

Vol. LXI - 66th Year

Monday, July 18, 1983

No. 135

SPECULATION DISCOURAGED ABOUT 'DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS' IN ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN NATIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 17 (JTA) -- Well informed Israeli sources are discouraging speculation that "dramatic developments" are imminent in Israel's relations with some African countries. The speculation followed an exclusive report in Maariv Friday that Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir held a secret meeting in Europe last week with a prominent African statesman from a country which does not have diplomatic ties with Israel.

The Foreign Ministry is not prepared to acknowledge any such meeting and did not react to the report. Shamir returned to Israel Friday afternoon.

The informed sources said Shamir met with more than one African envoy, though they would not say with whom. They said he discussed "bilateral relations between Israel and a number of African countries -- among them some that do and some that do not have diplomatic ties with Israel."

Israel has ties with Zaire, Malawi, Lesotho and Swaziland, and with South Africa.

The informed sources insisted that Shamir's talks had no connection with the current armed insurrection in Chad. Zaire has sent considerable forces to Chad to aid the government of Hissene Habre against the Libyan-backed insurgents invading from the north. Zaire is the only country openly helping Chad in this way. Under a military cooperation accord concluded last year, crack units of the Zaire army are trained by Israel.

Sentiment To Strengthen Ties With Israel

The sources noted an increase of sentiment among African nations to strengthen their ties with Israel in the wake of the Israel-Lebanon agreement of May 17. They indicated, however, that this does not mean a restoration of diplomatic relations is imminent.

Most Black African states cut their diplomatic ties with Israel in 1973. So far, Zaire is the only one to restore them. Israel had hoped that the 1979 peace treaty with Egypt and the recent agreement with Lebanon would prompt other African states to reestablish diplomatic ties. But these hopes have not yet been realized.

Nevertheless, commercial relations between Israel and a large number of African states are flourishing, unaffected by the absence of diplomatic ties. The London Observer reported today a four million Pound Sterling police equipment deal between Israel and Nigeria.

While full ambassadorial relations remain to be re-formed, Israel has been able to expand its network of diplomatic interest sections in Africa. These are diplomatic offices operating out of friendly embassies.

LEBANESE OFFICIAL APPARENTLY URGING THE U.S. TO TAKE STEPS TO GET SYRIA OUT OF LEBANON

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 17 (JTA) -- Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem is apparently urging the Reagan Administration to discuss with Syria the Golan Heights and other Syrian "concerns" in the effort to get Syria to withdraw its troops from Lebanon.

Syria "has never slammed the door on negotiations," Salem said in an appearance on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation" today. But he said Syria is maintaining its "intransigent" position in order to address their "strategic" concerns in Lebanon and the Middle East.

Salem met with Secretary of State George Shultz yesterday and is scheduled to meet with him again and with other U.S. officials in preparation for the visit here of President Amin Gemayel later this week. He said he was "confident we will break the stalemate" and predicted complete withdrawal of the Israelis, the Syrians and the Palestine Liberation Organization in a few months.

Says U.S. Should Forget Israel For Now

But Salem noted that the withdrawal of Syria and the PLO could be negotiated outside the agreement that Lebanon signed with Israel on May 17. He suggested that the U.S. should forget about Israel for the present and concentrate with providing "incentives" to the Syrians.

This, he indicated, was to address with the Syrians the issue of the Golan Heights, the Middle East situation and the Palestinian issue. Another issue was Lebanon itself.

Salem said that Syria had told the Lebanese "if you can sign an agreement with Israel, you come to us and we'll discuss with you the withdrawal." But he said the Syrians did not like the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, claiming that it violated Lebanese sovereignty and that it opened the way for Israel and U.S. military bases in Lebanon.

Salem denied this and declared that Lebanon is nonaligned and will continue to be so. He said Lebanon turned to the U.S. because only Washington could get Israel to withdraw and is willing to seek the help of the Soviets and the Europeans if that is necessary to get Syria and the PLO to leave.

Israel, Syria Not Seeking Partition

At the same time, Salem rejected the belief by some that both Syria and Israel want to remain in his country. "I do not believe that there is any serious plan on the part of either Israel or Syria to partition or annex any part of Lebanon," he said.

He said Lebanon would not discuss with Israel any possible redeployment of troops since this would give the impression to the various groups in Lebanon that the Beirut government had agreed to a partition.

He said Lebanon would only discuss partial withdrawal as part of an overall timetable for a full withdrawal.

But Salem stressed that if Israel, Syria or the PLO withdrew from any territory, the Lebanese army was ready to move in and maintain security in that area. He said that the Lebanese army is responsible for law and order and that the multinational force provides logistical back-up for it. He predicted that once there is complete withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon, the multinational force would be needed for only another year.

