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KNESSET APPROVES PACT WITH LEBANON By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA) -- The Knesset voted 55-8 with 46 abstentions tonight to approve the agreement with Lebanon calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from that country. The accord was unanimously ratified by the Lebanese Parliament earlier today and the two countries are expected to sign it tomorrow.

The voting, which took place after prolonged debate, found Premier Menachem Begin's Likud-led coalition almost solidly behind the agreement. One coalition partner, the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction which has three Knesset seats, voted against as did the four Communist MKs and one Labor Alignment MK, Raanan Naim. Minister-Without-Portfolio Ariel Sharon and Science Minister Yuval Neeman, both of whom opposed the agreement in the Cabinet, were absent.

Most of the abstentions were by Labor Alignment MKs. Hai Druckman, an ultra-nationalist who recently quit the National Religious Party and formed his own Knesset faction, Matzad, also abstained.

Government officials said the document to be signed tomorrow consists of the agreement covering the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, an annex dealing with security matters, an appendix and minutes. Israel and Lebanon have also exchanged letters with the United States covering "certain understandings." These and an annex dealing with the future status of Israel's ally in south Lebanon, Maj. Saad Haddad, will remain secret.

The Knesset did not vote today on the agreement and its various appendages but on a resolution affirming the government's decision to sign the accord. Knesset approval was not required by law but the government sought the widest possible parliamentary backing for its decision.

Arens And Rabin Differ

In the course of the debate, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, speaking for the government, described the agreement as "an important political progress. But former Premier Yitzhak Rabin, a Labor MK, said it was an admission of the failure of the political and security concepts which guided the government into the Lebanese war. Rabin said he would abstain because, under the circumstances, the agreement was the least of possible evils.

"But I shall not be able to vote for it because it is an expression of a conception which I reject," Rabin said. He expressed hope that the lesson has been learned not to use the Israel Defense Force to achieve far reaching political objectives.

Yossi Sarid of the Labor Party and Dov Zaklin of Mapam contended that there was nothing in the accord not provided for by the armistice agreement Israel signed with Lebanon in 1949. They noted that 34 years ago, Lebanon had promised that no attacks on Israel would be mounted from its soil.

Arens rejected that argument. "Listening to the debate, especially to statements by the opposition members, one could have gotten the impression that we have already signed tens of political agreements with Arab states and that we do it every Monday

and Thursday," he said. The Likud government has depicted the agreement as an important step toward a formal peace treaty with Lebanon.

U.S. AGAIN URGES SYRIA, PLO TO WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES FROM LEBANON; RULES OUT ANY ROLE FOR THE USSR By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 16 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration again today urged Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization to withdraw their forces from Lebanon. But it ruled out any role for the Soviet Union in the negotiations on withdrawal.

State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg stressed that while the United States and the Soviet Union frequently discussed the Middle East, "we don't see a particular role" for the USSR in the negotiations on the departure of the Syrian forces and PLO terrorists from Lebanon.

Romberg reiterated that the Soviet supply to Syria of SAM-5 anti-aircraft missiles and the staffing of them by Soviet troops has been a "destabilizing and unwelcome development." In addition, there has been speculation here that the increased movement of Syrian troops and PLO terrorists into the Bekaa valley of Lebanon, coupled with the Soviet denunciation of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement for Israel's withdrawal and the Soviet warning that it could lead to war, could be an effort by the Soviet Union to push itself into the overall Mideast negotiations as one of the prices for a Syrian withdrawal.

But Romberg said that a "broader conference" is not needed now. He said the United States maintains that President Reagan's September 1 peace initiative is the basic "framework" in which progress for peace in the Middle East can be made. In this context, Romberg expressed the hope that King Hussein of Jordan would now get the backing he needs to allow him to negotiate with Israel and Egypt for Palestinian autonomy.

Hassan Meets With Reagan

Crown Prince Hassan Ibn Kalal of Jordan, after a 15-minute meeting with President Reagan at the White House this morning, gave no indication that Jordan would step back from its announced decision not to enter negotiations. Hassan did say that with an agreement for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon completed, there could be "a resuming of the wider priorities of Jerusalem and the occupied territories and the role of the Palestinian people."

