

ISRAELI LEADER WARNS OF A 'CLOUD' OVER ISRAELI-GERMAN RELATIONS IF BONN SELL ADVANCED ARMS TO ARABS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Meir warned today of a "cloud" that could darken Israeli-German relations; the possibility that Bonn might sell advanced weaponry to Saudi Arabia or other Arab countries.

Delivering a keynote speech on the opening day of the annual meeting of the Israel-Germany Friendship Associations, Ben-Meir said Israel could not agree with nor acquiesce in such a prospect. Israeli sources forecast intensified diplomatic action by Jerusalem in the weeks ahead designed to forestall any arms sales.

Recently, following Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit to Saudi Arabia, German officials sought to distinguish between offensive weapons, such as the Leopard 2 tank, and defensive weapons such as anti-tank devices and anti-aircraft systems. But Israel has declared firmly that it recognizes no such distinction. Ben-Meir in his address today dwelt on the "special character" of the Bonn-Jerusalem relationship, a character molded by the Holocaust experience.

Urges Pressure On Syria

Referring to the Lebanon situation, Ben-Meir urged European and other Western states to exercise their influence and persuasive powers over Syria to moderate Damascus' hostility to the Lebanon-Israeli agreement of May 17. The Deputy Minister said this agreement was "the manifestation of" Lebanon's desire for sovereignty and independence. But Syria sought to "impose its own will" on Lebanon, to the detriment of Lebanon's sovereignty, Ben-Meir said.

He predicted that a new PLO that would arise from the debacle of Tripoli (where Yasir Arafat is still being pounded by the Syrian-backed rebels) would be "a front organization for Syria."

Ben-Meir expressed the hope that Palestinians living in Judea and Samaria would recognize "the vast gap" between the PLO and "real freedom fighters" and would in consequence of this realization "turn towards direct negotiations with us within the framework of Camp David."

Attending the two-day meeting are German and Israeli parliamentarians, members of the friendship societies in each country. The German side is led by Eric Blumenfeld, president of the Israelisch-Deutsche Gesellschaft and a member of the European Parliament.

MEASURES TAKEN TO STABILIZE ISRAEL'S ECONOMY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- The Treasury acted today to reduce government subsidies for basic food products, freeze civil service hirings and stem the flow of foreign currency abroad. The measures are aimed at stabilizing the economy which has been hit by runaway inflation, a widening balance of payments gap and a dangerous reduction of foreign currency reserves while the national deficit continues to mount.

One of the first results was a 14-19 percent hike in the price of basic foods. Food and commodity prices are expected to continue to rise as the government moves to end all subsidies, for a saving of some \$600 million a year.

The hiring freeze took effect today and will remain in force until the end of March. Government and other public agencies will not take on new personnel in that period unless approved by a special appeals committee on an individual basis. The Health Ministry has already asked that hospitals be exempted from this ban.

The Bank of Israel, the country's central bank, has ordered all commercial banks not to invest further in their overseas branches. The banks were instructed to transfer 98 percent of Dollar-linked savings to the central bank, leaving them only two percent for current activities. According to press reports, several large foreign banks have sent representatives to Israel to see if the local banking system is sound. They include the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank and the Bank of England. Israeli banks meanwhile have launched a public relations program to improve their image and credibility.

There were new reports today of drops in the sale of consumer goods which reflect a general tightening of credit. Several businesses have notified customers that credit previously extended for 60-120 days has been reduced to 40 days. Petroleum companies have reduced their credit period from 40 to 15 days.

GREECE'S ATTITUDE HAS BECOME MORE FRIENDLY TOWARD ISRAEL By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Greece's attitude toward Israel has become more friendly and open since that country succeeded West Germany in the rotating chairmanship of the European Economic Community's (EEC) Council of Ministers, diplomatic circles here have noted.

Among the EEC member states, Greece was the most outspoken critic of Israel, especially after the invasion of Lebanon on June, 1982. The Israelis were therefore pleasantly surprised when, under the chairmanship of Athens, no new EEC initiatives were launched against Israel and the "financial protocol" providing EEC credits to Jerusalem was implemented.

