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U.S. IS COUNTING ON SYRIA TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS FROM LEBANON

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 12 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration is counting on Syria to withdraw its troops from Lebanon despite its opposition to the agreement between Israel and Lebanon worked out by Secretary of State George Shultz.

Shultz made this clear last night after briefing President Reagan at the White House on his two week mission in the Middle East. "They (the Syrians) have been very critical of the agreement," he said in response to questions from reporters.

"But that is not really the question we are asking them. We are asking them to withdraw, and they have said, over quite a period of time, that they are ready to withdraw when the Lebanese ask them to withdraw," Shultz said. He added that while the Syrians rejected the Israel-Lebanon agreement when he visited Damascus last week, "they haven't said they won't withdraw."

Shultz maintained that despite "problems and difficulties" in obtaining the withdrawal of Syrian and Palestine Liberation Organization forces still behind Syrian lines, "it is clear that there is a weight of opinion building up in the Arab world that this is the opportunity to bring about Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon along with all foreign forces."

But in Paris today, Prince Sultan Ben Abdel Azziz, the Defense Minister of Saudi Arabia, after a 3 1/2-hour meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, said that there can be no linkage between Israeli and Syrian withdrawal. He said yesterday that Saudi Arabia is "not a tool" to be used to put pressure on Syria. (See separate story.)

Says Saudis Play A Constructive Role

At the State Department today, deputy spokesman Alan Romberg, declaring that the Saudis have played a "very constructive role," said the U.S. "understands" that the Syrians see their being in Lebanon as "a different set of circumstances" than Israel. But he stressed that it is "also very clear that if there is no withdrawal of Syrian and PLO forces" there will not be an Israeli withdrawal.

Shultz also indicated this last night when he said both Syria and Lebanon "feel that the question of Syrian withdrawal is an unrelated matter" from an Israeli pullout "so there's nothing in the agreement about Syrian withdrawal. On the other hand, the Israelis make it very clear, as you would expect, that they won't withdraw except that there is simultaneous withdrawal by the PLO and the Syrians," Shultz said. This is contained in a "side letter," he pointed out.

Shultz indicated that the next step is for the Lebanese to officially ask the Syrians to leave and then to engage in "discussions" with them. Romberg seemed uncertain today whether the Lebanese request to Syria will be made publicly.

Shultz stressed, however, that he does not plan to return to the Middle East soon. "I'm planning to stay home for a while. I like it here," he said. He emphasized that U.S. special envoy Philip Habib

is still in the Middle East and that he is both "well known" to the Syrians and they "like" and "respect" him.

Both Sides Satisfied With Clarifications

(Habib was in Jerusalem today after meetings with Lebanese officials in Beirut yesterday. An Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said Israel was satisfied with the clarifications Habib provided on the agreement Israel accepted in principle last Friday. He said Israeli, Lebanese and U.S. negotiators would convene tomorrow in Netanya to finalize the agreement, exchange texts and decide when it will be signed.)

(Lebanese officials said in Beirut last night, after their meetings with Habib, that they had clarified all points raised by Israel but could not say when the accord will be signed.)

'Selected List' Of Quotations

Meanwhile, after Romberg said earlier this week that he could not immediately state when Syrian officials had publicly said they would withdraw from Lebanon when Israel did, the State Department has provided a "selected" list of such statements. One quotation was from last November 20 when President Hafez Assad of Syria told the Syrian General Federation of Trade Unions in Damascus, "Today we assert that as soon as the Israeli invading forces withdraw from Lebanon, there will no problem about our forces."

Another quotation was from Syrian Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam who told an American journalist last February 26, "Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon is no problem once Israel gets out."

Syrians Will 'Decide For Themselves'

Shultz and other Administration officials have maintained for months that they have been assured by Syrian and other Arab leaders that Syria and the PLO would withdraw from Lebanon once the Israeli army leaves. When Shultz was asked yesterday whether Syria was under pressure from the Soviet Union not to withdraw, he replied, "I do not know."

