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AGREEMENT REACHED ON PROCEDURE FOR TWO IRANIAN BROTHERS, ORDERED DEPORTED FROM THE U.S., TO BE LEGALLY ADMITTED AS REFUGEES

By William Saphire

NEW YORK, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Two Iranian Jewish brothers ordered deported from the U.S., may be admitted legally as refugees after following a procedure outlined in an agreement reached over the weekend with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed today.

David Pollock, assistant director of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of New York, told the JTA that the three-phase agreement was worked out in discussions between the brothers' attorney, Leon Wilder, and U.S. officials under the aegis of Federal Judge Leo Glasser whose restraining order a week ago halted INS attempts to deport the brothers to Spain, a country which refused to admit them.

The twin brothers, Faramaz and Behrooz Sedgh, 23, have agreed to leave the U.S. for Vienna under an Order of Exclusion, which they will not contest. Once in Vienna, they may file immediately for admission to the U.S. as refugees.

The government has waived the one-year waiting period normally required in such cases, Pollock said, and their application for refugee status will not be prejudiced by the earlier problems with their passports.

Estimated 3-4 Weeks' Stay in Vienna

The brothers were arrested on January 22, 1983 for entering the U.S. with false passports, their only means of escape from Iran. Pollock said that as part of the agreement, they will furnish U.S. authorities, with information about how they obtained the passports, "to the best of their knowledge." This will be done before they depart for Vienna.

Pollock said that, according to Wilder, once the formalities are over, the U.S. will approve the application. He said a government official indicated there was no reason why this should not be the case and estimated that the brothers' stay in Vienna will be no longer than 3-4 weeks.

The date of their departure for Vienna will depend on the response of the Austrian government. If the Austrian authorities do not signify in writing by November 11 that the brothers will be admitted, Judge Glasser can order their release from INS custody as parolees, Pollock said.

Three New York Lawmakers Intervened

He said the agreement was made possible through the intervention of three New York Congressmen, Gary Ackerman a Democrat and Hamilton Fish and Benjamin Gilman, both Republicans, who discussed the case with INS, State Department and Justice Department officials. The brothers must go to a foreign country to seek refugee status because the law forbids anyone under an exclusion order from doing so within the U.S.

Pollock explained that Vienna was selected as the site for the formalities because the Rav Tov organ-

ization which is sponsoring the Sedgh brothers has facilities there. He said Rav Tov is an organization of Satmar hasidim which helps Jews escape from Iran, the Soviet Union and countries of distress in eastern Europe.

Calls For Congressional Hearing

Meanwhile, according to Pollock, Ackerman has called for a Congressional hearing to investigate the INS action in this and similar cases. The Sedgh brothers were placed on a flight to Spain on October 20 even though the INS had been informed by the Spanish authorities that they would not be admitted.

They were flown back to New York on October 21, only to be placed on another flight to Spain the next day. They were returned to New York on October 23 after being flown across the Atlantic four times and were about to be placed on yet another flight to Spain when Judge Glasser's restraining order halted their odyssey. The INS had selected Spain because it was their last departure point before the brothers reached the U.S. 10 months ago.

The brothers were taken from Kennedy Airport last Sunday to the INS detention center at the old Brooklyn Navy yard from where they were inexplicably transferred to the Manhattan Correctional Center, a federal jail. According to Pollock they have since then been transferred back to the INS detention center.

ISRAEL WARNS AGAINST ANY MOVE TO SCUTTLE ISRAEL-LEBANON AGREEMENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- On the eve of the Lebanese national reconciliation conference in Geneva, Israel has strongly warned against any attempt to scuttle the May 17 Lebanon-Israel agreement.

In statements by Defense Minister Moshe Arens and by Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor over the weekend, Israel insisted that the agreement, predicated on the withdrawal of Syrian, Israeli and PLO troops from Lebanon, provided the basis for security arrangements along the border without which Israel could not leave Lebanon.

Meridor, speaking after today's weekly Cabinet meeting, noted that abrogation of the agreement would be "very serious indeed" because it would set a precedent whereby an Arab state, having concluded an accord with Israel, could be pressured and threatened into revoking it by another Arab state.