Hassan said that the situation in the Bekaa valley was "very tense." But he added "we still hope the primary interest of the PLO is the future of the Palestinian people, not only in Lebanon, but in the occupied territories."

PLO leader Yasir Arafat, who was in the Bekaa yesterday, reportedly to stifle opposition to his leadership among some of the PLO terrorist factions, was quoted as telling his group, Fatah, that "an effective war is the only way to redraw the political map of the Middle East."

When Romberg was asked about this, he said, "One must ask how war or guerrilla action has helped the Palestinian people or the people of Lebanon. This has been Arafat's policy for 20 years and look what it has brought. Now there is a chance for peace."

Romberg continued to maintain that while the Syrians have rejected the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, they have not taken back their promise to withdraw from Lebanon. He said that neither special envoy Philip Habib or any other American official has any immediate plans to go to Damascus since it is now up to Lebanon to negotiate with Syria for the withdrawal of the Syrian troops and the PLO. He pointed out that these discussions are "just beginning."

Meanwhile, Hassan was given a luncheon by Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam, and is scheduled to be the guest of honor at a dinner tonight hosted by Vice President George Bush. He came to the United States to substitute for King Hussein at the 11th annual convention of the National Association of Arab-Americans last Saturday night.

Rejects Implication Of Linkage

In another development, Romberg rejected as "untrue" that Israel's approval of the agreement to withdraw from Lebanon was linked to the United States supplying Israel with American equipment and technological data it needs to develop its Lavie jet fighter.

Such a claim was made in a column by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak, published in The Washington Post today, which said that the linkage was implied in a "Dear Misha" telegram Secretary of State George Shultz sent Israel Defense Minister Moshe Arens April 16. Misha is Arens' nickname.

Romberg refused to comment on whether there was such a telegram. "It is completely untrue to suggest that there is some linkage between the decisions on Lavie and the licensing for it, on the one hand, and Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, on the other," Romberg declared. He said later that 25 export licenses have been approved for the Lavie and, as far as he knew, no other requests for the plane were pending from Israel.

ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATORS CONTINUE A ROUND-THE-CLOCK VIGIL OUTSIDE THE PRIME MINISTER'S HOME By Cindy Kaye

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA) -- A round-the-clock vigil by anti-war demonstrators outside Premier Menachem Begin's home continued today as the Knesset debated a government statement approving the agreement between Israel and Lebanon which is expected to be signed by both countries tomorrow.

The vigil has been going on 24 hours a day for the past two weeks. The demonstrators who are demanding the immediate withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Lebanon have set up a stand surrounded by signs such as "Do not forget the soldiers who have been killed in Lebanon." Yesterday they displayed the number 484, the present official count of Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon since the war began almost one year ago.

The stand bears "flame of hope" lights and a book where passers-by are asked to add their names to the protest. It is staffed by two people at a time in four hour shifts, day and night. They estimate that about 100 people pass by during each shift.

Others in cars or on motorcycles pause to read signs saying "If we are not assembled today we will cry tomorrow"; "Enough! Get out of Lebanon Now!"; "Prevent certain war with Syria - don't crush it!"; and "Protect the Galilee." The demonstrators say they will continue their vigil until "our soldiers are out of Lebanon."

The area outside the Prime Ministers residence drew demonstrators of a different kind yesterday. About 100 members of Histadrut carried signs demanding an end to the doctors strike, now in its third month. A spokesman for the group said they intended to demonstrate for three days. But no one showed up this morning. The protesters apparently are waiting to see the results of a new proposal offered the striking doctors by the Treasury and Health Ministry last night.

Approximately 8,600 salaried doctors employed by the government and Histadrut's sick-fund, Kupat Holim, are on strike demanding higher salaries and better working conditions. Negotiations broke down last Friday with each side accusing the other of bad faith. Nurses and administrative and technical staffs at public hospitals are threatening to join the strike Tuesday, right after the Shavuot holiday.

Meanwhile, Tel Aviv had its share of demonstrations yesterday as Egged bus drivers, who went on strike last week to demand higher salaries, staged rallies in public places. The strike involves about 2,000 employees of the national bus cooperative.

So far, bus service has not been seriously affected because administrative personnel and garage mechanics have taken the drivers' places. But there is a growing problem of sabotage. An Egged spokesman said yesterday that 15 buses have been tampered with since the strike began.