A Greek diplomat posted to Bonn told an Israeli representative that his government, however sympathetic to the Arab cause, has reassessed some of its positions on Middle East issues.

The diplomat explained, according to sources here, that the Arab world, and the oil producing countries in particular, have done nothing to reward Greece politically or economically for its long-standing support. "They took our attitude for granted and the least I can say is that many Greeks are unhappy about it," the diplomat was reported to have said.

The Greeks are upset by the Arab countries siding with Turkey in its long-standing conflict with Greece. This is recognized as Arab solidarity with a Moslem, though non-Arab, nation but is a source of irritation, nonetheless.

OZ: ISRAEL MUST 'TALK BUSINESS' WITH SYRIA TO ENABLE ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS FROM LEBANON

By Rifka Rosenwein

BOSTON, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Amos Oz, the Israeli novelist and peace activist said here that Israel must "talk business with Syria" if it is to be able to withdraw its troops from Lebanon. "Lebanon is irreparable," he told a group of students several days ago. "I think it is doomed. I think Syria is going to have it one way or another."

He noted that Syria had lived up to its part of the 1974 Golan Heights agreement and had maintained an "enduring cease-fire" there. Israel, Oz contended, should offer to recognize Syria's "claims in Lebanon in return for a durable cease-fire or more" on Israel's northern border.

Oz spoke to the students following a speech he gave at Harvard University, sponsored in part by the Boston Friends of Peace Now, entitled, "Certain Israeli Perspectives." He is currently in the United States to promote his new book, "In the Land of Israel."

In his speech, Oz sought to explore "the complex, mysterious emotion that Israel evokes in the hearts of hundreds of millions of people" around the world, who wait for Israel "to perform a couple of miracles a day or to come crashing down" in ruin. He pointed to diaspora Jews especially as "miracle consumers."

The Many Faces Of Israel

"Israel is a pain in the neck ... a troubling mystery," to both an Orthodox Jew and a devout Christian, a "dogmatic Marxist" and a "pragmatic person," he said. Each of these expects something different from Israel, he said, but all agree that Israel should either "produce a dazzling light or go down altogether."

Israel itself, Oz told the audience of over 300, is "neither a nation nor a country but a collection of arguments," which have surfaced most visibly since what he called "the unjustifiable invasion of Lebanon."

Oz called Israel "the most talkative, most passionate country in the world. Everyone is a Messiah." He added, however, that with all the "sound, fury and pain," Israel is "not likely to have a civil war. The constant Israeli civil war is a verbal war, a traditional Jewish battle." Israelis are "screaming not over conflicting interests, but over conflicting dreams," he said.

He attacked those Jews in the diaspora who claim that Israel has destroyed the "Jewish genius" who claim that instead of producing the "Kafkas and Einsteins" of the diaspora, Israel is producing "colonels, peasants and tank drivers."

'Live Drama Is At Work' In Israel

Judaism in the diaspora, Oz countered, "is a museum, which parents take their children to and ask them to keep" and maintain. Israel, on the other hand, "is the only place in the world now where live drama is at work," he said. And while the "world is ahead" of Israel in terms of what he said was "individual creativity" -- "the numbers are against us, time is against us" -- Israel is today "the only place where collective creativity is going on," he declared.

Since the destruction of Eastern European Jewry, Oz claimed, "the Jews outside Israel have become almost barren. They have produced nothing to be compared to Hasidism, the Bund, Yiddish, and even Zionism itself." Meanwhile, he noted, Israel has produced the revival of the Hebrew language, the kibbutz and the new city of Jerusalem.

Several members of the audience later challenged the appraisal of diaspora Jewry, pointing to the developments of Reform and Conservative Judaism, and to the growth of Jewish feminism as more recent examples of "collective creativity," in the diaspora. Oz replied that he would be "embarrassed but happy" if he were proven wrong in his assessment.

Diaspora Jews Should Be Involved In Israeli Affairs

He also told his audience that "non-Israeli Jews should get involved" in the affairs of Israel, but warned that they should "never fail to remind your listeners (in America) of your gut solidarity with Israel."

