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NO ACCORD ON NEW GOVERNMENT SEEN UNTIL AFTER ROSH HASHANA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 6 (JTA) -- The Likud negotiating team continued meetings with representatives of the coalition parties today but it was apparent to all concerned that no agreement on the composition of a new government will be reached before the Rosh Hashana holiday which begins at sundown tomorrow.

Premier Menachem Begin has delayed submitting his formal resignation to President Chaim Herzog. He cancelled a meeting with Herzog today, although the meeting had been arranged two weeks ago, before Begin announced his intention to quit. It was to have been a formal call on the President to convey New Year greetings. But Begin apparently will not visit Herzog until he is ready to formalize his resignation.

His delay, obviously intended to give Likud more time to hammer out a new coalition agreement, drew fire from the opposition today. Civil Rights Movement MK Shulamit Aloni asked Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir for a legal opinion as to whether Begin's dilatoriness was contrary "to the spirit of the law."

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer of the National Religious Party said after a meeting with Likud negotiators today that he expected the coalition talks to be completed next week.

Aguda Israel MK Avraham Shapira was also optimistic. He said there has been "tremendous progress" so far. But some of the coalition parties are also feeling out the opposition Labor Alignment on the possibility of a Labor-led coalition. NRP representatives were scheduled to meet with Laborites today.

Legislation In The Knesset Stalled

Meanwhile, the political bargaining process is having effects on the Knesset's ability to move legislation. The Finance Committee failed today for the third time to act on urgent measures to raise prices for electricity and fuel in order to hold down the government's soaring deficits.

The committee was paralyzed because Aharon Abu Hatzeira of the Tami faction, a coalition partner, deliberately absented himself, depriving the government of its majority. He was apparently making the point that without Tami's three Knesset mandates the coalition could not function. Tami, which represents a Sephardic constituency, is demanding social legislation in return for participating in a new Likud-led government.

U.S. DETERMINED TO KEEP ITS TROOPS IN LEBANON TO HELP GEMAYEL GOVERNMENT ACHIEVE NATIONAL UNITY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration stressed today its "determination" to keep U.S. troops in Lebanon to help the government of President Amin Gemayel achieve national unity, despite continued American casualties. Two U.S. marines were killed near Beirut today and three were wounded.

The Administration's determination was expressed in a statement read by State Department deputy spokes-

man Alan Romberg expressing sadness at today's casualties and condemning "those responsible for the continuing violence that has claimed thousands of innocent victims. We are proud of our own forces and the important role they are playing to achieve security for the Lebanese people," the statement said.

Romberg said the marine casualties were caused by shelling from an area 10 kilometers east of Beirut airport. He said the U.S. did not know who did the shelling except that it came from an area occupied by Druze. He also noted that the U.S. "can't be certain" if the marines were "specifically targeted."

The marines fired back one round but stopped when they learned the area they were shooting at was heavily populated, Romberg said. "The Lebanese government has issued a call to all parties to unite to restore national dialogue," the statement read by Romberg said.

"We will continue to work with them toward that end. The goal of a newly united Lebanon, free of foreign forces, is a dream of the Lebanese people regardless of their religious community," the statement said. "Together with our Italian, French and British partners in the multinational force, we are performing a critical role in support of the efforts of the central government. No one should mistake our determination to continue in this just cause."

No Plans To Increase Marine Contingent

Romberg added that the marines have served a "useful purpose" in the efforts to restore Lebanon's national unity. He said there are no plans to increase the marine contingent in Lebanon or to change the role of the MNF which is purely defensive.

Meanwhile, Romberg was cautious as to whether the U.S. believes the Syrians are behind the Druze shelling of the Lebanese army and the MNF, including the American marines. U.S. special envoy Robert McFarlane, who is in Damascus today, is believed to have told President Reagan over the weekend that the Syrians so far have been entirely negative toward the U.S. efforts to gain the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon.

All Romberg would say today is that Secretary of State George Shultz said at his press conference last week that it would be "helpful" to the unification efforts of Lebanon if all foreign troops left that country. Syria has the largest number of foreign troops in Lebanon.

