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BEGIN REJECTS PLEA FROM PARENTS FOR IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON; URGES SUPPORT OF POLICIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin rejected a plea by a parents group for the immediate withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Lebanon today. Meeting for the first time with representatives of "Parents Against Silence," one of several grass roots organizations that have been protesting the continued Israeli presence in Lebanon, Begin claimed that if a troop withdrawal was ordered, tens of thousand of Galilee residents would be exposed again to terrorist attacks.

Begin dismissed the argument that the Israeli army is "in a foreign country with no purpose" and urged the parents to support his government. The public is not divided between those who want "the boys to come home" and those who do not want it, Begin said.

A spokesman for the parents said afterwards that they had the impression Begin was sensitive to their appeal but was not ready to act on it. He said the group would continue its campaign to bring the army home from Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Likud MK Meir Cohen-Avidor continued his hunger strike near the Prime Ministers residence to protest against anti-war groups which he accused of "using the blood of fallen soldiers for political purposes." The anti-war demonstrators have been appearing outside the residence daily for nearly two months, holding up signs with the latest Israeli casualty figures in Lebanon. The number of fatalities passed the 500 mark last weekend.

Knesset Speaker Menachem Saviv and Deputy Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Dov Shilansky, tried to persuade Cohen-Avidor today to abandon his strike. They said he has already made his point. They also tried to convince the war protestors to take down their signs.

KIMCHE MEETS U.S. OFFICIALS

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 16 (JTA) -- David Kimche, Director General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, met with two ranking U.S. officials here today but the State Department would not say whether the possible redeployment of Israeli troops in Lebanon was one of the topics discussed.

Kimche, who headed the Israeli delegation in the negotiations with Lebanon for the agreement the two countries signed last month, had meetings with Nicholas Veliotes, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs and with Lawrence Eagleburger, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs.

Asked if their talks might have been concerned with an Israeli redeployment, State Department spokesman John Hughes declared: "Our position is very clear. Our policy is for total withdrawal of all foreign forces. A mechanism exists for that. We think that Israel and Lebanon have taken steps toward implementation of that mechanism and now we look to the Syrians to take other steps which would make that possible."

Asked about the possibility that the U.S.-Israel memorandum of understanding for strategic cooperation

may now be revived, Hughes said he is "not aware of it being a subject of discussion at present." Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said in response to questions at the National Press Club Tuesday that "The revival or restitution of that memorandum could take place at virtually any time depending on the wishes of the Israeli government." The accord was suspended shortly after it was signed in October, 1981 because of Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights.

Hughes was asked if Syria's Foreign Minister, Abdel Halim Khaddam, has accepted or rejected the invitation to visit Washington, extended when Secretary of State George Shultz was in the Middle East last month. The State Department spokesman replied that "The invitation clearly still stands. I am not aware of any negative response." Hughes also said that the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis, was to meet with Premier Menachem Begin today to work on the schedule of Begin's visit to the U.S. next month. The visit will be announced by the White House.

BEGIN GETS REAGAN LETTER

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA) -- U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis met with Premier Menachem Begin for more than an hour today and delivered a letter from President Reagan which reportedly dealt, among other things with Begin's expected visit to Washington. Lewis did not say when it would take place.

Lewis was reported to have briefed Begin on high level American consultations on Lebanon. The envoy said later that they had discussed "prospects for moving the Lebanon problem forward." He said the subject of a possible redeployment of Israeli troops in Lebanon is not currently under discussion and expressed optimism that Syria would agree to pull its forces out of that country but had "no progress to report."

ZIONIST COUNCIL ENDS WITHOUT IMPLEMENTING AGREED UPON GOALS

By Cindy Kaye

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA) -- The Zionist General Council ended its three-day annual meeting here today, unable to agree how to implement a series of Zionist goals adopted in principle. The Council voted to defer the matter until it reconvenes next December.

The major objectives of the World Zionist movement -- aliyah, Jewish education and stronger ties between Israel and diaspora Jewry -- are known collectively as the Caesaria Process. It was the end result of a Jewish Agency Assembly that convened in Caesaria three years ago.