Oz urged them to "address yourselves to us (the Israelis) rather than talk about us. Send your letters to the Jerusalem Post to be quoted by The New York Times the next day" rather than send letters directly to The New York Times. "Are you talking to us or about us?" he asked.

When questioned later at a reception at the Harvard-Radcliffe Hillel, about the current feeling in Israel toward the war in Lebanon, he said there was "a realization by most Israelis that we shouldn't have done it. The Palestinian problem has to be solved not squashed."

Oz said the war created a "rift in the national consensus that has existed since the beginning of the State that Israel would 'launch a full-scale war only if it is a matter of life and death' for the country. He noted the beginnings of a "restoration of the national consensus" but only at great expense to the nation.

Oz said that if Premier Yitzhak Shamir "could go out of Lebanon tonight, he would."

REPORT 35 NEW REFORM TEMPLES HAVE AFFILIATED WITH UAHC IN PAST 2 YEARS

HOUSTON, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Thirty-five new Reform temples became affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) in the past two years, bringing the number of member synagogues to 770, the highest in UAHC's 110-year history, it was announced here by Donald Day, chairman of the UAHC.

In his report to some 3,500 delegates attending the 57th biennial assembly of the UAHC and the 34th biennial convention of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, Day said that over the past decade nearly 100 new synagogues had become affiliated with the UAHC. The total membership of the organization's 770 congregations now exceeds 1.25 million people, he said.

The UAHC leader, who is retiring as chairman after serving for four years, said the new synagogues joining the UAHC were situated in all sections of the country and were not limited to the fast-growing "sun belt" states.

"We are a vital, burgeoning religious movement," Day said in his report to delegates. "The 'war-babies' generation is now marrying and having children, swelling the ranks of our congregations and adding new ones. Reform Judaism is a religion for third-gener-

ation Americans. We are confident that our membership will continue to increase as Jews of more traditional backgrounds choose to associate themselves with the Reform movement."

As one result, Day said "more and more Reform congregations are tending toward a greater degree of traditionalism in their services." More than 40 percent of all children in the U.S. and Canada who receive Jewish religious education do so by attending religious schools in Reform synagogues, Day said.

STATE DEPT. SAYS WEST BANK VIOLENCE DEMONSTRATES NEED TO IMPLEMENT REAGAN'S 1982 PEACE INITIATIVE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- The State Department suggested today that the violence over the weekend in the West Bank demonstrated the need to work toward implementing President Reagan's September 1, 1982 peace initiative.

At the same time, Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg placed part of the blame for the unrest in the West Bank on the concern of the Palestinians there over the fighting in Tripoli between Yasser Arafat's decimated Palestine Liberation Organization force and Syrian-backed dissident Palestinians.

"We very much regret the increased tension in the West Bank and the incidents of violence it has spawned," Romberg said. "This unrest appears to stem from a variety of factors, including Palestinian concern over developments in Tripoli and continued friction between the local inhabitants and Israeli settlers. Such developments underscore the need for all parties to take the steps necessary to realize the promise of the President's Middle East peace initiative."

Reagan's continued commitment to his peace initiative was underscored by Richard Murphy, assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, in testimony this afternoon before the House Foreign Affairs Committee's subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

U.S. Intent On Dealing With Peace Issue

Murphy called "untrue" claims that the Administration "will avoid dealing with the sensitive issues of peace in the Middle East during an election year." He noted that the appointment of Donald Rumsfeld as President Reagan's special representative in the Middle East "is a sign of our determination to pursue the peace process and the President's initiative." Rumsfeld, who is in Beirut today is on his first mission to the Middle East since his appointment was made.

Murphy stressed that the proposals made by Reagan in his peace initiative "remain the most realistic basis for progress toward reaching a fair and just solution to the Palestinian problem and resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. We are ready to pursue these proposals if a credible Arab leader -- such as King Hussein -- were to step forward and agree to negotiate with Israel."

Rumsfeld is expected to meet with King Hussein who, the Administration hopes, may be more willing to go along with the negotiations now that Arafat's forces seem to have been wiped out as a military factor. There is a belief here, not shared by all, that if the PLO falls under the control of Syria, as now seems likely, it will be seen as a threat by Hussein to his regime which has long felt threatened by Syria.