He noted that Tass, the official Soviet news agency, published an article this week attacking the Israel-Lebanon agreement. But, he added, "I do have the impression from the history of Syria and also from direct discussions with the Foreign Minister and President Assad that these are two very independent people and I doubt that anybody is telling them what to do. I think they'll probably decide for themselves," Shultz said.

Accepts Soviet Explanation Of Personnel Departures

He said he accepted the Soviet explanation that the departure from Beirut of dependents of Soviet embassy employes there was for their normal summer holiday. Officials both in Washington and Jerusalem have seen the departure of the dependents as well as the reinforcement of Syrian forces and the PLO in Lebanon's Bekaa valley as part of a psychological effort aimed at preventing Lebanon from signing the agreement with Israel.

But Shultz, when asked about the increased forces in the Bekaa, made no mention of the Syrians, though he noted that "Some PLO have re-entered Lebanon." He said "That's in violation of the agreement under which they evacuated Beirut and I think we ought to take note of that fact." He added that this was "an unwelcome development. We want them to be moving out, not moving in."

WEINBERGER CONFERS WITH SAUDI ARABIA'S DEFENSE MINISTER

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 12 (JTA) -- U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger conferred today for close to four hours with Defense Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdel Azziz of Saudi Arabia in what observers said was another American attempt to urge the Saudis to press Syria to withdraw its forces from Lebanon and accept the Israeli-Lebanese agreement negotiated by Secretary of State George Shultz.

Weinberger refused to comment on today's meeting. But Saudi sources said Abdel Azziz made it clear that Saudi Arabia will share its views with Damascus "but will not, under any circumstances, agree to be an instrument of one Arab state putting pressure on another Arab state." Shultz said earlier this week that he hoped Saudi Arabia will advise Syria to pull out its 40,000 men when Israel's 20,000 soldiers leave Lebanon.

Saudi sources in Paris stressed that Saudi Arabia will do nothing contrary to what Syria sees as its interests but said they believed that Syria will eventually agree to withdraw its troops from Lebanon on its own.

Abdel Azziz said yesterday, as he left the Elysee Palace after a meeting with President Francois Mitterrand, "There can be no comparison between Israel's and Syria's positions in Lebanon. Israel attacked and invaded Lebanon, while the Syrians entered Lebanon at the request of that country and their departure depends first and last on the wishes of the Lebanese people."

The Saudi minister came to Paris to negotiate a new arms contract which will provide for a 12-year training program for Saudi naval personnel and the sale of French electronic equipment. The first contract, signed in October, 1980, provided for the sale of \$2 billion worth of French naval and air equipment.

Abdel Azziz's meeting here today with Weinberger was arranged by the U.S. Defense Secretary about a week ago, American officials said. Shortly after the meeting, Weinberger left for Washington.

ABRAHAM MARCUS MATTERIN DEAD AT 67

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA) -- Abraham Marcus Matterin, one of the prominent members of the Cuban Jewish community who remained in the country after the revolution led by Fidel Castro, died in Havana May 3, it was reported here today by Jacobo Kavadloff, director of South American Affairs of the American Jewish Committee. Matterin was 67 years old.

Born in Kovno, Lithuania, he and his family came to Cuba in 1924. Although he did not finish high school, he became an important figure in Spanish and Yiddish literature. An activist and gifted organizer, Matterin was General Secretary of Patronato Hebreo de la Habana, the country's principal Jewish agency.

He was the author of many books, including, "Jose Marti and Racial Discrimination" and "The Jews and the Cuban Flag," and translated into Spanish works

of Yehuda Halevi, a Passover Haggadah and a study on Theodor Herzl. He also helped to develop magazines and the community library to which he devoted his energies until his death.

Kavadloff, who visited Matterin twice in the past year, said "his home was a small museum of Jewish life in Cuba." There were photographs of him with Albert Einstein, Ernest Hemingway and Gabriela Mistral, the Chilean poet; a complete collection of Marti's works; and documents on Jewish contributions to Cuban independence. At the time of his death he was in the midst of writing a history of Jewish life in Cuba.

In 1981, Matterin visited friends and relatives in the U.S. for two months, under the auspices of the AJCommittee and HIAS. Both organizations have sent condolence messages to Dr. Jose Miller, chairman of the Havana Jewish community. Matterin never married.

