

ISRAELI OFFICIALS GRATIFIED WITH U.S. AID PACKAGE FOR FISCAL 1984

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- Israeli officials are deeply gratified over the U.S. military and economic aid package for fiscal year 1984 which the House of Representatives approved last Thursday.

It is not only the largest amount of aid ever voted for Israel but allows the Israelis to use \$550 million in military credits toward building their second generation jet fighter-bomber, the Lavie, an issue which had generated controversy within the Reagan Administration and among American military aircraft manufacturers.

The Israeli officials feel the Congressional action will provide a welcome backdrop to Premier Yitzhak Shamir's visit to Washington, scheduled for the end of this month. It will be Shamir's first personal contact with the Administration since he succeeded Premier Menachem Begin last month. He is expected to meet with President Reagan and other top officials to discuss the rapidly improving relations between Israel and the U.S., with emphasis on future strategic cooperation.

The aid package which the House approved by a 224-189 vote totals \$2.61 billion, compared to \$2.48 billion in fiscal 1983. The new allocation contains \$1.7 billion in military credits and \$910 million in economic grants. Of the military credits, \$850 million is "forgiven" -- meaning it does not have to be repaid.

Approve Military Credits To Develop The Lavie

The use of military credits to develop the Lavie was approved over the objections of Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger who argued that the warplane would not increase Israel's military capability but would be an economic asset inasmuch as it is designed for export. The practice up to now has been that countries receiving U.S. military credits use them to purchase American military equipment, not develop their own weapons.

The Lavie, expected to be operational in the 1990's, will compete on foreign markets against U.S. military aircraft, such as the Northrop company's F-20 fighter which is not financed by the government. On the other hand, American companies such as Pratt & Whitney and Grumman, which will provide key components of the Lavie, have supported the use of U.S. military credits to develop the plane.

According to the General Accounting Office in Washington, research and development costs for the Lavie are expected to exceed \$1.5 billion. In addition to the aid for Israel, the House also voted last week to provide Egypt with \$2.1 billion in assistance of which \$1.4 billion is military credits, including a \$465 million grant and \$910 million in loans.

VIOLENCE ESCALATES IN THE WEST BANK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- Two Arab youths were fatally shot in a clash with Israeli border policemen in Tulkarem yesterday and three youths were wounded, one seriously, in another clash with border policemen today, at the Dahaysha refugee camp south of Bethlehem. Shots were fired at an Israeli vehicle

outside Kalkilya yesterday. As violence escalated in the West Bank, Israeli security forces responded with an "iron hand". Curfews were clamped tonight on Tulkarem, Dahaysha and in the casbah of Nablus. Defense Minister Moshe Arens called an emergency meeting at his office tonight to discuss further security measures in the territory.

Earlier, Arens told representatives of Jewish settlers that the situation in the West Bank has become "unbearable" with respect to safety on the roads. The fatal shootings were the most serious incidents since unrest spread in the territory last week, apparently in reaction to the battle in northern Lebanon between Palestine Liberation Organization elements loyal to Yasser Arafat and PLO dissidents, backed by Syria and Libya.

The border police claimed that they acted in self-defense at both Tulkarem and Dahaysha after being attacked with rocks and other heavy objects. Local residents charged that the police provoked the youths by interfering in a demonstration against Syria and Libya for making war on Arafat. But Mayor Hilmi Hanun of Tulkarem said on Israel television today that because there were no Syrians or Libyans on whom to vent their anger, the youths turned on Israeli soldiers "who are the source of all their troubles."

SCHINDLER DENOUNCES REAGAN'S FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES AS NEITHER PRINCIPLED NOR PRAGMATIC

HOUSTON, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), denounced the foreign and domestic policies of the Reagan Administration as neither principled nor pragmatic. In his address last Friday to the 3,500 delegates attending the 57th biennial assembly of the UAHC and the 34th biennial convention of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, Schindler was especially critical of the Administration's policy in Central America.

The Reform leader charged that President Reagan's foreign policy in one of "an obsession with force," imposing "military solutions on crises that are political, economic and social in their essence." Schindler said that while it is true that the Cubans and Russians "cynically exploit" the miseries of the peoples of Central America, Reagan's response was "largely counter-productive" because the Administration has its eyes "fixed on the superpower game while ignoring all the local pawns."