C.O.I. ROSE BY 13.3 PERCENT IN APRIL, THE HIGHEST MONTHLY INCREASE SINCE ISRAEL WAS FOUNDED By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA) -- Israelis, increasingly disturbed by the deteriorating economic situation, were shocked yesterday when the Central Bureau of Statistics released its report for April showing that the cost-of-living index rose by 13.3 percent, the highest monthly increase since the State was founded 35 years ago.

This exceeded the most gloomy predictions and triggered a wave of angry reactions from the Labor opposition, Histadrut, various economic experts and industrialists who oppose the Likud government's economic policies. Equally tough was the government's reaction. The Treasury declared it was "more strengthened than ever" in its determination to "stand firm" against pressures on the wage front. Finance Minister Yoram Aridor claimed last week that his policies had the full support of Premier Menachem Begin and the Cabinet.

Rate of Inflation Is At 160 Percent

David Neuman, a spokesman for the Central Bureau of Statistics, said the rate of inflation for the first four months of the year was running at an annual rate of 160 percent. The rate over the 12 months from May, 1982 to the end of April, 1983 was 140 percent, Neuman said.

He blamed the soaring prices of housing, food and clothing for the record inflation in April. The C.O.I. index usually rises in April because national and municipal tax collections start on the first of that month. But these were not the chief causes of the run away inflation registered last month.

Neuman pointed out that the price of apartments rose 22 percent in April; clothing and footwear were up 25 percent; and fruit and vegetables 18 percent. The Treasury challenged the Central Bureau's method of calculating the inflation rate, contending that it should not have included the 600 Shekels being charged by striking doctors who normally treat patients free at government hospitals and Histadrut clinics. But Neuman said that even if that had been eliminated, the April rise would have been 12 percent-plus.

A Treasury spokesman predicted a turn for the better this month. He said the April figures for wholesale prices indicated that retail prices, the basis on which the cost of

living is calculated, will come down in the near future. The Labor Party, however, called on Begin and his government to resign for mismanaging the economy. Yeruham Meshel, Secretary General of Histadrut, said there was "real fear" in the country because of declining exports, both industrial and agricultural, and looming unemployment. He said that in some northern development towns the unemployment rate was 10 percent.

FLAP ON SCHOOL BOARD VOTE ON SHAVUOT IS SETTLED

By Ben Gallob

UNIONDALE, N.Y. May 16 (JTA) -- Agreement was reached today in federal district court here that a group of Jewish voters in the Patchogue-Medford Union Free School District in Long Island could vote tomorrow in a school board election after the school board rejected a protest over the scheduling of the election on Wednesday, the first day of Shavuot.

Dennis Rapps, executive director of The National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), said Judge Jacob Mishler, sitting for the federal district court for the Eastern District of New York here, issued an order formalizing the agreement reached in discussion before his bench by attorneys for the school district and COLPA attorneys.

Rabbi Howard Walk, rabbi of the Young Israel of Patchogue, initiated the legal action after he was informed a month ago about the Shavuot election scheduling. He wrote to Henry Read, superintendent of the school district, asking that some action be taken to enable him to exercise his franchise.

Walk noted in his letter that a similar situation had arisen several years before that and at that time he had been unable to vote. To prevent a similar occurrence, he had sent to school district officials a 20-year calendar listing the dates of Jewish religious festivals.

Provisions Of The Settlement

Rapps explained that Judge Mishler incorporated the agreement in an order, making it law, because, when Walk asked for approval of his use of an absentee ballot, so that he could vote without violating Jewish law, district attorneys said he could not, contending that the Education Law of New York State barred the school district from issuing absentee ballots.

The settlement provides not for absentee ballots but for the plaintiffs to come to the school district offices here for the voting tomorrow. Rapps said the plaintiffs will use the same ballots as those to be used on the scheduled election day but will vote one day earlier.

In preparation for the case, COLPA obtained affidavits from 42 other observant Jews living in the district, so that Mishler's order applied to 43 plaintiffs.

The action of Mishler in issuing an order embodying the agreement means that the order gives the agreement the force of law, which supersedes the state law and protects the school district office from any legal challenge to the grant of voting rights to some qualified residents at a time different from the scheduled voting date.