THE STRATEGIC TOWN OF BHAMDOUN IS TAKEN BY DRUZE SOLDIERS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 6 (JTA) -- The strategic town of Bhamdoun in the Shouf mountains of central Lebanon fell today to Druze soldiers supported by Syrian-backed Palestinian and Moslem leftist forces. Bhamdoun commands the Beirut-Damascus highway and its loss was a serious setback for the central government in Beirut. The Lebanese army is said to be holding its own around Beirut.

The fall of Bhamdoun came on the heels of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Shouf mountains to new defense lines on the Awali River in south Lebanon.

on. There were reports today of mass slaughter of 40 Druze residents of Bhandoun by the Phalangists. There were also reports that about 600 Phalangist militiamen had been killed or wounded in the battles for Bhandoun.

Meanwhile, two more U.S. marines were killed today and two were wounded when mortar shells fell on their position at the Beirut airport. The latest casualties brought to four the number of marines killed while serving in the multinational peace-keeping force in and around Beirut.

But Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger indicated in Washington today that the marines will remain in Lebanon despite the casualties and mounting demands in Congress to bring them home.

"I would say that the mission we went there for has not been completed," Weinberger told reporters before leaving on a trip to Central America. Undersecretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said it was important that the marines remain in the multinational force which includes Italian and French units and a small British contingent. "The marines can take care of themselves," he added.

In the shadow of the military defeat at Bhandoun, President Amin Gemayel held urgent talks today with U.S. special envoy Robert McFarlane. Sources said McFarlane delivered a message to Gemayel stating the U.S. position. The contents were not disclosed.

STATUS OF VILLAGE LEAGUES IN DOUBT FOLLOWING DOUDIN'S RESIGNATION By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 6 (JTA) -- The resignation Sunday of Mustapha Doudin as the head of the government-backed Village Leagues on the West Bank, leaves the future status of the Leagues surrounded in uncertainty.

Doudin, of Hebron, was the strong man of the Leagues which was the only Arab organization in the occupied territories to openly call for a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians, and for Palestinian recognition of Israel's right to exist.

But with the appointment of Mashe Arens as Defense Minister there was a decline in the prestige and influence of the Leagues among local authorities. Whereas Village Leagues leaders demanded that they be recognized as a political party, the present Israeli defense administration sought to have them limit themselves to municipal services to the villages.

Issues In The Dispute

This had led to a recent dispute between Doudin and the civil administration in the territories which wants greater control over the manner in which the Leagues spend funds allocated to it from the government. The Leagues were established by former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon to act as a counter-force to Palestine Liberation Organization influence in the territories.

Doudin recently ran into conflict with the younger members of the Village Leagues over an article in a Leagues publication which attacked Israel and Jordan and was said to have reflected Doudin's personal views of the present situation.

The attack on Israel and Jordan was explained as part of Doudin's long-running feud with Jordanian Premier Mudar Badran that goes back to when Doudin was a Jordanian Cabinet minister. Anti-Doudin elements within the Leagues argue that such

attacks could jeopardize their political and economic interests. Several key West Bank Arab political figures expressed satisfaction with Doudin's resignation. They said this was a natural result of the new Defense Ministry policy to shift emphasis back from the Leagues to the towns and pro-Jordanian elements.

ALEXANDER EASTERMAN DEAD AT 92

NEW YORK, Sept. 6 (JTA) -- Alexander Easterman, a lawyer and journalist who, as the representative of the World Jewish Congress helped negotiate the Allied governments' declaration condemning the mass slaughter of European Jews in 1943, has died in London at the age of 92, the WJC reported here today.

In the late 1930's, Easterman accepted the invitation of Dr. Stephen Wise to take the office of Political Secretary of the WJC and became head of its International Affairs Department in 1941.

He was born in Scotland and after graduating from Glasgow University was admitted to the Scottish Bar. He took up journalism as a career in the early 1920's and, as one of Britain's leading political correspondents, he travelled extensively in Europe, the United States, North Africa and the Near East. Easterman served as foreign editor of the London Daily Express from 1926-1933 when he resigned because of his disagreement with the publisher, Lord Beaverbrook, over the newspaper's policy toward Hitler which he considered sympathetic.

