's settlement activity on the West Bank.

According to those circles, the Reagan plan has lapsed -- if it has not collapsed altogether -- and there were confident predictions that the severely strained relations between Washington and Jerusalem will improve because the U.S., having failed to persuade Jordan to enter negotiations, will now ease up its pressure on Israel.

(President Reagan blamed "some radical elements of the PLO" yesterday for the Jordanian demarche but said he was still "very hopeful" that King Hussein somehow will join the peace talks on behalf of moderate Palestinians. Nevertheless, he acknowledged that the Jordanian statement was "an impediment in our search for peace." See separate story.)

'We Told You So' Attitude

There were hints of a "we told you so" attitude toward Washington in the private reactions of some top Israeli policy-makers. The Prime Ministers Office let it be known this morning that Premier Menachem Begin was "not surprised" by the Jordanian position because he had never put much stock in the talks between King Hussein and PLO chief Yasir Arafat.

Begin was quoted as telling the visiting Mayor of Brussels that Israel was under no illusions or delusions about the PLO's ultimate stand. He was also reported to have said that the U.S. was taken by surprise by the Jordanian decision.

Only hours before the announcement from Amman yesterday, top Israeli officials were reacting furiously to the Reagan Administration's promise to Hussein that it would prevail on Israel to freeze its settlement building in the occupied territories. Commenting today on the latest developments, Justice Minister Moshe Nissim said that from the outset, Israel regarded Reagan's peace initiative as ill conceived and ill timed.

He said it had "planted hopes" in Arab minds that Israel could be brought to "give up virtually the whole of Judea and Samaria" and "these hopes were futile."

Communications Minister Mordechai Zipori said Hussein's decision showed once again that he did not deserve the reputation of a "wise monarch" bestowed on him by the media here and abroad.

Government sources said they expect relations with the U.S. to take an upturn once negotiations with Lebanon are completed and arrangements are

made for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the country. According to those sources, an agreement is near.

The Israeli, Lebanese and U.S. delegations met in Netanya today to continue their talks. Israeli sources said much remained to be done but stressed the determination of all parties to hammer out an agreement. Meanwhile, U.S. special envoy Philip Habib returned today to Jerusalem from Washington and is scheduled to meet with Israeli officials this week in another effort to bridge the gap in the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon.

WEST BANK ARABS IN SOMBER MOOD FOLLOWING BREAK IN JORDAN-PLO TALKS AND DEATH OF SARTAWI

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 11 (JTA) -- Arabs on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem reacted somberly today to Jordan's announcement that it is abandoning its efforts to gain Palestine Liberation Organization approval to negotiate with Israel on behalf of the Palestinians.

News of the assassination of PLO moderate Dr. Issam Sartawi in Portugal, only hours before the declaration from Amman yesterday, added sorrow to the general feeling that Palestinian political fortunes have reached a nadir. Sartawi, an advocate of mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO, apparently commanded a large following among Palestinian Arabs, judging from the widespread grief over his death.

That event, and Jordan's decision to let the PLO and the Palestinians "go it alone" contributed to the feeling of despair among Arabs in the occupied territories who had pinned their hopes on King Hussein in recent months for a political settlement that would satisfy at least some of their aspirations.

They had felt that if Jordan joined the peace talks with the blessings of the PLO, some sort of compromise agreement could have been reached despite Israel's unequivocal statements that it would accept no deviation from the Camp David accords.

Collapse Of Arab Peace Initiative

The intensive consultations between Hussein and PLO chief Yasir Arafat culminated in an agreement in principle several months ago which Palestinian circles saw as the beginning of an Arab peace initiative that would put Israeli policy on the defensive.

The Arab summit conference in Fez last September which rejected President Reagan's peace initiative "in its present form" was the first indication that there was a wide gap between the PLO's concept of an independent Palestinian state and the Jordanian position, based on the Reagan plan, which envisioned a self-governing Palestinian "entity" in association with Jordan.