There is no ideological dispute over that agenda. But according to Ephraim Even, the newly elected chairman of the Zionist Council, "The general consensus of this Council was that the adoption of the Caesaria Process is likely to deprive the Zionist movement of its ideological independence." The major source of disagreement is the jurisdiction of the committee responsible for running the Zionist movement, such as determining how people should be

appointed to office and how long they should serve. Kalman Sultanik, who was one of the chairmen at the Caesaria meeting, said "In order to introduce new blood into the (Jewish) Agency it was recommended that every department head be limited to two terms in office." The World Zionist Organization (WZO) has never set a limit to the number of terms its leaders can serve. The WZO is a Zionist body, composed of the various Zionist parties, each of which is represented in the leadership of one or another department. The Jewish Agency embraces non-Zionists as well as Zionists.

While efforts to strengthen ties between the Agency and WZO are supported in principle, their implementation proved a stumbling block at the General Council meeting. Raanan Weitz, also a chairman at the Caesaria conference, observed that "In the fields of immigration and absorption, there should be a separation between the activities of the Jewish Agency and those of the government, with the Agency being responsible for immigration and the government for absorption. This separation of power includes a demand for involvement in operations by the Zionist Organization," Weitz said.

13,500 Immigrants Projected

Raphael Kotlowitz, chairman of the WZO's immigration department, predicted that immigration from Western countries will reach 13,500 this year, the highest since 1973. He projected a 25 percent rise in immigration from the U.S. and a 46 percent rise from all Western countries.

Bernice Tannenbaum, acting chairman of the WZO Executive-American Section, said there was an urgent need to capitalize on the restoration of good relations between Israel and the U.S. With the American Presidential elections only a year away, it is crucial to reaffirm Israel's importance to American interests in the Middle East, Tannenbaum said.

The General Council meeting which closed today will be followed next week by the annual Jewish Agency Assembly.

ISRAELI CONSERVATIVE RABBI WARNS ORTHODOX EXTREMISTS By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA) -- A leader of the Conservative movement in Israel warned here today that if "extreme elements" of Orthodox Jewry in Israel will continue to harass the Conservative movement "then we will urge American Jews not to assist them anymore."

Rabbi Philip Spectre, the executive director of the Movement for Conservative Judaism in Israel, charged in a press conference at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, that a recent incident in Kiryat Gat, a town in the south of Israel, in which Lubavitcher Hasidim disturbed a bar and bat mitzva celebration by the Conservative movement, has made the leadership of Conservative Judaism in Israel determined "not to let this continue."

The incident with the Lubavitcher Hasidim took place at the beginning of last month, Spectre said. He said that when the ceremony was about to start "there appeared at the door a group of Lubavitcher Hasidim who asked permission to join in the proceedings. They were welcomed and each young Hasid picked up one of the children and danced with them, joyfully, as befit the occasion. But," Spectre continued, "just at the

moment for the closing blessings, Rabbi Wolpe, leader of the Hasidic group, requested permission to address the congregation." He then told the children and parents "that they had been misled, that their celebration had been unauthentic, that Jewish law did not permit calling women to the Torah and so forth," Spectre said.

Spectre said that when reports of the incident reached the leaders of Conservative Judaism in both Israel and North America "the response was traumatic," as it was on the children and the parents in Kiryat Gat.

No Problem With 'Enlightened' Orthodox

Spectre said that his movement, which has about 10,000 registered members in Israel "has no problem with enlightened Orthodox Jews in Israel but with the less enlightened such as the Lubavitcher Hasidim." He said that the Conservative movement is gaining inroads in Israel. "We want to achieve reciprocal respect with Orthodox Jews in Israel and elsewhere," he said.

He said that the budget of the Conservative movement in Israel "is 50 percent from American sources and the rest from our membership in Israel." He pointed out that "official Judaism in Israel is Orthodox Judaism" and other brands of Judaism, therefore, are not supported by the government.