Salem denied that Lebanon has good relations with Israel, maintaining that it talked to Israel only through the U.S. He also blamed the present fighting among various sects in Lebanon on "pressures" from Syria and Israel and said that once there was full withdrawal, all groups in Lebanon would back a united Lebanese government.

BEGIN READY TO ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO VISIT GERMANY By David Kantor

BONN, July 17 (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin has indicated that he will accept an invitation to visit West Germany which is likely to be extended by Chancellor Helmut Kohl when he visits Israel August 31, diplomatic sources here said today.

Die Welt reported today, however, that acceptance of the invitation does not mean that Begin will actually come to Bonn. It is protocol for the visiting head of a foreign government to invite his host to reciprocate. The West German authorities, preparing for Kohl's visit to Jerusalem, wanted to make sure that Begin would agree and thus avoid an affront.

According to Die Welt, past experience indicated that there will be no visit here by an Israeli Premier for several years, by which time it will probably be Begin's successor.

West German sources said Begin's readiness to accept an invitation from Kohl demonstrated that much of the damage done Bonn-Israel relations in the recent past was due to former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's demonstrative refusal to visit Israel while he was in office, although an invitation had been extended as far back as 1975. In May, 1981, Begin launched a bitter personal attack on Schmidt and his government's Middle East policies.

RYAN INTENDS TO LEAVE THE OSI

WASHINGTON, July 17 (JTA) -- Allan Ryan, Jr., the director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, said here that he intends to leave his position as head of the agency sometime in August. He did not provide a specific date. The OSI is responsible for investigating and prosecuting alleged Nazi war criminals.

Ryan, who has served as director of the OSI since April 1980, said he will leave shortly after submitting a report on his special investigation into the reported connections between American intelligence and Klaus Barbie, the former head of gestapo of Lyon, France during the Nazi occupation in 1942-1944. Barbie was expelled from Bolivia last February and re-

turned to France where he now faces trial on charges of crimes against humanity.

In an interview with The New York Times published Saturday, Ryan said he felt it was time to move on and "give someone else a chance" as head of the OSI. "I don't consider myself a Nazi-hunter," Ryan said. "I consider myself a prosecutor."

Regarding the efforts of the OSI, Ryan said that about 700 people have been investigated. "We've prosecuted 32. Twenty six of those cases are still in court. There are 12 denaturalization cases and 14 deportation cases pending. Five people died. One was deported," he said. The complexities of the legal process and the time spent in what could amount to as many as seven separate "forums" poses the difficulties which have resulted in just one deportation, Ryan noted.

Asked "How does a Ryan get into this?" the OSI head responded: "How can a Ryan not get into this? I've never seen this as a Jewish issue. It should concern everybody. It happened to all of us. But we're not here to avenge the Holocaust. We're here to apply the law."

Asked "What have you learned?" Ryan said: "I understand so little. I do not understand how people could have done this. How could people have done this to each other? How could it have happened? I have to say, at last, I don't understand."

PHILIP ZEC DEAD AT 73

LONDON, July 17 (JTA) -- Philip Zec, the outstanding British newspaper cartoonist of World War II, died last Thursday at the age of 73. He is chiefly remembered for a cartoon in The Daily Mirror in 1942 showing a lone merchant seaman, from a torpedoed oil tanker, clinging to a piece of driftwood in mountainous seas. It bore the caption: "The price of petrol has been increased by one penny - official."

It infuriated Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who said that the cartoon could undermine the morale of Britain's merchant seamen during the battle of the North Atlantic. But Zec was unrepentant and the cartoon, like his other war work received public acclaim.

The grandson of a Russian rabbi and the son of a tailor who came to London to escape Czarist oppression, Zec studied art and at 19 had his own commercial and photographic studio.

Following his cartoon of the shipwrecked seaman, the government threatened to close down the Daily Mirror, in which it appeared. Zec rejected the government's interpretation of it, pointing out that he was a socialist and a Jew and bitterly anti-Hitler.

In 1958, he left the Mirror to join The Daily Herald. In that year he won a prize for the cartoon with the greatest political impact submitted by cartoonists from 24 countries. The subject was the crushing of the Hungarians by the Soviet army. For 25 years, Zec served as a director of the London Jewish Chronicle.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Israel's cost of living index rose by 3.6 percent during June, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced. It was considerably less than the figure forecast for the month, by economists, banks and the Finance Ministry itself. The low inflationary rate was due to a sharp seasonal drop in the price of fruit and vegetables. Without that drop, the index would have risen by 6.1 percent the Bureau said. With the June figure, annual inflation is now running at about 125 percent.

CABINET TO DEVOTE ENTIRE SESSION TO NATION'S TROUBLED ECONOMY

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, July 17 (JTA)— The Cabinet agreed to devote a full session to the country's troubled economy after an angry exchange on the subject today between Finance Minister Yoram Aridor and Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i. Premier Menachem Begin intervened several times when the two ministers traded insults.