While the Israel-Lebanon agreement is not, as far as is known here, on the agenda of the Geneva talks, Syria has not concealed an intention of seeking the annulment of the agreement as one result of the "national reconciliation" process. Syria, along with Saudi Arabia, has an observer role at Geneva.

Fulfillment Of The Accord Is A Must

Both Arens and Meridor said Israel "insists on fulfillment of the agreement." Cabinet sources acknowledged that in strict legal terms the May 17 agreement is not in force, and never was, because instruments of ratification have not yet been exchanged as stipulated in the agreement text.

But, they argued, the very fact that Syria and other Arab rejectionists were investing so much energy in

seeking the agreement's annulment was the best proof that in political terms the agreement was very much an extant entity.

The sources said that its annulment would be "a bad precedent for the entire peace process." They did not mention Egypt specifically, but it was clear that their concern focused, among other things on the possible effect of abrogation upon Israel's relations with Egypt.

The sources observed that, in the eyes of the Arab rejectionists, the agreement, concluded after lengthy face-to-face negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, "struck at the heart of the Arab political boycott of Israel ... that is why they (the Arab extremists) want to totally uproot it."

The Israeli warnings were aimed at Syria and its surrogates in Lebanon, but also at the United States which inevitably plays a key behind-the-scenes role in the unfolding political process in Lebanon.

Note Shift In U.S. Attitude Toward Syria

The Cabinet sources here noted that of late there has been a shift in America's attitude both to the Syrian role in Lebanon -- which is now seen in a more negative light than before -- and also to Israel's role.

Indeed, some Washington circles now wish to see Israel play a greater role, with a higher profile in Lebanon. These circles seem to feel that unless Israel shoulders some of the burden, the Syrians will inevitably take over when the multinational force moves out, whenever that will be.

Israel, for its part, is not eager to raise its profile or increase its role in Lebanon. Arens certainly sees the September redeployment to the Awali River in south Lebanon as a first step in an ongoing process of withdrawal and disengagement.

Israeli efforts are now increasingly directed at building up a cooperative Shiite militia in south Lebanon which would operate alongside Saad Haddad's mainly Christian militia and eventually, hopefully, enable much of the IDF deployment to be withdrawn.

U.S. REJECTION OF ISRAELI AID TO MARINES WOUNDED IN BEIRUT CARNAGE IS A NEW SOURCE OF FRICTION

By Hugh Orgel and Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- U.S. rejection of Israel's offer of its hospitals to treat American servicemen wounded in the October 23 terrorist bomb attack in Beirut is developing into a new source of friction between Israel and the Reagan Administration.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens cited other examples of what he said was a U.S. policy of "distancing itself" from Israel ever since 1,200 marines were sent to Beirut in September, 1982, as part of the multinational peacekeeping force.

President Reagan, in his nationally televised address last Thursday night, gave as one of the reasons for U.S. involvement in Lebanon its "moral obligation to assure the continued existence of Israel as a nation."

But in another part of his address, the President averred that the U.S. presence in Lebanon was required by the nation's "global responsibilities" and that "we're not somewhere else in the world protecting someone else's interest. We're there protecting our own."

Israel has been insisting, ever since the tragic death of some 230 marines and sailors in the suicide bombing of marine headquarters at Beirut airport, that the Americans were not invited to Beirut by Israel and

were not defending Israel. But Arens, addressing the Commercial and Industrial Club in Tel Aviv last Friday, complained that Washington had gone out of its way to demonstrate that the U.S. was not coordinating its strategy with Israel.

He charged that instead of working together with the Israeli and Lebanese governments against the inroads of Soviet-backed Syria, the U.S. had consistently worked to create the impression that it was supporting the Lebanese against Israel.

Arens recalled that the U.S. had refused to send the marines into Beirut airport until the last Israeli soldiers had left and even then, it did not occupy directly any position evacuated by Israeli soldiers.

"The policy was to demonstrate that the cooperation and coordination which I believe to be so important, was not there, because American policy in general was that it should not exist," Arens said. Reagan described Israel, in his address, as a country which shares United States "democratic values" and "a formidable force an invader would have to reckon with."