Those differing concepts prevented an agreement between Arafat and Hussein. The PLO leader reportedly had insisted on amending the Reagan plan to bring it closer to the Fez summit resolutions which implied recognition of Israel, but only vaguely. This was unacceptable to Hussein. Arafat's departure from Amman a week ago for Kuwait and later for radical

South Yemen and statements by other PLO officials that the Reagan plan was unacceptable, culminated in the Jordanian Cabinet's statement yesterday.

Nevertheless, some Palestinians remained hopeful and counseled a "wait-and-see" attitude. An East Jerusalem political weekly suggested today that the Amman statement was a tactical maneuver to secure more concessions from the U.S. in the way of pressure on Israel. But the same periodical admitted that there was little chance that Hussein would reverse his stand and conceded that such hopes were more wishful thinking than cold political analysis.

The writer explained that the PLO fears that in any joint political venture with Jordan, Amman would make gains at the expense of the Palestinians. In any event, he said, Arafat could not convince the more extreme elements of the PLO that it was worthwhile to assign Hussein the role of negotiator for the Palestinians.

Believe PLO Prefers A Statement

The PLO, in its present circumstances, is believed to prefer stalemate, even if it entails the loss of the West Bank to Israel, to what some consider political suicide for the organization. Stalemate in fact is what prevails at this juncture.

Hussein cannot move toward any kind of settlement without PLO approval and the PLO can make no political gains without Hussein. Israel, for its part, had made it absolutely clear that it will not talk to Hussein except on the basis of Premier Menachem Begin's narrow interpretation of Palestinian autonomy.

Ibrahim A-Tawil, the former Mayor of El Bireh who was deposed by the Israeli authorities last year, said today, "I think it is (Jordan's decision) a wise reaction because they announced that the Palestinian decision is an independent decision. They didn't close the door. They left the door open for negotiations in the future between the Jordanians and the Palestinians."

Mustapha Doudin, head of the Israel-backed Village Leagues on the West Bank, observed that the Jordanian statement "is not more than tactics, until they discuss the whole problem with the Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia."

But Anwar Nusseibeh, a former Jordanian Defense Minister who is considered to be Hussein's unofficial spokesman on the West Bank, took a dimmer view. He said he did not expect the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue to be fruitful because "the Israelis will remain inflexible, no matter what the Arabs do."

REAGAN CONTINUES TO HOPE

WASHINGTON, April 11 (JTA) -- President Reagan blamed "some radical elements of the PLO" yesterday for causing Jordan to announce that it has abandoned efforts to negotiate with Israel on behalf of the Palestinians because the PLO position was incompatible with its own.

The President said, however, that he remained "very hopeful" that the negotiations will eventually take place. Secretary of State George Shultz said on CBS-TV's Morning News program today that "the key point to remember is that the President is determined to see this peace process through."

Reagan spoke briefly to reporters on the White House grounds after returning by helicopter from the Presidential retreat at Camp David last night. He

refused to answer substantive questions on the grounds that he was still in the process of contacting Arab leaders over the latest developments.

He conceded, however, that Jordan's announcement that it has ended its efforts to reach agreement with PLO chief Yasir Arafat was "an impediment in our search for peace ... peace for the Middle East, peace for Israel, peace for the Arab nations in that troubled area." He declared, "That is our goal."

Statement By Jordan's Cabinet

The official communique released by the Jordanian Cabinet yesterday detailed the long negotiations between King Hussein and Arafat during recent months and a tentative agreement in principle that was reached.

It spoke of the latest deliberations of the PLO executive committee which ended with the dispatch of a delegation to Amman "to convey to us new ideas and to propose a new course of action that differed from our (earlier) agreement (with Arafat) and that did not give us priority to saving the land (the occupied territories), thus sending us back to where we were in October, 1982."

The communique added: "In the light of this, it became evident that we cannot proceed with the course of political action which we had planned together and to which we had agreed in principle and in details in answer to our historic responsibility to take the opportunities made available by Arab and international initiatives and save our land and people."