He said that the Reagan Administration policies "are neither principled nor pragmatic. They sow the wind with guns and bullets and anti-Communist rhetoric and have already reaped the whirlwind of violence, death and anti-American reactions."

Schindler called for "an end to U.S. military intervention in El Salvador and Honduras" and "an end to the covert war against Nicaragua." He proposed, instead, that the Reagan Administration "seek a negotiated solution, proffer unqualified support" for neighboring Central American countries "and make a permanent commitment" in foreign policy "to democracy, economic reform and social justice."

Schindler was also sharply critical of the Reagan Administration policies in the Middle East. He said Israeli officials with whom he met recently, including Premier Yitzhak Shamir, President Chaim Herzog and Knesset members, "were much concerned about the

vagueness and the vacillations of American diplomacy." He added that "the constant and capricious shifts" in U.S. policy "perplex them."

Commenting on the repeated changes of Reagan Administration policy in regard to Israel's activities in Lebanon, Schindler said he feared that the "fragile" May 17 Israeli-Lebanese agreement on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and security arrangements to follow "will be the price that Israel is asked to pay for success in the current Geneva talks" on Lebanon's national reconciliation. He declared that the Reagan Administration "must not broker agreements one day and on the next collaborate with one of the sides to break it," an apparent reference to Syria.

The Noose Around The Necks Of the Poor

Focusing on the domestic policies of the Reagan Administration, Schindler noted that at the UAHC assembly in Boston in 1981, the Reform movement expressed doubts about the course the U.S. was following under Reagan. In his address in Houston, he observed that "our apprehensions were fully justified. Reaganomics has tightened this nation's belt around the necks of the poor." The inflationary cycle "has been broken, but only by means of a most severe recession," Schindler added.

The Reform leader also denounced the policy of the Soviet Union toward its Jewish citizens. He termed the Soviet regime "brutal" and "primitive" and "frightened by the human spirit" demonstrated by Soviet Jews enduring persecution and abuse for seeking to emigrate. He said Reform Jews must "speak up for the rights of Russian Jews and for Ethiopian Jews, too."

The Role Of Reform Judaism

Turning to the role of Reform Judaism in the area of religious activities, Schindler urged the delegates to approve a new Reform Jewish unit to study all phases of conversion to Reform Judaism.

He described the goal of the present UAHC Outreach Task Force as that of a "positive effort to come to grips with the reality of intermarriage, to contain the loss it threatens to our numerical strength, and, if at all possible, to convert that loss into a gain. He said that the goals of the Outreach program were "to make certain that the majority of interfaith marriages will result in the conversion of the non-Jewish partner to Judaism, and that the majority of the children issuing from such marriages will, in fact, be raised as Jews."

Declaring that "even our work with non-affiliated mixed marriage couples is encouraging," Schindler said the effort "established beyond doubt that they, too, need not be lost to us, that we can, if we but try, regain them for our people." He added that "there is no dilution of our Jewishness when others join our ranks. Quite the contrary, our Jewishness is enhanced because of them."

Noting that he had proposed the Outreach program to the Reform movement five years ago, Schindler said a Joint Commission on Outreach had been created by the UAHC and the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) "to carry forward" the Outreach program.

But Schindler stressed that the Reform movement had done very little research on the aspects of conversion and he was therefore proposing the creation of an Institute for Reform Jewish Public Policy, jointly undertaken by the UAHC, the CCAR and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

ion, the Reform seminary, "to undertake such a comprehensive study" of all elements of mixed marriages and conversion.

Says Reform Jews Must Support Israel

Regarding Israel, Schindler declared that American Reform Jews must do everything possible to support Israel "economically and politically and with every resource at our command." He said he was making this statement despite the refusal of the Orthodox-dominated rabbinate in Israel to recognize Reform Judaism.

He stressed that he "had nothing against Orthodox Jews per se. What I denounce is the politicized element within modern Orthodoxy that appeals to the coercive power of (the Israeli) State rather than to the conscience of the individual."