Reagan: Can't Turn Our Backs On Lebanon

He referred to his September 1, 1982 peace initiative as an effort "to build on the Camp David accords" which led to peace "between Israel and Egypt." He warned:

"If America were to walk away from Lebanon, what chance would there be for a negotiated settlement producing the unified, democratic Lebanon? If we turned our backs on Lebanon now, what would be the future of Israel? At stake is the fate of only the second Arab country to negotiate a major agreement with Israel. That's another accomplishment of this past year, the May 17 accord signed by Lebanon and Israel."

Arens, in a broadcast over the Lebanese Christian radio Friday, said Israel would not agree to any changes in the May 17 accord with Lebanon which would endanger or jeopardize Israeli security. He said the U.S. mediated agreement provided security arrangements beneficial to both Lebanon and Israel.

Arens claimed there was no doubt that Syria was responsible for the fatal attack on the marine base in Beirut and the simultaneous bomb attack on French military headquarters which took the lives of at least 53 French soldiers. According to Arens, "Only one force has the motivation to carry out such acts. They are an integral part of its ethical norms and it has the means to do it. That force is the Syrians and behind them the Soviets."

Shultz Thanks Israel For Its Offer

Arens did not refer directly to the rejection of Israel's hospital offer, but it clearly rankled Israelis. Last Thursday, Secretary of State George Shultz wrote a warm letter to Premier Yitzhak Shamir thanking both the government and voluntary bodies in Israel for their offers of assistance to the American wounded. He assured Shamir that it was good to know that such aid was available should it be needed in the future.

Shultz said in his letter that in the aftermath of last Sunday's bombing, Israeli help was not required. He did not explain why. Some well placed sources noted that the fatalities greatly exceeded the number of wounded and had there been more American wounded, the U.S. would have flown them to Israeli hospitals.

As it was, the facilities of the U.S. Sixth Fleet offshore were adequate. The more seriously wounded were then flown to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Naples and the army hospital in West Germany. Administration spokesmen said that was in accordance with standard evacuation procedures in this part of the world.

But Israeli sources remain skeptical and there is a lingering suspicion here that political considerations were involved. A Pentagon spokesman was quoted by The New York Times of October 25 as stating that "By accepting Israeli assistance we'd have infuriated the Arabs."

U.S. Jewish Leaders Angered

(Reports such as these have angered American Jewish leaders. In a telegram to President Reagan, Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said it was "incredible and appalling" that the U.S. commander in Lebanon had "spurned" Israel's offer of immediate medical aid to the wounded men. The Rambam Hospital in Haifa, a half hour from Beirut by air, was ready with emergency facilities, including a burn treatment center.

(Schindler's message stated: "That this humanitarian offer, extended by a close ally and friend only minutes away from the site of the tragedy, was spurned for dubious political reasons, is both incredible and appalling. A misguided fear of irritating Arab nations who have consistently refused to join the peace process and repaid our solicitude with rejection, strikes me as an unconscionable reason to subject our wounded troops to a needlessly long and arduous trip to Germany and other distant places.")

Eagleburger Going To Israel Tuesday

Meanwhile, Lawrence Eagleburger, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, will be going to Israel Tuesday for a five-day visit, the State Department announced Friday. Eagleburger, the third ranking official at the Department, will be the first high level Administration figure to make an official visit to Israel since Premier Yitzhak Shamir took office. He will meet with Shamir and Arens.

(State Department deputy spokesman Alan Ramberg said the purpose of the visit is to "continue the on-going high level dialogue" between the U.S. and Israel and to review the current situation and the overall Middle East situation.)

LEBANON'S F.M. SAYS ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON WILL GIVE SYRIA INCENTIVE TO WITHDRAW

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem said today that a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon may provide the Syrian government with a needed incentive for it to withdraw its troops from Lebanon and end what the Lebanese official termed as Syria's "illegal" occupation of his country.

"We believe that the withdrawal of the Israeli forces would be a major inducement for the Syrian forces to withdraw from Lebanon," Salem said in an interview via satellite from Bern, Switzerland on the ABC-TV "This Week with David Brinkley" program.