KIEV JEW'S APPEAL DENIED

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA) -- The appeal from a one-year sentence for Kiev refusenik Lev Elbert was denied today, according to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

The 35-year-old engineer asked the authorities that his wife be given permission to receive kosher canned meat from abroad to give him in prison.

He was sentenced on May 25 by a local Kiev court for alleged refusal to submit to an army reserve callup. He refused on the grounds that this would subject him to a secrecy designation which would further block his immigration to Israel.

He was not jailed after the May 25 trial but now must begin serving a labor camp sentence.

EHRlich IN 'SERIOUS' CONDITION

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA) -- Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich was reported in "serious" condition at Bikur Holim Hospital where he was admitted Tuesday following a stroke.

Hospital sources indicated the 78-year-old Cabinet minister's condition had deteriorated since yesterday when he was described as functioning normally, except for paralysis of his legs. Today's bulletin reported that Ehrlich was not conscious and that only family members were allowed at his bedside. Premier Menachem Begin visited the hospital but did not enter Ehrlich's room. (By Gil Sedan)

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- Moshe Shechter, director of the Israel Aliyah Center, has announced a National Campaign of Israel Aliyah Conferences around the United States and Canada. The campaign has the cooperation and endorsement of over 70 major Jewish organizations. The Israel Aliyah Conferences are intended to increase the Jewish communities' involvement in Aliyah; to provide information about living, working and studying in Israel; and to honor North American Jews who will be moving to Israel. The Conferences will begin in the 22 regions where the Israel Aliyah Center maintains offices.

SHULTZ TELLS JEWISH GROUP HE'S 'VERY DISTURBED' ABOUT STATUS OF SOVIET JEWS

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 16 (JTA) — Secretary of State George Shultz is "very disturbed" about the recent developments regarding the status of Soviet Jewry including the formation several weeks ago of the Soviet government-sponsored "Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public," according to a spokesman for the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ).

Shultz met for one hour at the State Department yesterday with 13 Jewish leaders, led by Theodore Sorel, chairman of the NCSJ, and was presented with a report from the NCSJ called, "Andropov's Jewish policy," an analysis of the new offensive against Soviet Jews prepared for the Soviet Jewry group by Dr. William Korey, the director of policy research for B'nai B'rith International. The Korey report states that the "character and direction" of Andropov's Jewish policy are "ominous."

According to a spokesman for the NCSJ, the Jewish group included leaders from national organizations and a representative of the Republican Jewish Coalition. The meeting, which came about as a result of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry in Jerusalem last March, was agreed to at this time by the State Department because of the recent developments in the Soviet Union, primarily the anti-Zionist committee.

Soviet Groups Called Anti-Semitic

The general consensus to arise from the meeting was that the anti-Zionist committee was anti-Semitic, according to the NCSJ spokesman. The committee, formed of several prominent Jews, asserted at a June 6 press conference in Moscow that the majority of Jews who wish to emigrate from the Soviet Union have already done so.

The spokesman said that Shultz was "very receptive" to the suggestion put forward that the United States take the lead in seeking support for Soviet Jews from other Western democracies. "The Secretary was very sympathetic to that approach," the spokesman said.

Noting that it was the first meeting of substantive issues on Soviet Jewry between Shultz and the Jewish leaders, the spokesman asserted that the "group left aware that the Secretary does care ... (but) realized however that nobody has all the answers at this moment" to the problems facing Soviet Jews.

Nazi, Stalin Eras Evoked

The Korey report, meanwhile, said of the anti-Zionist Committee, that "a special public institutional form for legitimizing the policy has been created, elements of which evoke memories of the Nazi era and of Stalin's last days." Korey asserted that four separate but interrelated features are involved:

"An end to emigration entirely; the cutting off of the Soviet Jewish community from relations with its brethren abroad; an intensification of the program of forced cultural and linguistic assimilation; and a broadening of the anti-Zionist propaganda campaign, drawing into it new anti-Semitic elements that have their origin in Czarist Black Hundred canards and in recent neo-Nazi themes."

BOOBY-TRAPPED CAR SAFELY DESTROYED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA) — A booby-trapped car was safely blown up after it was discovered by

Israeli forces today parked on a roadside in Khalde, south of Beirut. The car was in an area where Israeli troops have come under attack recently.