Noting that the discrimination by the Orthodox establishment against non-Orthodox Jews is "a mockery" and "a perversion," Schindler said that "these narrow-minded attitudes and schemes are destructive of Orthodoxy itself." He said Reform Jews would have to fight such conditions in Israel until "we achieve that full equality which is our entitlement as Jews."

6 ISRAELI POWs HELD BY PLO ARE REPORTED TO BE WELL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- Representatives of the International Red Cross visited six Israeli prisoners of war held by the Palestine Liberation Organization in Tripoli, Lebanon, last week where Yasir Arafat and his loyalists were making a desperate last stand against attacking PLO dissidents backed by Syria.

According to reports from Geneva, the six Israelis are well and are in the hands of pro-Arafat elements. But the Red Cross has not been able to visit two other Israeli POWs held captive by Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, an extremist, anti-Arafat terrorist group under the PLO umbrella. According to IRC spokesman Jean-Jacques Kurz, those two prisoners were last visited by the Red Cross on September 16.

Kurz told Israel Radio today that the IRC has a 14-member team in Tripoli which is concerned mainly with the 10,000 refugees from the PLO's civil war. About 60 percent of them are Lebanese whom the IRC is supplying with food and blankets.

Meanwhile, Israeli security forces are investigating a bomb explosion which killed two Shiite Moslem residents of the south Lebanon village of Tibnin today. The Israelis are trying to determine whether the bombing was motivated by a private feud or was another in a series of attacks on members of the local home guard in south Lebanon villages.

WEINBERGER DENIES OPPOSING EFFORTS BY THE ADMINISTRATION FOR STRATEGIC COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has denied that he has opposed efforts by the Reagan Administration for strategic cooperation with Israel. "We have had Israel as a strong ally and a strategic working arrangement with them has been in effect for many years, almost since the creation of the State," Weinberger said in response to questions at the Foreign Press Center here last Thursday. "There is no change whatsoever in that relationship," he stressed.

There have been repeated published reports that Weinberger has sought to block Secretary of State

George Shultz's efforts for closer ties with Israel. No Defense Department official accompanied Undersecretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger during his recent visit to Israel.

Weinberger said that he was puzzled by these charges. "What puzzles me is that the policy of military cooperation with Israel should be discussed as a new policy," he said. "We have had a very large amount of military assistance and we had military cooperation with Israel since the formation of Israel."

But the Defense Secretary seemed to be confirming his opposition within the Administration when he rejected the suggestion that Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir would be coming to Washington soon to discuss strategic cooperation. He said the upcoming visit was part of the normal relationship with Israel and no agenda has been set for the meeting.

However, a State Department official briefing reporters on Eagleburger's visit to Israel, said Shamir was coming to Washington to continue discussions on strategic cooperation begun by Eagleburger in Jerusalem.

LEGISLATOR CHARGES THAT ARAB OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES HAVE 'EXTORTED' BILLIONS FROM THE U.S.

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- Rep. Clarence Long (D. Md.), who has been the target of a radio commercial by an Arab group for his leadership in providing U.S. aid to Israel, charged that the Arab oil-producing countries have "extorted" billions from the U.S.

"Isn't it ironic that Arab-affiliated organizations are complaining when the OPEC nations have extorted \$335 billion in additional revenues from American consumers as a result of the oil price increases begun in 1973," Long said as he received the Emunah Women of America's "Man of the Year" award in New York last Wednesday night. "That's almost twice as much as the current U.S. deficit."

Long said the radio commercial, sponsored by the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA) which attacks U.S. aid for Israel and Long for supporting this aid, "is a hate campaign."

The 74-year-old chairman of the House Appropriations Committee's subcommittee on foreign operations, has been a leading proponent in Congress of providing aid to Israel. "Our support of Israel is not only based on moral and democratic grounds, but also on the fact that Israel is our key strategic asset in the Middle East," Long told the Emunah Women.

An Anti-Israel Radio Commercial

The NAAA commercial was refused by radio stations in Baltimore where Long's Congressional district is located, but was played by WTOP-AM in Washington, D.C.