The matter was raised at today's Cabinet meeting by Interior Minister Yosef Burg who noted that adverse reports on Israel's economic condition have appeared in the media abroad in recent weeks. Burg was also concerned by a remark over the weekend by the Deputy Governor of the Bank of Israel, Yakir Plessner, that large budget cuts were needed even though they would reduce living standards and possibly lead to unemployment.

Burg asked Aridor when the Cabinet could expect a full-scale discussion of the economy. The Finance Minister replied that he would agree to discuss one issue, a substantial reduction of government expenditures. Moda'i interrupted at that point to say that the overriding issue is how to rehabilitate the entire economy. The Energy Minister has been critical of Aridor's policies in recent newspaper interviews.

The Finance Minister replied angrily, "I am not ready to discuss this with you since you already expressed your opinion in the media." Moda'i insisted that budget cuts were only one of many measures needed to overhaul the economy. He accused Aridor of failing to consult with his Cabinet colleagues while claiming that his policies had the Cabinet's approval. Aridor retorted angrily that Moda'i was telling "lies" about the economy. Begin ordered the word "lies" stricken from the record.

Impact Of Salary Hikes For Doctors

Aridor is urgently seeking budget cuts to enable the Treasury to pay for large salary increases for government-employed doctors. The increases are expected to be recommended by the arbitrator appointed today to adjudicate the issues in the four month long doctors' strike which ended a little more than two weeks ago with an agreement to submit to binding arbitration. (See separate story).

Aridor had warned all along that whatever increases the doctors received would be demanded by public employees in other sectors. He pressed that point on Begin during a meeting over the weekend. According to the Finance Minister, only a general budget cut would make the extra funds available. Finance Ministry aides said Begin supported the demand for across-the-board cuts but the Prime Minister's Office declined to confirm this and Begin seemed neutral on the subject at today's Cabinet session.

Most other ministers have expressed concern that their budgets might be reduced. Defense Minister Moshe Arens is on record in favor of slashing the expenditures of the "civilian ministries" but insists that his own defense and military budgets remain intact.

ELAM TO SERVE AS ARBITRATOR OF ISSUES IN THE DOCTORS' STRIKE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 17, (JTA)— Representatives of the government and government-employed doctors agreed today that Uzi Elam, Israel Atomic Energy Commission chairman, serve as arbitrator of the issues in the doctors' strike which ended over two weeks ago in an agreement to seek binding arbitration.

The basic issues he will deal with are the size of salary increases and the period of time over which they must be paid and the length of the work week for doctors on duty at hospitals. There are other relatively minor technical points.

Elam now has 40 days in which to present his recommendations. He will be assisted by Hillel Dudai, representing the Treasury, and Dr. Haim Zakuk, deputy chairman of the Israel Medical Association, acting on behalf of the doctors.

The selection of Elam, a reserve Brig. Gen., ended the threat of a renewed strike by doctors who had accused the government of deliberately delaying the appointment of an arbitrator. But it was the doctors who reportedly rejected 30 candidates proposed by the government. The Attorney General, for reasons not disclosed, was said to have vetoed other names agreed to by the doctors and government representatives.

Meanwhile, administrative and technical employees of the Health Ministry announced that they will stage a second day-long "warning strike" at hospitals and Ministry offices tomorrow. They walked out for 24 hours last week to press demands for the implementation of a 10-year-old government promise to equalize their pay and working conditions with those of employees of Kupat Holim, the Histadrut sick-fund.

BEGIN INTERVENES IN CLASHES BETWEEN ZEALOTS AND POLICE

JERUSALEM, July 17 (JTA)— Premier Menachem Begin intervened today to dampen the escalating violence by religious zealots in Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods. He read a statement at the end of the weekly Cabinet session expressing sorrow over the clashes between zealots and police and declared his full confidence in the measures taken by Interior Minister Yosef Burg to end the disturbances.

A woman motorist was injured and required hospitalization after being struck by a rock thrown by a ten-year old boy while she drove near an Orthodox neighborhood in Jerusalem yesterday morning. The youngster was detained briefly by police and released.

Meanwhile, Rabbi Moshe Hirsh, a leader of the Neturei Karta sect, was arrested and arraigned Friday for alleged incitement to riot in the Maa Shearim quarter. He was remanded in custody over the weekend, pending a hearing.

Hirsh is the self-styled "foreign minister" of the Neturei Karta, ultra-orthodox Jews who refuse to recognize Israel's legitimacy on grounds that there can be no Jewish State before the advent of the Messiah. His arrest was in line with the new tough police measures to curb violence by ultra-Orthodox Jews who rioted several nights last week, ostensibly in protest against archaeological diggings allowed by the government in the City of David, just outside the Old City walls.

Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem has called for the deportation of Hirsh who is an American citizen. But Burg has made it clear that such a step will not be seriously considered at the present time.

U.S. ARMY YIELDS ON ISSUE OF ALLOWING A HASID-DOCTOR TO WEAR A BEARD AND A SKULLCAP

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, July 17 (JTA) --Legal action to compel the U.S. Army to permit a Lubavitcher Hasid, who went to medical school at the Army's expense, to wear a beard and a skullcap during his three-year commitment to military service as a doctor, has been dropped after the Army yielded on the issue, Howard Zuckerman, president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), reported.

Zuckerman said the case of the young Hasid-doctor was unusual in that when he made his agreement to get his medical training expenses in exchange for the three-year commitment, he was not particularly observant and that, accordingly, when he made the pledge and enrolled at the medical school of Iowa University in Des Moines, the issue of beard and skullcap was not involved. He enlisted in the army in 1978.

However, the man, whose name was withheld at his request, and who is now 29 years old, became acquainted during his first year at school with Lubavitcher Hasidim he had met at the local Chabad House. His religious convictions deepened to the point that he became a Hasid and began wearing a skullcap at all times.

The skullcap caused no problems for him during his first tour of active duty during December, 1979, at Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis, Washington, in the state of Washington. Zuckerman explained that active duty includes stints in military hospitals during medical school attendance for those in the program in which the Army pays for medical education taken in civilian medical schools.

Background Of The Problem

In March, 1981, he made another tour of active duty, this time for 45 days, at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii. By that time, his deepening religious convictions led him to decide he would wear a beard, in addition to the skullcap. Tripler Army officials allowed him to continue to wear his beard but ordered him to report for duty in civilian clothes, so that his conflict with the Uniform Dress and Army Code, which bans beards and skullcaps, would not be noticeable.

In April, 1981, he submitted a formal request for permission to wear a beard and regulation Army medical uniform while on active duty in the Army. In a letter from Army authorities, dated August 24, 1981, he was informed his request "was not favorably considered." When his request was refused, he continued to wear civilian clothes.

After his graduation from medical school in the spring of 1982, he was ordered to report for active duty at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Officials there told him he would be permitted to report for duty, wearing a beard, if he would wear civilian clothes. He considered this a temporizing arrangement and did not report as scheduled.

On August 20, 1982, he was notified that his orders to report for active duty as a military doctor had been revoked pending results of a hearing on his request to wear a skullcap and a

beard. A special board was convened last September 21 at Fort Totten in Flushing, N.Y. to consider his request.

Hearing By A Special Board

The hearing board comprised three voting members, each of them a Major, one non-voting member who served as a recorder, and two non-voting chaplains, one Catholic and one Jewish. The Catholic chaplain had the rank of Major and the Jewish chaplain was a Lt. Col.

At the hearing, the Hasid-doctor declared it was a religious requirement for him to wear a beard. He testified he had consulted three rabbis and that each stated it was forbidden for him to shave his beard, despite his promise to serve in the Army. The Jewish chaplain explained to the three voting members that, under Jewish religious law, once a Jew accepts a rabbi, he is required to follow that rabbi's teaching and may not "shop around" for a different rabbi with a different opinion.

The board denied his request for an exemption to the Dress and Grooming Code and ruled that his insistence on wearing a skullcap and a beard constituted an intent to renege on his contractual agreement to serve in the Army in exchange for Army payments of his medical schools costs.

The board also found that his asserted religious beliefs about wearing a beard and a skullcap were not sincere because Jewish law does not condone violation of contractual obligations. The board also held that by disregarding his contractual obligations, he was exposing himself to disciplinary and legal action.

Turns To COLPA For Help

The Hasid-doctor, who now maintains his permanent residence in the Lubavitcher compound in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, turned to COLPA for help. COLPA initiated an administrative complaint, the procedural prerequisite to a federal lawsuit. Zuckerman said the Army reconsidered its position and COLPA dropped the proceedings.

Zuckerman noted that the case of the Hasid-doctor is somewhat unusual in that he did not have the option, generally available to officers in the armed forces who encounter such impasses, of simply resigning their commissions. The Hasid-doctor, committed to three years of army service, would be subject to possible court martial, possible suit for breach of contract and to any Army effort to recoup its outlay for his medical education, threats to him which he could not eliminate by resigning from the army.

The initial proceedings on his problem were initiated by Daniel Chazin, COLPA general counsel, and David Butler, a COLPA member.

Zuckerman, updating a similar lawsuit against the Air Force, which has refused to allow a clinical psychologist to wear a skullcap while on duty, said the lawsuit is currently pending before the Federal Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. The plaintiff, Captain Simcha Goldman, won a favorable decision in federal district court in New York, but the Air Force appealed. Goldman is being represented by Nathan Lewin, COLPA vice president, and Butler.