Rumsfeld is also expected to go to Damascus to see Syrian President Hafez Assad but that may depend on how soon Assad recovers from an emergency appendectomy he underwent yesterday. A meeting between Assad and Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, scheduled for today, was postponed.

Terms Syria "A Major Obstacle"

Murphy, in his testimony before the House subcommittee today, called Syria a "major obstacle to efforts to rid Lebanon of all foreign forces and to promote national accommodation on Lebanese terms." He stressed that the U.S. does not question Syria's "legitimate concerns" in Lebanon nor its close economic communal and personal relations with its neighboring Arab country.

"But we have told Syria ... that we do oppose attempts by Syria or any nation or groups to destabilize Lebanon as it seeks to re-establish its authority over its territory beginning with arrangements to secure the withdrawal of all external forces," Murphy declared.

He stressed that the U.S. does not accept Syria's right to veto the May 17 Israeli-Lebanese agreement which he termed "an important step forward." The United States calls "on Syria to agree to withdraw its forces so that Israel will withdraw and Lebanon can regain control of its territory and its own destiny," Murphy said.

HERZOG HAS A 'VERY CLEAR MESSAGE' HE IS BRINGING TO REAGAN FROM SHAMIR By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog of Israel arrived here today bringing "a very clear message" to President Reagan and other Administration officials from Premier Yitzhak Shamir. He told reporters at Kennedy Airport, however, that his 10-day visit to the U.S. is "apolitical." He meets with Reagan November 22.

Herzog, accompanied by his wife, Ora, was greeted by Meir Rosenne, Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Yehuda Blum, the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations, the Israeli Consul General in New York, Naphtalie Lavie, and other Israeli officials and American Jewish leaders at a reception in El Al's King David Lounge at the airport.

Herzog said, in response to a question by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, that he is also bringing a message for American Jewry which he will deliver when he addresses various American Jewish forums in the next few days. He mentioned that before leaving Israel, he met with Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens to discuss his trip.

The Israeli chief of state said his original purpose in coming to the U.S. was to address the 52nd General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations in Atlanta which had invited him some time ago to be the major speaker. Subsequently, he said, he decided to broaden his visit to include meetings with Reagan and other Administration officials and American Jewish leaders and to address the United Nations. Herzog will meet Mayor Edward Koch of New York at his Regency Hotel suite here tomorrow and will also meet with a representative of Governor Mario Cuomo and with Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO. He addresses the UN General Assembly on Wednesday and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations here Thursday before flying to Atlanta for his speech to the CJF Thursday night.

FOCUS ON ISSUES **NEW FILM ON POPE WILL HELP** **CATHOLIC-JEWISH RELATIONS** By Marc Tanenbaum

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- A just-completed film on the life and career of Pope John Paul II is, in my judgement, good for the Jews. The two-and-a-half hour film was previewed recently before a predominantly Catholic audience in New York's Lincoln Center and received sustained applause.

Titled simply, "John Paul II," the film dramatization was shown in Vatican City on November 12, and will be aired over CBS-Television network during February 1984 (exact date not set yet). According to Allen Morris of Taft Enterprises Company, co-producers with Alvin Coopersman-DePaul Productions, the film will in time be shown throughout Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America in diverse languages and therefore its potential impact is global in scope.

Acted brilliantly by British actor Albert Finney, this Papal life-story contains a number of dramatic scenes of special interest to Jews. The script deals forthrightly with the pervasiveness of anti-Semitism in pre-World War II Poland, the horrors of the Nazi Holocaust, and the response of Pope John Paul II both as youth, prelate, and later as Archbishop of Cracow.

An Encounter With Crude Anti-Semitism

The first encounter with crude anti-Semitism takes place in a cafe in Wadowice, the Pope's birthplace. A drunken Polish policeman named Moljek rants about the oncoming Nazis: "We beat the Germans in 1918. We beat the Russians in 1920. We did the work of ten, each of us did. We ate starving dogs -- more value to us than the Jews, I can tell you."