ORTHODOX UNION LAUDS CALL FOR MERGER WITH YOUNG ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 16 (JTA) -- Julius Berman, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, has responded positively to a

call for unification of the Orthodox Union and the National Council of Young Israel, made by Rabbi Norman Lamm at the recent national convention of the Rabbinical Council of America.

In a letter to Lamm, president of Yeshiva University, Berman wrote: "I welcome your call and quite agree that Orthodoxy would be infinitely strengthened were its two major synagogue organizations, which, after all, are in basic agreement on fundamental policies and issues, to develop a mutually acceptable formula which would lead to merger.

"It is quite obvious that in unity there is enhanced strength, and that a united Orthodoxy might enjoy the means, personnel and drive to accomplish so many of the programs and goals that have hitherto eluded us."

Berman concluded with the pledge that the Orthodox Union, which represents over 1000 Orthodox synagogues across North America, will "cooperate in any initiative" taken by Lamm or the Rabbinical Council of America toward such a unification.

HEAD OF ITALY'S JEWISH COMMUNITY WARNS OF NEW ANTI-JEWISH ATTITUDES

NEW YORK, May 16 (JTA) -- The head of Italy's Jewish community said that new anti-Jewish attitudes stemming from the Middle East conflict now posed greater dangers for European Jewry than older and more familiar forms of anti-Semitism.

Tullia Zevi, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, said also that "classic" anti-Semitism was diminishing in Western Europe but, she stressed, "continued vigilance against known neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic forces" was still necessary. Mrs. Zevi, the first woman to serve as Italian Jewry's president, made her remarks at a session of the American Jewish Committee 77th annual meeting, which yesterday concluded its five-day agenda at the New York Hilton Hotel here.

Declaring that "dealing with anti-Semitism is now more complex than it was just a few years ago," Mrs. Zevi said that anti-Israel feelings that arose in many Western European countries after the Lebanon war had "spilled over" onto local Jewish communities, causing a "tense and at times dangerous atmosphere."

Contributing to the tense climate, continued Mrs. Zevi, were the efforts of "Libyan and other Arab sources" to "purchase favorable opinion, for example, by giving job training to unemployed youths, who are then marshalled for rallies demonstrating support for the Arab cause."

Mrs. Zevi reported also that European Jewish communities viewed recent terrorist attacks "not as a sign of growing European anti-Semitism, but as an attempt by Arab forces to bring the Middle East conflict to Europe, and thus frighten Europeans away from pro-Israel activities."

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The head of an unofficial Soviet good-will delegation likened the "oppression methods" of Israel to those of Nazi Germany when he spoke to reporters after landing at Ben Gurion Airport several days ago. Karen Khachaturov, deputy chairman of Novosti, the Soviet foreign news agency, said that while the USSR supported the evacuation of all foreign troops from Lebanon, Lebanon could not engage in peace talks with Israel under a state of military occupation. "It would be like us negotiating with Hitler when he was close to Moscow," he said. The delegation Khachaturov heads was invited here by the Israel-Soviet Friendship Movement which is affiliated with Israel's pro-Moscow Rakah Communist Party. The occasion is the 38th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany.

CANADIAN JEWISH LEADER SAYS THERE IS 'A GREAT SWEEP' OF ANTI-SEMITISM ACROSS CANADA

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, May 16 (JTA) — Alan Rose, executive vice president of the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), said that "without exaggeration, there is a great sweep of anti-Semitism across Canada."

Specifically, he told the 1,500 delegates attending the CJC's 20th triennial plenary, he wanted "to express my profound concern that Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed did not take the proper attitude on the question of the Mayor of Eckville, who declared that the Holocaust did not exist."

Rose was alluding to the case of James Keegstra, a high school teacher and Mayor of the village of Eckville, Alberta, who taught his classes that Jews are the root of all evil in the world and that the Holocaust never occurred. Keegstra, a member of the rightwing Social Credit Party of Canada, was ousted from the party only 10 days after he had been elected to its executive at its recent convention and three days after a federal judge upheld Keegstra's dismissal from the Alberta school system.

Rose suggested that the Canadian criminal code be amended to deprive hate-mongers of freedom of speech.