The Israel army has warned local residents that cars parked on certain roads will be blown up. The precaution was taken following several incidents in which parked cars loaded with explosives were detonated by remote control as Israeli patrols passed close to them.

Meanwhile the army is investigating last Friday's ambush that killed three Israeli soldiers in Lebanon. Military sources denied however that the town of Deir Kanaoun, near the scene of the attack, has been placed under curfew and barred to United Nations personnel.

REAGAN SUBMITS HELSINKI REPORT

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 16 (JTA) — President Reagan has issued his semiannual report on the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act noting that the Soviet Union, Rumania and Poland continue to be in violation of the human rights sections of the agreement.

The 14th semiannual report was submitted by the State Department to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which monitors the Helsinki agreements, and made public last week.

The report noted that no substantive agreement has been reached at the Madrid followup conference which has been going on since Nov. 11, 1980. "From the outset at Madrid, two issues have proved particularly contentious: balanced progress between human rights and the mandate for a post-Madrid conference on the military aspects of security," the report stressed. "Discussion and progress on these issues came to a halt after the imposition of martial law in Poland in December, 1981, when it became clear that there was no possibility of adopting a concluding agreement in the face of the massive violations of existing Final Act commitments in Poland and the Soviet Union."

The report points out that "the West has raised matters of implementation — particularly the continuing repression in the Soviet Union and the suppression of civil liberties in Poland." Max Kampelman, the U.S. representative "gave a hard-hitting speech on March 8 indicting the East in general and the Soviet Union, Poland and Rumania in particular for human rights violations." Among the items he mentioned were the halt in Jewish emigration from the USSR and the education tax on would be emigrants from Rumania.

Rumanian Decree Criticized

The report criticizes the Rumanian decree last November which requires all intending emigrants to repay the Rumanian government the cost of their education beyond the compulsory (tenth year) level in a convertible ("hard") currency before they can receive exit documentation. It particularly affects Rumanian Jews departing for Israel.

"The Soviets continued drastically to limit emigration and family reunification during the review period," according to the report. "The continued decline of emigration dovetails with other aspects of the current increase of repression of dissent. Most citizens have little or no chance to emigrate ... Only 741 Jews were allowed to emigrate during the reporting period compared to 1,286 in the previous six months. If projected to the end of the year, this would possibly result in the emigration of about 1,100 Jews in 1983, compared to 51,300 in 1979, when emigration for the USSR reached its zenith," the report revealed.

In addition, "there are reports from several areas in the USSR that local Office of Visas and Registration officials during the last six months have been telling a number of long-time refuseniks that they are 'refused for life' and, in some instances, warned that they will be punished should they attempt to apply again," the report states.

AGING OF JEWISH POPULATION IN ISRAEL, WORLD TO POSE NEW PROBLEMS IN NEAR FUTURE By Cindy Kaye

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA) — The aging of the Jewish population in Israel and throughout the world will pose new problems of care for the elderly in the not too distant future, a Hebrew University professor and an American gerontologist said at a press conference here.

According to U.O. Schmelz, professor of contemporary Jewry, "the proportion of diaspora Jews over the age of 65 will increase by five percent to 20 percent of the total population by the year 2000. In Israel, the number of Jews aged 65 or over will increase from 258,000 in 1975 to 456,000 by the end of the century," he said.

Schmelz's statistics came from a recent joint study by the JDC-Brookdale Institute of Gerontology in the U.S. and the Hebrew University's Institute of Contemporary Jewry. It deals with "regional estimates of Jewish populations throughout the world and their elderly components."

Dr. Jack Habib, head of the Brookdale Institute, said obtaining funds from the government for the elderly is not the problem. It is rather, where to allocate the funds that seems to be causing difficulties, he said. "The direction that the government is going in now is not clear," he added that "there hasn't been a resolution of the relative emphasis to be placed on institutional solutions vs. community solutions, nor has there been any resolution with regard to the organization of care. We do not know what direction that is going in and it is still very controversial," Habib said.