FORMER NAZI FACES EXTRADITION

TORONTO, May 12 (JTA) -- Albert Helmut Rauca was disclosed today to have withdrawn his appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada against lower court orders that he be extradited to West Germany to face charges of wartime mass murders of Jews.

Rauca, 74, a Canadian citizen since 1956, was convicted in absentia in Holland for the murder of several persons. Barring a personal petition to the Canadian Justice Ministry, Rauca, a retired hotel manager, will be extradited to face trial for the murder of 11,584 Jews in German-occupied Lithuania between 1941 and 1943.

Rauca, the first person accused of Nazi war crimes in Canada, was arrested in his Toronto home last June and has been in a city jail since, though it was understood he could have been free on bail. Rauca had appealed to the Supreme Court an order of the Ontario Court of Appeals rejecting his claim that he was guaranteed the right to remain in Canada under the federal Charter of Rights because he is a Canadian citizen.

ARIDOR DEFENDS HIS POLICIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA) -- Finance Minister Yoram Aridor, under heavy fire recently for deteriorating economic conditions, declared today that he has the full support of the government and the Prime Minister and announced measures intended to restore public confidence in his policies.

Appearing on a television interview, Aridor said he has no intention of quitting and claimed that compared to Finance Ministers who preceded him, he was in fact popular. He blamed Israel's economic difficulties on the current world recession but rejected suggestions that the Shekel should be devalued at a more rapid pace to help exports because that would only lead to higher inflation. Israel has had triple digit inflation since the beginning of the year.

Aridor's confidence-building measures include a promise not to renew the compulsory "loan" to finance the war in Lebanon which is deducted from workers' pay-checks and abolition of the two percent tax on over-subscribed stock issues.

The Finance Minister is concerned with the rapid decline in stock prices and is urging the public to invest in shares. "I am interested in the stock exchange and I will not let it collapse," Aridor said. He rejected a suggestion by Hebrew University economist Michael Bruno that the government reach an agreement with Histadrut on a partial linkage of wages to inflation. He said Histadrut would not accept a partial linkage.

\$6 MILLION SUIT FILED AGAINST THREE MEN WHO HAVE 'TERRORIZED' A JEWISH FAMILY FOR THREE YEARS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 12 (JTA) -- The Jewish Advocacy Center, an organization founded last year to take legal action in support of victims of anti-Semitism, filed a \$6 million suit in a federal court in Brooklyn yesterday against three Kings Point, N.Y., men who have "terrorized" a Jewish family in that Long Island community for the last three years.

Irvin Shapell, president of the Washington-based Jewish Advocacy Center, said he filed the suit for compensation and punitive damages for Yaacov and Hanna Elkon and their two children, aged six and 11. The suit charges that Brad Barry, Robert Lesser and Brian Kolen went on a three year "rampage of assault, terror and vandalism" against the Elkons "for the simple reason that the Elkons are Jewish."

Shapell noted that although similar suits have been filed in the past for Black families, it has never been done before for Jewish victims of racism. "This law suit marks the beginning of a new and aggressive program to initiate civil law suits for monetary damages in addition to relying on criminal prosecution to deter the current high number of anti-Semitic incidents in the U.S.," Shapell said.

He said this program by the Center will "send a clear and emphatic message that the Jewish community will not tolerate anti-Jewish violence, but will respond -- forcefully and responsibly -- with the full weight of the law." He said it is hoped that "this law suit will help reduce the number of anti-Jewish acts by making them too costly and risky to consider."

Charges In The Complaint

The complaint filed in federal court charges that the Elkons' home was defaced with swastikas and anti-Jewish slogans; fires were set on their property; windows were shot out and broken; fire-works were thrown into the house; and anti-Semitic statements against Mrs. Elkon were spray-painted along a public street.

The suit alleges that the defendants also placed a voodoo doll in the front yard of the Elkons' home with a Star of David on the doll's chest and a hypodermic syringe piercing the doll's eye.

"As a result of these acts, the Elkons were compelled to live in fear for their safety for three years," Shapell said. He said the children particularly was affected by the incidents.