As a consequence, according to the communique, and in compliance with the 1974 Arab League summit resolution at Rabat, Morocco, designating the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, "we leave it to the PLO and the Palestinian people to choose the ways and means for the salvation of themselves and their land, and for the realization of their declared aims in the manner they see fit."

The communique stated further that "We in Jordan, having refused from the beginning to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians, will neither act separately nor in lieu of anybody in the Middle East peace negotiations. Jordan will work as a member of the Arab League, in compliance with its resolutions to support the PLO within our capabilities, and in compliance with the requirements of our national security..."

Charge By Reagan

Reagan, in his remarks yesterday, charged that the radicals in the PLO "have introduced changes in the proposals that have been made and the policy we have been trying to follow with regard to Middle East peace. Those changes are unacceptable to King Hussein; they're unacceptable to King Fahd (of Saudi Arabia); they're unacceptable to me."

He told reporters "I have been in touch with King Fahd and King Hussein and am going to be in touch with other Arab leaders about this." He added: "We feel that the changes that were suggested would impede the efforts we've been making toward negotiated peace in the Middle East And as I say, we are all in agreement."

When a reporter suggested that the President sounded "hopeful that somehow King Hussein will join the talks on behalf of moderate Palestinians," Reagan replied, "Oh, very hopeful because as I say, we're all in agreement about the other proposals that have been made ... and I have their assurances that they want to proceed with what we've been doing. We've made great progress so far, and King Hussein had made great progress."

Reagan refused to identify the "radical elements" he referred to. Asked if he thought it might be time for the U.S. to consider negotiating directly with the PLO, he replied, "I can't answer any questions."

Shultz, in his television appearance this morning, said the PLO basically demanded a return to the concept of a Palestinian state and the presence of the PLO at the negotiations, neither of which are part of the Reagan initiative. "Israel wouldn't sit down under those circumstances and I don't blame them," Shultz said. He said there were no immediate plans for him to visit the Middle East or to invite any Middle East leaders to Washington at this time.

WIESEL: A NUCLEAR CATASTROPHE CAN BE AVOIDED IF THE LESSON OF THE HOLOCAUST IS HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 11 (JTA) — Elie Wiesel, the writer and chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, declared today that if the world avoids "a nuclear catastrophe" it is because it has "heard" what the survivors of the Holocaust have to tell it.

But Wiesel, who noted that on April 11, 1945, he was one of the survivors liberated at Dachau by the U.S. Army, said that for many years after 1945, "the survivors were like outcasts" and "our story was not being heard."

"The uniquely Jewish event (in which six million Jews were murdered) has universal application," Wiesel said in a luncheon address at the National Press Club. "It is because the world didn't care that Jews were killed that now other people are being massacred and the world doesn't care." He said he went to Cambodia after he learned about the massacres there to see the victims at first hand because "when I needed people nobody came."

Wiesel's remarks were made as some 15,000 survivors and their children arrived in Washington for the first American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. The four-day gathering, which also commemorates the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, officially opens tonight with a ceremony at the Capital Centre in Landover, Maryland, which will be addressed by President Reagan; Benjamin Meed, president of the gathering; Wiesel, its honorary chairman; and others.

Earlier today, a "Survivors Village" was opened at the Washington Convention Center with the affixing of a mezuzah. Thousands of persons, from elderly survivors to babes in arms, walked through the Center meeting people they had not seen in years, searching for relatives and friends through a computer system especially set up for the Gathering.

The Greatest Shock For The Survivors

In his press club address, Wiesel noted that the greatest shock for the survivors after their liberation, was when they learned that the world had known what was happening. He told the reporters present that their predecessors had done their job in reporting the various atrocities committed during World War II but the leaders of the free world had failed to act.

"I think of this country with pride," Wiesel said. But he said that during the Holocaust period the actions of the U.S. and particularly of that of its President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, were not moments worthy of praise. He especially pointed to the episode of the St. Louis, the ship filled with Jews fleeing Germany which was turned away from the U.S.