Karol Wojtyla, then a teen-ager, identifies strongly with his close Jewish friend and classmate, Theodor Krawich. In a subsequent poignant scene, Karol and Theodor are picnicing in a meadow, and Theodor talks with pain about being taunted as "Jew Boy!" to another Polish youth who tore his coat. Karol, in a burst of anger, responds:

"It's ignorance! The exact opposite of what Christ taught. Feel sorry for him. He's ignorant." Then Theodor says: "I can't wait to leave this place... You've been like a brother to me, Lolek. I mean it."

Better Understanding Of Nazi Barbarism

Catholics, and other Christians, will be better able to understand the bestiality of the Nazis as Jews understand it -- perhaps even be helped to identify with and join in solidarity with Jews -- as a result of such brutal encounters with the Nazi Governor General of Poland, Hans Frank, who arrogantly proclaims to Archbishop Sapieha his plans for the fate of Poles and Jews:

"Poles, like Jews, are Untermenschen, sub-humans. They have no right to life. But we intend to use some of them ... the Slavs, not the Jews ... as a work force of the German Reich ... Every educated person will be regarded as an enemy and marked down for destruction. Jews will be done away with ... We shall make the name of Poland a long-forgotten name on the ancient maps."

The most explicit -- and moving -- involvement of Wojtyla in the fate of Jews takes place in two scenes. One is in a stone quarry where he comes to the defense of a Jewish laborer from Auschwitz and

saves his life as a Nazi guard is about to beat him to death. The other portrays Wojtyla joining an underground Polish group that saves the lives of a Jewish family. There are several long dramatic scenes showing the future Pope handing out forged passports and leading the Teitlbaum family through Nazi guards to safety.

Sensitivity To Jews

Capping the emphasis on Wojtyla's life under the Nazis is a scene where his female friend complains that he does not have enough time for her. She says: "Everyone knows what you're doing ... taking Jewish families out of the ghettos, finding them place to hide. Is that what's keeping you away?"

That sensitivity to Jews, his opposition to anti-Semitism, continues into his later career. Toward the end of the film, Cardinal Wojtyla calls a meeting of the Curia, the bishops of Cracow, to discuss the struggle with the Polish Communist government.

The cardinal asks his bishops to join him in supporting the students and academics in their struggle against the government. One of the bishops complains that many of the academics are Jews, therefore, why support them? Cardinal Wojtyla replies: "The government uses that to deflect attention from the issues."

It should be made clear that this film is devoted overwhelmingly to the life and career of Pope John Paul II, and that his attitude towards Jews and anti-Semitism is a secondary, even tertiary theme. But precisely because this is a film made primarily for Christian audiences, and such a well-made and impactful story of heroic proportions, its strong positive references to this Pope's attitudes and behavior toward Jews can only be a derivative, but important benefit in affirming Catholic friendship for the Jewish people.

JABOTINSKY PRIZES ANNOUNCED

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- For their defense of the rights of the Jewish people, "an international panel has selected the late Senator Henry Jackson, imprisoned Soviet Jewish activist Isosif Begun and former French Cabinet Minister Simone Veil as the recipients of the first "Jabotinsky Prize: Shield of Jerusalem" awards, it was announced here today. The three will share the \$100,000 award.

The panel, meeting privately here, also gave a special award of \$100,000 to former Israeli Premier Menachem Begin for his "life-long dedication to the defense of the Jewish people, which is unique in our era."

The creation of the awards was announced last summer by Eryk Spektor, chairman of the Jabotinsky Foundation, a New York based non-profit educational organization. Spektor said he hoped the Jabotinsky Prizes would become "the Nobel Prize of the Jewish world." Spektor contributed \$50,000 to the prizes with the balance coming from Jewish leaders.

The jurors for this year's award included: Spektor; Milton Friedman, Nobel Prize winning economist; I.L. Rabi, physicist; Morris Abram, attorney and educator and chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry; Reuben Hecht, an Israeli industrialist; Charlotte Jacobson, president of the Jewish National Fund; Milton Petrie, philanthropist; Simon Rifkind, jurist and attorney; and Lord Weidenfeld, a British publisher and government advisor. Spektor said all the selections were approved unanimously.