Salem is in Switzerland for the scheduled start tomorrow of Lebanon's national reconciliation conference. President Amin Gemayel arrived in Geneva yesterday as did representatives of Lebanon's various warring factions.

Salem suggested that progress at the talks would depend on the actions by the Lebanese representatives as well as the "forces behind" them. He said he hoped that the Lebanese representatives will be able to speak freely and will work "toward the interests of Lebanon."

The Lebanese official, speaking of the four-nation multinational force, said it represented a "major commitment" to "salvage the Lebanese democracy."

ISRAEL IS UNCRITICAL OF U.S. INVASION OF GRENADA

JERUSALEM, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Israel has taken an uncritical posture over the U.S. intervention in Grenada. There has been no official disclaimer here of remarks by Ambassador Meir Rosenne in Washington last week which were interpreted as an implied statement of support for the intervention.

Cabinet sources noted today, following the Cabinet meeting, that the envoy had not specifically referred to Grenada in his praise of American firmness against Soviet aggrandizement. But by the same token there was no dissociation from the Ambassador's words or their timing.

A Cabinet source remarked that Israel was among the Western countries most positively disposed to the intervention, at the same time, though, the Cabinet did not think it fit to issue a formal statement of support--and preferred to make do with Rosenne's remarks which were apparently not coordinated in advance but were basically endorsed after the fact.

12,000 PEOPLE MARCH FOR SOVIET JEWRY

LONDON, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- An estimated 12,000 people participated today in Britain's largest-ever demonstration for Soviet Jewry. The protesters, forming a two-mile column, marched to the Soviet Embassy with a petition expressing "deep concern about our brethren in the Soviet Union." The marchers included Jewish leaders from more than 16 countries.

The petition, drawn up by the National Council for Soviet Jewry, and signed by leading British writers, religious leaders and actors, noted "with dismay that barely a month after attending an international conference in Madrid and joining 34 nations in a firm commitment to respect human rights, the Soviet Union has gone back on its word and launched a new campaign of repression against human activists. We protest at the savage sentence meted out two weeks ago to Iosif Begun after a travesty of a trial." Begun was sentenced to seven years in prison and five years internal exile.

Stating that "we speak only in the name of human rights," the petition protested "the continued detention of 14 Jewish Prisoners of Conscience and the 14 more still held after their release from prison. We protest on behalf of the 250,000 Jews who are refused the right to join their families in Israel, some of whom have waited for 10 years and longer."

The petition also protested "at the growing anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and the escalation of harassment against human rights defenders. We protest at the persecution of Soviet Jews who wish to preserve their religious and cultural heritage and traditions. We condemn these illegal and inhumane acts which conflict with the Helsinki and Madrid accords, which violate the Soviet Constitution and which offend against national justice."

Immediately after the March, the Jewish leaders began a two-day session of the Presidium of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry. Participants include Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress; Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization; and Greville Janner MP, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jewry.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA JEWISH FEMINISTS ASSESS CHALLENGES AND GAINS IN STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Oct. 30 (JTA) -- Challenges facing American Jewish women in their long-standing effort to achieve equality in all areas of Jewish life and ways to attain this objective was the basis of a recent two-day Jewish feminist conference here. The 250 women who met in Congregation Anshe Chesed also examined achievements gained during the past decade.

One of the primary goals Jewish feminists set a little more than 10 years ago was: met last week when the Faculty Senate of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America voted 34-8 to admit women to the Seminary's rabbinical school for ordination as Conservative rabbis.

The vote culminated a decade-long struggle that was sparked by the members of Ezrat Nashim, the first Jewish feminist organization, founded in 1971, to convince the Conservative movement that women are equally capable of intense study of the Jewish religion, are equally devoted to keeping traditional Jewish precepts and practices, and should be considered bound to fulfill all the religious obligations ("mitzvot") of men.