Wiesel criticized the U.S. and British for not bombing the death camps. He said that when he was

in Auschwitz, he and others could see the nearby munitions factories being bombed and prayed the planes would also hit the camps, but they didn't. He added that the Soviet Union also has to be criticized because its troops were even closer to the camps and they too did nothing.

A Living Memorial To The Holocaust

Wiesel said the museum which the Holocaust Council will build near the Washington Monument, will be a living memorial to the Holocaust. He said it is needed to educate future generations. Vice President George Bush will officially turn over the keys to the land at a ceremony at the Capitol Wednesday. Wiesel stressed that the museum will be built partially with U.S. funds.

He said the U.S. is the only country outside of Israel to have a memorial to the victims of the Holocaust because the U.S. government and people recognize that "whatever happens to one people, affects all people."

When asked why the memorial is only to Jewish victims, Wiesel replied: "Only the Jewish people were destined for total destruction by their killers." He said that only the Jews were singled out "to die" just for being Jewish. "If we remember the Jewish victims, we remember the others," he said.

Wiesel noted that he popularized the term "Holocaust" to be used for the tragedy that befell the Jewish people in World War II. He said he was now "sorry" he had done so because the word was being "trivialized." He pledged to see to it that a "memorial/museum that is to be built in Washington will not be trivialized or politicized."

PREJUDICE IN BRAZIL

By David Markus

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 11 (JTA) — Jews rank second only to homosexuals on a scale of prejudices held by Brazilians according to a recent poll conducted in 40 cities. Prejudice against women was third.

The poll, conducted by Sao Paulo psychologist Jacobo Pinheiro Goldberg and a staff of 20 aides, measured prejudicial attitudes in terms of "inferior" and "superior." It found that 33.7 percent of the respondents considered homosexuals "inferior," 12.7 percent thought Jews "inferior" and 7.5 percent believed women are "inferior." Negroes were considered "inferior" by 6.3 percent.

The poll found that while 8.4 percent of the respondents regard Jews as "superior," 68.4 percent consider them "equal" and 10.4 percent had no opinion. Goldberg reported that a considerable number of respondents offered unsolicited qualifications to the pollsters. He said a respondent who agreed that Jews were "superior" had added, "but in the bad sense," and another, after affirming that Jews were "equal," said "Yes, but all of them should have been killed."

The poll found that the most educated persons were the least prejudiced and that women were less prejudiced than men.

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) — More than 600 persons attended a Holocaust memorial gathering here where Leonel Brizola, Governor of Rio de Janeiro State, declared: "We are reaffirming our decision to defend the values the Jews in the ghettos and Nazi death camps had died for." The memorial was held in the Bialik Library, headquarters of the Labor Zionist movement in Brazil. Other dignitaries attending included Jamil Haddad, Mayor of Rio de Janeiro and Yacov Gotal, the Israeli Consul General.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA
AFTER 22 YEARS, RIGA WILL
SOON HAVE ITS OWN RABBI
 By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 11 (JTA) — After 22 years without a spiritual leader, the Jewish community of Riga in the Soviet Union will soon have its own rabbi, a native of the city who has just been ordained in Budapest. The newly ordained rabbi is 30-year-old Menachem Nidel who completed seven years of studies at the Rabbinical Seminary in the Hungarian capital.

He was ordained on March 20 and is scheduled to start his service in Riga at the beginning of June. He is the second Soviet Jew to graduate from the seminary, since 1974, the year the Soviets and the Hungarians reached an agreement enabling young Soviet Jews to study at the seminary. The first to be ordained as a rabbi was Adolf Shayevich, who graduated in 1981 and is now Moscow's Associate Rabbi.

According to Rabbi Arthur Schneier, spiritual leader of Park East Synagogue in New York and also president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, who was invited by Hungary's Minister of Religious Affairs, Imre Miklos, to take part in the ordination ceremony of Rabbi Nidel, the ceremony was attended by Miklos himself and a high-ranking official of the Soviet Embassy in Budapest.

Schneier said he was invited to the ceremony because he helped negotiate the agreement allowing Soviet Jews to study at the Rabbinical Seminary in 1974. Schneier described Nidel as a very learned young man who speaks several languages, including Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian and Latvian. He said Nidel is married and has two children.