Barry, 20, who lives across the street from the Elkons has been convicted in local courts of the voodoo doll incident and other acts of vandalism against Jews in the area, according to Shapell. He said the two younger men also live near the Elkons.

ADL LINKS MOSLEM PROPAGANDA AT U.C. BERKELEY TO ANTI-SEMITES

SAN FRANCISCO, May 12 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said it has discovered that the version of an old anti-Semitic document recently circulated on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley by a Moslem student group was originally produced and distributed by the late and infamous Gerald L. K. Smith. The ADL's Central Pacific Regional director Rhonda

Abrams, who disclosed this, said the document, distributed on Cal's Sproul Plaza by the Moslem Students Association -- Persian Speaking Group, was a flyer containing excerpts from the well-known anti-semitic forgery, "The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion."

The "Protocols" were composed by Czarist police at the turn of the century to justify pogroms against Jews. Smith published this collection of excerpts from the "Protocols" in the December 1968 issue of his notorious publication, "The Cross and the Flag."

"It is no accident that a Jew-hating group like the Moslem Students Association -- Persian Speaking Group should be passing out literature originally composed by the notorious Gerald L. K. Smith and distributed today through the mailing houses of every right-wing extremist group in the country," Ms. Abrams said. "The MSA was handing out this obscenely anti-Semitic flyer as part of its campaign against Zionism and the state of Israel."

Chancellor Urged To Act

When the "Protocols" first reached California, the ADL sent a letter to University Chancellor Ira Michael Heyman requesting a meeting and asking him to denounce the appearance of bigoted and anti-Semitic material on campus.

"We're not asking for censorship," said Ms. Abrams, "nor is this a question of free speech. We asked the Chancellor to say that while there is a place on campus for legitimate and open debate of important issues, such as the Middle East, the introduction of racist and bigoted material goes beyond all acceptable limits and is thoroughly disgusting and un-American."

In response to the ADL request and a similar one from the campus' B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, representatives of the two organizations met with university officials. Heyman did not attend. At the meeting, which took place on April 29, ADL regional assistant director Robert Smith reiterated his agency's call for the Chancellor to condemn the appearance of the documents on campus. "I'm very disappointed that the Chancellor has chosen not to speak out on this matter," he said.

New Anti-Semitic Tract Appears

A new anti-Semitic tract appeared on the MSA table this week. Entitled "The Racist Nature of Zionism," the work purports to describe Jewish religious laws relating to Gentiles. "This scurrilous piece, like the 'Protocols,' has nothing to do with Israel," said Ms. Abrams.

"It is only a collection of distortions of Judaism in the worst tradition of the 'Protocols.' It is of the same family, and is distributed today by groups like the Klan and Nazis. It is obscene, and it is all the more reason for the Chancellor to speak out," Ms. Abrams said that the ADL is investigating the origin of the tract.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Jerusalem District Planning and Construction Committee scrapped plans to build a sports stadium in the Katamon quarter of the city. Residents of the densely populated area had objected to the project on grounds of noise and the heavy influx of soccer fans, especially on Saturdays when the important games are played. The planning board's decision was a blow to Mayor Teddy Kollek who had originally planned a sports stadium in the northern reaches of the city.

There will be no Bulletin date May 19 because of Shavuoth.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW SYRIA HAS THE POTENTIAL TO ENGAGE IN A WAR WITH ISRAEL By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA) -- The Syrian army is now stronger than it was last year, before Israel's invasion of Lebanon and at almost twice its strength compared to what it was at the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War in which Syria was a participant. It now has more than 3,600 Soviet-made tanks, compared with 2,000 at the time of the Yom Kippur War, and more than 600 MIG fighter planes, compared with 300 in 1973.

Furthermore, the new defense budget of Syria has been increased this year to \$2.4 billion, 54 percent of its national budget. The number of Soviet advisors in Syria has been rising steadily, jumping from 2,500 advisors last year to 4,500 at present.

These details were given to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency during a special interview with Naphtali Lavie, Israel's Consul General in New York.