"At a time when there's less for all Americans, when unemployment affects millions, when we are suffering the tragic effects of Israel's invasion of Lebanon, is it fair for Congress to give \$2.6 billion to Israel?" the commercial asks. It answers its own question: "This is not fair; this is outrageous. Congressman Clarence Long is at the forefront of this 'more for Israel' campaign." The commercial asks listeners to protest to Long.

A spokesman for Long said he was concerned about the commercial. He said there were reports that it will be played throughout the country and was thus being heavily financed. Redistricting in 1982 remov-

ed most of the Jewish-populated areas from Long's district. Meanwhile, after playing the NAAA tape for several days, WTOP broadcast a statement saying that a response could be given by legitimate groups that objected to the views expressed. This was done by the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA).

CAMERA president Win Meiselman, who made the reply, noted that Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has asserted that foreign aid is not "a give-away" but part of U.S. defense policy. "Aid to Israel is less than one percent of the U.S. defense budget," Meiselman said. "Given the strategic importance of the Middle East and Israel's military effectiveness, this is a small price to pay." She added that while Israel receives U.S. military aid, "the Israelis defend themselves."

SHAMIR: ISRAEL MAY BE NEARING THE END OF ITS PRESENCE IN LEBANON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir said that Israel may be nearing the end of its presence in Lebanon but refused to say just when this would be. Rejecting the view that Israel is somehow trapped in Lebanon, Shamir said in a television interview last Wednesday that the end was in sight. "However, there are some obstacles which must be overcome."

He stressed that Israel has achieved its main objectives in Lebanon, destroying the Palestine Liberation Organization's infrastructure in that country and keeping the terrorists far from its borders. "We have no interest to continue the war but we must make sure that we are not attacked by the terrorists once we leave," he said.

Shamir noted that there already has been a substantial reduction of Israel's presence in Lebanon. The Israel Defense Force occupies a smaller territory and is deploying smaller forces. He expressed hope that in the near future, the Israeli presence could be reduced even more. "We are looking into every possible way which would allow us to reach an agreement on security arrangements which would enable an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon," Shamir said.

CJC TO SHIP RELIGIOUS SUPPLIES TO CUBA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY

MONTREAL, Nov. 13 (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) will send \$30,000 worth of religious articles and supplies to the Jewish community of Cuba, the World Jewish Congress has announced here. Ever since the U.S. severed relations with Cuba in 1960, the CJC has looked after the needs of Cuban Jews. Even prior to the rupture of relations between the U.S. and Cuba, the Jewish community there had difficulty meeting its own needs for several decades.

"Same 1,000 Jews on the island will benefit from the shipment of religious supplies being sent," said Alan Rose, executive vice president of the CJC. Among the items to be sent are kosher meat, tea, matzah and prayer books. Rose said the religious supplies will leave by ship from Montreal and will reach Havana before Passover next April.

In recent years, Spanish-speaking rabbis and educators have visited the community which has five synagogues and a Jewish public library. The Jewish community, most of whose members reside in Havana, is organized under the Comision Coordinadora de las Sociedades Religiosas Hebreas de Cuba, which maintains its full membership with the World Jewish Congress.

JEWISH COMMUNAL LEADERS, DEMOGRAPHIC EXPERTS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER STEADY SHRINKAGE OF U.S. JEWISH POPULATION

By Ben Gallow

NEW YORK, Nov. 13 (JTA) — A total of 121 Jewish communal leaders and demographic experts, concerned over the steady shrinkage of the American Jewish population, met at two conferences here from which emerged differences of opinion on the steepness and rapidity of the decline and a variety of proposals for dealing with it, some of which were reported to be in the planning stages or in effect currently.

One of the gatherings, a two-day National Conference on Jewish Population Growth, sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, recommended a list of actions which the participants agreed should be undertaken "to remove the roadblocks" to larger Jewish families.

That conference drew 85 representatives of more than 30 national Jewish organizations who agreed that among the forces which threaten Jewish survival — including anti-Semitism, assimilation and mixed marriage — "The low fertility rate of Jewish families, which is lower than that of American families as a whole, is most fundamental."