"One of the gravest problems for Jews in the Soviet Union is the lack of rabbinical leadership," Schneier said in a special interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "The ordination of Nidel, is, therefore, a major event and contributes to the solution to strengthen the spiritual leadership of Soviet Jewry." He said that presently there are 16 students at the Rabbinical Seminary, two of them from the Soviet Union and the rest from other East European countries.

According to Schneier, two Soviet students will complete their studies in a few years and then will go back to serve in Jewish communities in the Soviet Union. The average time required to obtain a rabbinical degree at the seminary is seven years, Schneier said.

RA LEADER RAPS REAGAN FOR HIS ATTACK ON NUCLEAR FREEZE OPPONENTS

DALLAS, Tex., April 11 (JTA) — President Reagan was criticized here today by the president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the international association of Conservative rabbis, for labeling nuclear freeze opponents as anti-American and "dupes of the Communist world."

Rabbi Arnold Goodman of Atlanta, Ga., speaking to 400 delegates at the 83rd annual convention of the RA, accused Reagan of attempting to bully the American public into supporting his policies on such issues as the nuclear freeze, abortion, and prayer in the public schools. The convention opened here last night at the Dallas Hilton Hotel and will close Thursday.

Goodman warned that coercion by government can never effect real change when the roots of a problem are deep and emotional. He

described efforts to prevent "debate from developing as it should in a democratic and open society."

The rabbinical leader said he lamented Reagan's recent speech before the National Association of Evangelicals in which the President evoked Christian theological symbols "as he warned us against evildoers." Goodman contended that such fundamentalist rhetoric by the President is offensive to all Americans who cherish American traditions of pluralism and democracy.

Goodman said a meeting is scheduled, during the convention, between the leaders of major Christian and Jewish denominations in the Dallas area at which he will invite religious leaders of all faiths to join in urging a full and open debate on the pressing issues which are facing America.

Holocaust Memorial Program

The RA delegates joined with the Dallas Jewish community last night, during the opening convention session, at a Holocaust memorial program at the Jewish Community Center.

Rabbi Morris Shapiro of Melville, N.Y., a member of the RA Committee on Jewish Law and Standards, himself a Holocaust survivor, paid tribute to the non-Jews of Europe who, at great risk, assisted Jews during the Holocaust years.

He told participants in the memorial program that "my survival should not be attributed to any merits of mine but to the righteousness of five Gentiles who risked their very lives and that of their kin by hiding me and my sister from the claws of the Nazis." He said this happened in his native city of Goraž in Poland during the Nazi occupation.

He related that both his parents, six brothers and two other sisters perished in the Holocaust. An estimated 1,000 persons packed the center for the event, while outdoors, grouped at a Holocaust memorial on the center grounds, an estimated 1,500 persons took part.

ADL OFFICIAL SAYS JEWISH PARTICIPATION IN WARSAW UPRISING COMMEMORATION IS 'REGRETTABLE'

NEW YORK, April 11 (JTA) — An official of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said here that while it is "regrettable" that world Jewry has agreed to participate in the Polish government sponsored commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, Jews who do participate should use the occasion to denounce "human rights violations and anti-Semitism in Poland."

The official, Abraham Foxman, associate national director of the ADL, who is native of Poland and a survivor of the Holocaust, noted in a statement issued here that "in recent months, anti-Semitic canards have been spread by the Patriotic Grunwald Union with no evident government counter-action. The government-controlled press has published anti-Semitic articles and cartoons."

"One cannot ignore the general atmosphere in Poland, where those who advocate human rights are subjected to harassment and intimidation," Foxman said. He said that despite the lifting of martial law, imposed on December 13, 1981, "repression is as evident now as when it was still in effect. It is regrettable that, given this reality, well meaning Jews have agreed to take part in the Polish commemoration."

The eight-day commemoration will begin in Warsaw April 15 with some 1,000 delegates representing 24 countries, including Israel and the Soviet Union, expected to attend.