Hard To Judge Syria's Motives

"The Syrians now have the potential to engage in a new war with Israel," he said. "Common sense says that they should not get involved in a new war, since they lost all their wars with Israel so far. But it is hard to judge their motives, mainly because they act not only on behalf of their interests or the Arab world but they clearly served other interests, those of the Soviet Union."

According to Lavie, who served for many years in the Israel's Defense Ministry as an aide to Defense Ministers, including the late Moshe Dayan, the Syrians are trying to "torpedo" the accord reached between Israel and Lebanon on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, "through threats and psychological warfare, as they did before the Six-Day War."

Syria, the Israeli official pointed out, "has various interests in Lebanon that are not connected with the current presence of Israeli forces there." He noted that Syria never recognized Lebanon as a state and does not have any diplomatic representation in that country. "The Syrians were occupying Lebanon for the last seven years. It is hard for them to accept the fact that it's time for them to leave Lebanon," Lavie said.

He said Israel is closely watching Syria. "Their threats are not new, we have been living with them for the last 35 years, but we are keeping alert to meet any eventuality," Lavie stated.

Israel's Image In The U.S. Is Improving

He said, in response to a question, that Israel's image in the United States, which was tarnished as a result of Israel's invasion of Lebanon and further damaged after the massacre of Palestinian refugees in the Sabra and Shatila camps near Beirut last September by Christian militiamen, is showing an improvement.

The basis for the change in the American public opinion, Lavie claimed, is threefold. First, the conclusions by the Israeli commission to investigate the massacre re-established Israel's credibility among the American people and the media. Lavie noted, in this regard, that while the commission investigated the tragedy and recommended action against top government and Israel Defense Force officials, the Lebanese government has still to investigate and punish the murderers.

Second, Lavie continued, the Arab rejection of the Reagan peace initiative shows that "all the talk about Israel being an obstacle to peace in the Mideast is baseless. The Americans have realized that they erred in their attempt to achieve an Arab consensus regarding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Anyone who knows the Arab world "would have known that the Arabs can achieve only one kind of consensus: destructive and extreme. The experience shows that an agreement between Israel and the Arabs can be reached through separate negotiations with each Arab country, as Israel did with Egypt," Lavie said.

The third reason for Israel's improved image in the U.S., he noted is the agreement reached between Israel and Lebanon through the mediation of Secretary of State George Shultz. "Even the Israeli opposition parties are claiming that Israel made too many concessions in order to achieve the accord with Lebanon," he said. "But it proved to the world and to American public opinion that Israel is ready to make sacrifices for peace, as it did when it returned the Sinai desert to Egypt."

HOWARD FRIEDMAN IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE AJCOMMITTEE

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA) -- Howard E. Friedman of Encino, Calif., a partner in the Los Angeles law firm of Loeb and Loeb, was elected 19th national president of the American Jewish Committee today at the organization's 77th annual meeting at the New York Hilton Hotel.

He succeeds Maynard Wishner of Chicago who served three years in the presidential post, and who today was elected an honorary president.

Friedman, who is a business trial attorney and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, served as Deputy Attorney General for the State of California from 1955 to 1957. In that post, he was involved in a case before the U.S. Supreme Court that involved precedent-making litigation between the states of California and Arizona over the use of Colorado River water.

An active community leader, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation Council of Los Angeles, and of the Business Development Center of Southern California, formerly known as the Interracial Council for Business Opportunity. He is honorary chairman of the Board of Overseers of Hebrew Union College's California School, vice chairman of HUC's Board of Governors, and a member of the Board of Directors of the University of Judaism.

A native of Chicago, Friedman attended the University of Oklahoma, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and received the Silver Letseizer Award as outstanding male graduate. He earned a Master of Arts degree in political science at the University of Chicago and a law degree at Yale University, where he was Note Editor of the Yale Law Journal. Friedman was a captain in the Air Force, serving in the Judge Advocate's Division. He was also a teaching fellow at Stanford University Law School.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was killed Wednesday when light arms fire was directed at an Israeli army position in Lebanon from Syrian positions on the eastern sector, the army said. The army spokesman also said there were no casualties when rockets and light arms fire was directed at an IDF vehicle at Souk El-Arab near Aleh southeast of Beirut Thursday.