He joined the Daily Herald as chief foreign correspondent and was its Paris bureau chief when war broke out in 1939. Easterman remained in Paris until the Nazi occupation, when he escaped to London.

On Close Terms With European Statesmen

Easterman was on close terms with leading European statesmen before and after World War II. His interviews with King Carol of Rumania and with Rumanian leaders, including fascists, created a sensation, as did his book, "King Carol, Hitler and Mme. Lupescu."

He maintained close personal contact with President Benes of Czechoslovakia and Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk. In the early 1950's he established close relations with Tunisian leader Habib Bourguiba and Sultan Mohammad of Morocco, then both in exile in France.

In 1943, Easterman played a prominent part in the negotiations with the British and Allied governments that led to the declaration condemning the Nazis mass slaughter of European Jews and announcing that war criminals would be punished. In 1945, he participated in the WJC's war emergency conference in Atlantic City.

At the war crimes trial of the Bergen-Belsen Nazis he joined the representatives of 12 Allied nations on the judges bench at Luneberg. Later he represented the WJC at the Nuremberg war crimes trials, along with British MP Sidney Silveman.

Easterman was a member of the WJC delegation to the inaugural conference of the United Nations at San Francisco in 1945 and to the 1946 Paris peace conference. He attended subsequent meetings of the UN and served as spokesman for the WJC at meetings of the UN Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Commission.

REAGAN'S ROSH HASHANA MESSAGE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6 (JTA) -- The following is President Reagan's Rosh Hashana messages:

It is a pleasure for Nancy and me to extend greetings to Jews in this country and the world over as you join in celebration of the High Holy Days.

We know that Rosh Hashana, the new year, is a time for introspection, reflection and renewal. It is also a time when members of the Jewish faith reexamine the year past and look to the one ahead in a spirit of prayer and hopefulness.

Ten days later, Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, is a solemn period of fasting and penitence which culminates the High Holy Days.

For all of you this is an especially thoughtful season and we join fellow Americans in sharing your hope and aspirations for peace and human understanding and for an end to hatred and violence.

As the shofar calls Jews to their places of worship during this period, our thoughts and warm good wishes will be with you. May the year 5744 bring health, prosperity and peace to you and your families.

U.S. PROTECTION FOR JEWS IN THE HOLY LAND UNDER OTTOMAN RULE REPORTED AT SCHOLARS COLLOQUIUM

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6 (JTA) -- The United States provided protection for Jews arriving in the Holy Land during the Ottoman rule in the late 19th and early 20th century, according to papers based on long forgotten American Embassy records which were reported to scholars at the three-day Second International Scholars Colloquium on America-Holy Land studies which ended here last week.

More than 100 scholars from Canada, Israel, Britain, the United States and Turkey took part in the colloquium, sponsored by the American Jewish Historical Society, the National Archives and Records Service, where most sessions were held, and the Institute of Contemporary Jewry of the Hebrew University.

Officials said the centuries old relationship between America and the Holy Land, prior to 1948, when Israel was proclaimed, has been the subject of a new field of study in recent years. The first colloquium was held in 1975.

During the meeting, the scholars exchanged information on their latest findings contained in hundreds of pamphlets and books written by archaeologists, historians, scientists, Biblical scholars, American consuls, novelists, missionaries, tourists and settlers and builders of the Holy Land.

British scholars reported that British libraries have also been found to house a rich source of material about America and the Holy Land, as well as about late 19th century attitudes toward the Jewish return to Palestine in both Britain and the United States.

Israeli scholars delivered papers about the numerous documentary sources found in Israel, including items from the 19th century Eretz Yisrael Hebrew press.

Dr. Moshe Davis, director of the Hebrew University Institute, told a press conference at the Israel Embassy here that, since colonial days, Americans have been "fascinated" by the life, culture and history of the Holy Land. He said the

"wealth of material" being unearthed on this topic is "a vast untapped mine."