On the day after that conference, 36 members of the Jewish Population Think Tank, sponsored by the Commission on Synagogue Relations of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, met at the Federation to examine the same problem.

Seven Proposals Advanced

After the two-day conference, seven proposals were listed by Yehuda Rosenman, director of the AJCommittee's communal affairs department, and Dr. Steven Bayme, department assistant director, who coordinated the conference, as among the most significant to emerge from the two-day meeting.

They were: Jewish family life education for singles and young married couples; Jewish-sponsored day care centers; opportunity for part-time jobs for both spouses; placing greater value on women's work as housewives and mothers; mortgage assistance for young couples; discouragement of "living together" by Jewish couples before marriage; and recognition by prospective parents and the Jewish community that childlessness, like the Holocaust, dooms humanity as well as the Jewish community.

Rosenman said the time had come "to underscore the basic truth that increasing the average number of children in Jewish families to three or four" is "an imperative for Jewish survival."

Normal Jewish Family Described

Dr. Robert Gordis, a leading Conservative rabbi who was chairman of the conference, said he felt that "the synagogue should take the lead in honoring Jewish families by some form of public recognition" and that rabbis generally should promote the goal of three children as the basic minimum for every normal Jewish family.

The best available estimate for the current American Jewish family is 1.6 children per couple, compared with the overall American population of 2.2 children.

Bayme said there will be follow-up efforts, under AJCommittee auspices, "to remove the roadblocks which now make the birth and rearing of children exceedingly difficult in economic and sociological terms." The conference called on all segments of American Jewry, he said, "to undertake the implementation of programs designed to achieve the goal of

increased Jewish family growth which will enhance the quality of our lives as human beings, Jews and Americans."

Judith Zimmelman, an author and lecturer, was chairperson for the conference of the Federation Think Tank on Population, which was attended by 36 leaders to analyze the implications of a population study presented to them by sociologist Fred Massarik of the University of California at Los Angeles, who directed the first National Jewish Population Study in 1970-71 under auspices of the Council of Jewish Federations.

The new Massarik study, "Assessing Jewish Survival: Considering the Evidence, 1971-1981," synthesized Jewish population data for the decade and made some projections for the future, as well as recommendations, Ms. Zimmelman said.

A Basic Conclusion

One of Massarik's basic conclusions, from his evaluation of many studies, including the National Jewish Population Study, was more moderate than views expressed by others on the subject forecasting a rapid decline in the size of the Jewish population to a very small number.

Massarik concluded that "while there may be occasional small incremental rises in the birthrate in the United States Jewish population, these will be building on a gradual consistent forward slope in total Jewish population size." He reported that the existing evidence "suggests a continuing moderate Jewish population loss" in this country.

Demographer Paul Ritterand of New York urged the importance of establishing a "normative climate" for acceptance of larger Jewish families. William Kahn, Federation executive vice president, said he was "optimistic that we, the Jewish organizational leadership, can implement policies — such as paternity leaves — which will foster this climate and make an impact on people's decisions to have an enjoyable family life."

Responding to information that the Jewish population has slipped in one decade from three percent of the world's population to 2.6 percent, Dr. Jacob Ukeles, the Federation's community services executive director, told the conference that "it is imperative that we do all that we can to stop" the decline or to keep the Jewish population level "constant."

Adding To The Problem

Ms. Zimmelman declared that the organized Jewish community, "rather than countering the general trend toward two children and Zero Population Growth" among American Jews, "has instead added considerably to the problem."

She commented that books and audio-visual materials used in Jewish schools of all forms carry "the same illustrative message: a third child is almost never present. Rather there are two children, sometimes one and sometimes none."

She stressed that the task force was acting to organize proposals to increase the Jewish birthrate for submission, approval and funding by the Federation.

Ms. Zimmelman reported that the Federation initially provided \$100,000 in 1982 to get a city-wide Jewish day care program started. She told the conference that "we are refining our priorities into recommendations in presenting them to the Communal Planning Committee" which she described as the Federation unit which puts such recommendations "into more definitive form for approval by the Federation Board of Trustees." She stressed that the Task Force was engaged in efforts to have its recommendations implemented rather than simply recommended.