Akiva Lewinsky, the Jewish Agency Treasurer, said there are hundreds of immigrant families who cannot leave absorption centers because even with maximum mortgage assistance they cannot buy apartments. "He said "among those affected are elderly people."

MARYLAND MAN CONVICTED FOR DESECRATING SYNAGOGUE

WASHINGTON, June 16 (JTA) — A 23-year-old man was convicted yesterday of drawing anti-Semitic symbols on a Silver Spring synagogue in what the Jewish Advocacy Center in Washington called one of the few successful prosecutions in the United States for acts of anti-Semitic vandalism.

A jury deliberated for less than two hours in Montgomery County Circuit Court before returning a guilty verdict against Michael David Remer on charges of destruction of property. Irving Shapell, president of the Jewish Advocacy Center, also said that the verdict would serve notice that the Jewish community would "fight back" against such attacks. Andrew Sonner, the Maryland State's Attorney, said it was the first prosecution and conviction he could remember for such a crime in the county circuit court system.

Rabbi Martin Halpern, spiritual leader of the vandalized Shaare Tefila synagogue, said the incident and the conviction had heightened the awareness of all residents of the community, non-Jewish and Jewish, that "if desecration happens to a synagogue today, it could happen to a church tomorrow and to a mosque the next day."

Judge Rosalyn Bell, who presided at the trial, set bond of \$50,000 for Remer and scheduled sentencing for August 11.

One of Remer's companions on the night of the incident last November testified he watched Remer, who now lives in Ellicott City, Md., spray-paint "a big swastika," a cross, a skull and crossbones and the words "Ku Klux Klan" on the back of the synagogue.

Remer, testifying in his own defense, denied any painting on the synagogue, declaring "I was drunk" and that he laughed at his companions whom he said he watched painting the symbols and slogans on the synagogue. Remer's companions also have been charged and their cases are pending.

Outside the courtroom, Remer told reporters he was not anti-Semitic. He also said that, while he was not a Jew, he had grown up in a home where his stepfather and stepbrothers were Jewish.

Faces 3-Year Prison Term

Prosecutor Rick Jordan said Remer faced a sentence of up to three years in prison and fines of up to \$2,500 on the property destruction verdict. Remer was also convicted of six other criminal charges stemming from similar acts of vandalism the same night.

Robert Jacques, Remer's defense attorney, told jurors that the desecration of the synagogue was "so offensive and so heinous that you don't have to be Jewish to be outraged by them," but he insisted Remer had not drawn the smearings.

The vandalism attracted wide attention because synagogue officials decided to leave the daubings untouched for several days to give the community "a chance to express community outrage." Marshall Levin, the synagogue executive director, said many residents helped clean up the wall and tips from residents led to the arrests of Remer and five companions.

PIONEER WOMEN PRAISE ABORTION RULING

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA) — The Pioneer Women/Na'amat the women's Labor Zionist Organization, said today it would redouble its efforts to protect women's freedom of choice in reproduction in both the United States and Israel.

Phyllis Frank, of Washington, vice president of the 50,000 member organization, made that statement in hailing yesterday's ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court striking down a series of local legislative restrictions on access to abortions. "The Supreme Court's decision is a victory for all American women, for the cause of freedom and for the principle of church-state separation," Frank said. "We welcome the ruling as a significant advance for the American idea of freedom of choice."

The Pioneer Women's sister organization in Israel, Na'amat/Pioneer Women, played a key role in the defeat of recent proposals in the Knesset that would have further restricted the already limited right to abortion in Israel, Frank said. Those proposals, branded a "public scandal" by Masha Lubelsky, secretary-general of the 750,000-member Na'amat, included charging women who have unauthorized abortions with criminal action, making them liable to punishment and permitting women over 40 to have abortions only when the embryo is found defective.

Frank said that Pioneer Women/Na'amat in the U.S. would continue to "vigilantly monitor and vigorously oppose any drive to by-pass the high court's decision through a Constitutional amendment or other effort to erode the right a woman to have an abortion."