Davis said that "in American thought and action, Holy Land ideas have been a pervasive force since the earliest days of the American settlement." He said the Holy Land imagery was "strongly expressed in literature, hymns, spirituals, public oratory and common parlance."

Davis told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that one of the goals of the exploration by the scholars of the current findings and research was the hope of establishing university teaching programs in this discipline.

Another session dealt with the America-Holy Land theme as expressed among different religious and cultural elements in the American society -- American Jews, Blacks, Evangelical Protestants and Catholics.

RCMP ASKS NAZI-HUNTERS TO PROVIDE MATERIAL FOR PROBE OF KEEGSTRA

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Sept. 6 (JTA) -- Joseph Riwash, a Nazi-hunter and authority on the Holocaust, has been asked by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to provide material for an investigation of Jim Keegstra, a former Alberta high school teacher suspended last spring for insisting in the classroom that the Holocaust never occurred.

Riwash, a Montreal resident, is the author of "Resistance and Revenge" which is compulsory reading for students of the Holocaust at McGill University and the University of Montreal. He served as an investigator with the legal department of the U.S. army in Germany from 1945-1959. His files were used in the prosecution of Adolf Eichmann in Jerusalem.

Keegstra, 48, taught junior and senior high school students in Eckville, a small village in northern Alberta of which he also served as Mayor. He is an official of the Social Credit Party which once espoused anti-Semitic views but has long since renounced them. He preached to his classes that the Jews are the root of all evil and contended that Jesus was not a Jew.

Keegstra was suspended by the Alberta school authorities after Eckville parents complained he was indoctrinating their children with anti-Semitic propaganda. Eckville, with a population of 900, has no Jewish residents. Efforts to remove Keegstra as Mayor failed.

TWO ARRESTED FOR DEVISING AND CIRCULATING ANTI-SEMITIC GAME

By David Kantor

BONN, Sept. 6 (JTA) -- A 35-year-old former policeman and his 29-year-old woman friend have been charged in Zweibruecken with devising and circulating an anti-Semitic game in which six pawns representing six million Jews are moved by throw of dice to squares marked with the names of Nazi death camps. The names of the accused were not disclosed.

The charges rest on a West German law forbidding racist propaganda and the display of Nazi symbols. The hand-drawn game surfaced several months ago when copies were mailed to institutions all over Germany, including Jewish communities. Twelve copies were confiscated by the police.

According to Wilhelm Sattler, Prosecutor for the federal state of Saarland, the accused man is from the Hamburg area of Saarland. He quit his police job and has been making his living as a "national author." Sattler would not release his name because he has never been registered as a neo-Nazi activist.

The prosecutor said the woman, unemployed, drew the game on the man's instructions.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES COLLECTING JEWISH FOLKTALES, FOLKLORE

By Cindy Kaye

JERUSALEM, Sept. 6 (JTA) — The world's largest collection of recorded Jewish folklore came under the care of the Department of Hebrew and Comparative Literature at the University of Haifa on September 1.

Consisting of more than 15,000 recorded Jewish and Arabic folktales, the Israel Folklore Archive — founded in 1955 — has labored to collect examples of Jewish folklore from many countries, with the emphasis on the folklore of Sephardic Jewry.

According to Dr. Aliza Shenhar, head of Haifa University's Department of Hebrew and Comparative Literature, the university "is the best place for the archive. For academic reasons, I feel that it must be here. We have been working with it for years and now that it will be situated at the university, we can develop it more effectively. By being here, it is also a great benefit for the students, since they will not have to leave the university to conduct their research."

Subject Of Two Major Projects

Jewish folklore, under Shenhar's guidance, has been the subject of two major projects over the past 10 years. In 1979 a compilation of a year's worth of listening and recording sessions of members of the community of Beit Shean, a predominantly Sephardic development town 45 miles south of Tiberias, resulted in the publication of a book, "Folktales of Beit Shean," authored by Shenhar and Haifa Bar-Yitzhak.