Appeal To Save Ethiopian Jews

On another issue, Rose reported that he had visited Ethiopia last year and stated that the problem is how to save the Jews of that country. He asserted that the government of Israel is the only one saving Ethiopian Jews and that no one should point a finger and accuse it of doing too little for those Jews. There has been criticism to this effect by Ethiopian Jews who managed to escape and those who are campaigning on behalf of Ethiopian Jews here, in the United States and in Israel.

Rabbi Joseph Hadani, spiritual leader of the Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel, delivered an impassioned appeal for action to save Ethiopian Jews who, he said, are threatened with extinction, particularly in Ethiopia's Gondar province.

The CJC has reportedly enrolled a large number of Canadian political leaders in its effort for Ethiopian Jews, including Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Canada-Israel Relations Assessed

In a discussion of Canada-Israel relations, Harold Buchwald, a lawyer from Winnipeg who is the president of the Canada-Israel Committee, said the Canadian government's policy toward Israel had been affected by a number of events last year, particularly Israel's invasion of Lebanon. But he added that "Canada's commitment to Israel's right to exist as a sovereign and secure country is as strong as a rock and will remain so for the foreseeable future."

At the same time, Buchwald said, it is the Canadian government's policy to support the Camp David agreement and the right of the Palestinians to a homeland on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which, he said, does not exclude the creation of a Palestinian state if the parties concerned agree to one.

Buchwald declared that if the Canadian government strongly disagrees with the West Bank settlement policy of the government of Premier Menachem Begin, it is also a fact that there will be no Canadian government recognition of the PLO until

the PLO recognizes Israel's right to exist and ceases its terrorist activities. He said the mood of the Canadian government is one of "full support for Israel despite a growing sympathy for the Palestinians, in each political party, particularly after the massacres last year in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila." Buchwald added that "the majority of Canadians are against official recognition of the PLO, while there is almost unanimous support for a secure and sovereign Israel among all Canadians."

Says Israel Must Be Strong

Yeshayahu Anug, Israel's Ambassador to Canada, said he realized that, despite the "wholesale support" for Israel throughout Canada, some Canadian Jews are combining a faith for Israel with a "certain discomfort." He pointed out that "nobody asks you to be responsible for the policies of Israel," adding that Israel must be strong "because without this strength, there is not much that can be done" for Israel, "by sympathies only."

Anug said that, with good will on both sides, the present volume of trade between Canada and Israel can be quadrupled and that this was also true for scientific cooperation between the two countries.

A similar approach was presented by Jim Peterson, a Liberal MP from Willowdale, Ontario, who expressed his hope for a continuous expansion of Canada-Israel relations. He stated that Canada takes immense pride in Israel's achievements, noting: "What other country would take the moral responsibility for the aftermath of the Sabra and Shatila massacres?"

At another session of the CJC plenary, the unity of the Jewish people and the joint efforts of Israel and diaspora Jewry to rekindle the Jewish spirit were stressed by Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, and Yosef Burg, Israel's Interior Minister.

Burg observed that the Jewish people are the "remnants of people" who survived from one tragedy to another. He emphasized the need for unity between Israel and the diaspora if Judaism is to survive.

Bronfman described Israel as the "center of our concern." He added, however, "The free expression of the youth of our community will ensure the future of the Jewish people as a whole. Not to speak out frankly and sincerely our views if we disagree sometimes with the official policy of Israel will endanger our relations with our governments and even our relations with our children."

Bronfman spoke at length of the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union, Syria and Ethiopia. He also referred to his visits last month to Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela and Costa Rica and announced he will visit South Africa next month. He said that in his travels he found that "despite existing difficulties, I came away with the feeling that we are one people and I ask the Jewish organizations to stop fighting the battles of the past."

The Samuel Bronfman Award was presented at the session to Judge Maxwell Cohen of the International Court of Justice at The Hague and to Dr. Jacob Michael Goldenberg of Saskatoon.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The prototype of Israel's new Lavie fighter plane should be flying by 1986, according to Defense Minister Moshe Arens. He told Labor Party leaders that \$100 million had already been invested in the preliminary planning work and up to \$2 billion might have to be spent in development work before the prototype takes to the air.