On March 14, 1972, the 14 members of Ezrat Nashim attended a plenary session of the Rabbinical Assembly, where they issued a "Call for Change," requesting that women be granted: synagogue membership; inclusion in the minyan; full participation in religious observances; recognition as witnesses in a Jewish court of law; the right to initiate divorce proceedings; permission and encouragement to attend rabbinical and cantorial school, and to perform these functions in the synagogue; encouragement to join decision-making bodies and assume professional leadership roles, both in the synagogue and the secular Jewish community; and to be considered obligated to maintain the mitzvot.

Not Enough Changes

Arlene Agus, a founding member of Ezrat Nashim, and currently the director of external affairs and planning at the Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University, reminded the conference at Anshe Chesed that 10 years ago, at the first Jewish feminist conference, "We had three rabbis speaking, all of them men. Today we have five rabbis speaking, all of them women."

(There are now more than 60 women rabbis, ordained through the Reform and Reconstructionist branches of Judaism; at the time of the conference 10 years ago, there was only one, Sally Preisand.)

Agus, who was the moderator of the recent conference titled "Jewish Women's Conference: Challenge and Change," a project of the National Council of Jewish Women-New York Section and sponsored by the Jewish Women's Resource Center, said that although many of the changes sought in the early years had been achieved, there were "not enough. We're asking more fundamental, more difficult, and more frightening questions about structure, form, theology, prayer language, and perhaps prayer routine."

Paula Hyman, another founding member of Ezrat Nashim and now dean of the Seminary College of Jewish Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, referred to the conference as "our bas mitzvah year." A leading feminist and coauthor of "Jewish Women in America," Hyman pointed out that

the Jewish feminist movement had accrued great strength since its inception. She called Jewish feminism an "eloquent voice" which has defined and presented the "needs and claims of women." Stressing that women's claim to equality is "profoundly moral," Hyman outlined a two-fold agenda for change: "equal access" and "equal valuing" of women.

She defined "equal access" as the opening up to women of "major aspects of Jewish experience formerly denied to us," including the assumption of Jewish religious study and the taking on of leadership roles within both the religious and communal realms of Jewish life. This "equal access," according to Hyman, is the easiest part of the agenda to accomplish.

The "equal valuing" of women, she said, meant taking seriously their experiences and their point of view. She underlined that valuing women's experience within Judaism would be of benefit to the whole Jewish community, men and women alike. Hyman stressed that women have their own spiritual resources, creative wellsprings, and a "specifically feminine way of reading Torah, which must be liberated and legitimated."

She called for the creation of a women's midrash (exposition of scriptural text), which she considers the primary task facing Jewish women. Listening to that midrash, she said, would then be the primary task facing men.

The Ability To Write Midrash

Among the workshops which followed each day's symposium were two sessions on midrash, conducted by Rabbi Ruth Sohn of the Council of Jewish Organizations of Columbia University. In defining midrash, Sohn emphasized the inherent need to delve into both the text and "ourselves." She said that "whatever one's level of elucidation, we all have the ability to write midrash."

The class, none of whose members had previously done such an exercise, proceeded to examine and write about texts on Miriam and Jacob's marriage to both Rachel and Leah. Two Orthodox women from Montreal, who expressed the initial feeling of being unable to even begin the task, created such an intricate and well-written commentary that the rest of the group broke into spontaneous applause.

Non-Sexist Terminology Suggested

In a workshop on prayer language, Annette Daum, of the Task Force on Equality in Judaism, and Rabbi Jules Harlow, director of publications of the Rabbinical Assembly, presented a "Glossary of Substitute Terminology" which contains suggestions for non-sexist words and phrases in prayer.

The glossary, prepared under the aegis of the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues, offers specific substitute language, including, God, Almighty, Blessed One, for "Lord"; One, God, Maker, Creator, for "Father"; humanity, people, us for "man," ancestors, forebears, patriarchs and matriarchs in lieu of "fathers." In pointing out the present masculine-biased language in prayer, Daum stressed that "both God and Judaism are beyond sexuality."

BONN (JTA) -- The number of Jews in West Germany declined slightly from 28,272 in July, 1982 to 28,202 in January, 1983, according to statistics released Sunday in Duesseldorf on the eve of a nationwide meeting of Jewish communities throughout the country.