Determined to build upon their success, the staff of the folklore unit of Haifa University next embarked on a three-year program to record the folktales of the residents of Shlomi, a development town near Israel's northern border.

The difference between the two projects is in the presentation of the collected and compiled material. In "Folktales from Shlomi," also authored by Shenhar and Bar-Yitzhak, the folktales are printed in the speaker's native language, Moroccan Arabic with a Hebrew translation.

Shenhar explained that "only in their native language could these people really begin to convey the beauty and intricacy of the tales. All the nuances and details were brought out and revealed. The tales are so very beautiful that we wanted to avoid doing the book only in Hebrew. In Hebrew the storyteller is uncomfortable and the folktales come out too simple."

When "Folktales From Shlomi" was published a copy of it was presented to former President Yitzhak Navon. He praised the method of presentation as a way to preserve a portion of the Sephardic Jewish heritage, especially the heritage of those Jews who immigrated from Morocco.

Jewish Version of Cinderella Story

Shenhar is presently working to record Jewish versions of the story of Cinderella. "People are very aware of the story of Cinderella as was told by the brothers Grimm and by the Walt Disney movie," she said. "Everyone knows of it primarily in its European setting. However, a traditional folktale about this subject has also been a part of Jewish folklore. Most versions appear to have originated in Morocco, and the story is one of the most common tales that mothers tell their daughters."

Although most of her work has been in the collection of those folktales which have been passed from generation to generation, Shenhar is also involved in the collection and recording of modern Israeli folktales and folklore.

"I am trying to collect modern folklore in Israel while it is still in the process of being created," Shenhar said. "When one listens to the modern tales, it is possible to see how strictly modern activities are being told in the traditional form and style."

Folktales, she explained, further, "are most of all a means of communication. The artistic element is needed, not just the information It all depends on how the voice is used, the poetic elements employed by the storyteller, and the use of a properly-created sense of drama."

ISRAELI LEADERS OFFER CONDOLENCES TO THE WIDOW OF SENATOR JACKSON

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6 (JTA) — Israeli Ambassador Meir Rosenne was in Seattle, Washington, yesterday to offer his condolences to the family of Sen. Henry Jackson (D, Wash.) who died last Thursday. The Ambassador visited the chapel where Jackson's body is on view. Rosenne went to Seattle yesterday because he would be unable to attend the funeral there tomorrow since it is the eve of Rosh Hashanah.

The Israel Embassy also reported that messages of condolence were sent to Mrs. Helen Jackson, the Senator's widow, by Israeli President Chaim Herzog, Premier Menachem Begin, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

YEHEZKAL STEIMATZKY DEAD AT 83

TEL AVIV, Sept. 6 (JTA) — Yehezkal Steimatzky, founder of Israel's largest chain of bookstores and a leading publisher, died here yesterday at the age of 83. Born in Russia, he attended the Commercial Institute of Moscow and received a law degree from Humboldt University in Berlin.

A staunch Revisionist Zionist, Steimatzky was a member of the central committee of the Revisionist Party and a political secretary to Zeev Jabotinsky, the founder of Revisionism.

Steimatzky came to Palestine in 1925 and opened his first bookstore on Zion Circle in Jerusalem which still exists. At one time he had bookstores in Egypt, Lebanon and Cyprus. With 50 bookstores in Israel, he had the largest chain of bookstores in the Middle East. He and his son, Eri, were planning to open their first bookstore in New York City soon.

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AMSTERDAM (JTA) — Anti-Nazi organizations in Holland are protesting against plans by a rightwing leader to honor a deceased Dutch Nazi at a rally in The Hague this week. The plans were announced by Jon Glimmerveen, head of the extreme rightwing Nederlandse Volksunie (NVU), an organization banned by the authorities. He said he would organize the rally on September 7 in memory of Peter Ton, a Dutch Nazi killed on that date in 1940 in a brawl.

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NEW YORK (JTA) — The National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported that 130 Jews were permitted to leave the Soviet Union in August, 37 less than in July. Since the beginning of 1983, 936 Jews left the USSR.