

SHAMIR DENIES ISRAEL MADE ANY MILITARY COMMITMENTS TO THE U.S.; NO SECRET ACCORD REACHED IN WASHINGTON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA) — Premier Yitzhak Shamir flatly denied in the Knesset today that Israel made any military commitments to the U.S. during his and Defense Minister Moshe Arens' talks with President Reagan and top Administration officials in Washington last week.

There was no secret agreement reached in Washington and reports to that effect are "erroneous rumors and baseless interpretations," Shamir declared in a statement to the Knesset explaining the substance of his agreements with the U.S. with emphasis on their economic as well as military benefits to Israel.

Shamir and other Israeli officials have rejected suggestions in foreign media and from some opposition quarters in Israel that the American air strike against Syrian positions in Lebanon yesterday, on the heels of an Israeli air strike a day earlier, indicated collusion between the two governments to make war on Syria.

Cites A Deterrent Effect

Shamir told the Knesset that the U.S.-Israel joint political-military committee scheduled to hold its first meeting in Washington next month, will discuss combined military maneuvers and the storage of American military equipment in Israel. He contended that the military cooperation between the two countries would have a deterrent effect. Storing military equipment would also make a significant contribution to Israel's economy.

The Premier explained that the Americans also would buy some equipment in Israel for their armed forces. In addition, the U.S. agreed to provide the greater proportion of its military assistance to Israel in the form of grants rather than loans.

He noted that whereas in the past Israel received \$1.7 billion, half in grants and half in loans, it will now receive \$1.4 billion as a grant. Aid funds will be exchanged for Shekels in the amount of \$250 million. Israel will also be able to sell material to the American air and naval forces.

Shamir maintained that this cooperation between the two countries will focus on deterring Syria's "aggressiveness" and on reaching a solution in Lebanon. He called on King Hussein of Jordan to join the peace process and on President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to resume the autonomy talks.

General Debate On Shamir's Statement

Shamir's statement was followed by a general debate. Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban of the Labor Alignment stressed that Israel's only interest in Lebanon is to secure its northern border. Peace for Galilee can be guaranteed by a strategy of deterrence from within Israel, he said and "There are no Israeli interests that dictate an Israeli effort to drive the Syrians out of Lebanon by force."

"No Israeli interest will be promoted by an extended stay of the Israel Defense Force along the Awali River," he said. "No Israeli interest dictates

continued deployment in Lebanon as long as the Syrian army does not withdraw." The Knesset debate will be resumed Wednesday on a motion of no-confidence by the Hadash (Communist) Party.

Shamir, who expressed deep sorrow in the Knesset today over the deaths of American marines in Lebanon—eight were killed in heavy bombardment which followed yesterday's air strike—said: "Those soldiers were sent to preserve peace and they are being killed by the enemies of peace."

Vance Endorses U.S. Air Strike

Earlier today, at a meeting with former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Shamir said the Syrians had dared provoke the U.S. because they had Soviet backing and the Soviets supply them with sophisticated weaponry. He endorsed yesterday's air strike by U.S. carrier-based aircraft, two of which were shot down by the Syrians. He said the American action was a reasonable and proper response to Syrian attacks on U.S. reconnaissance flights over Lebanon in recent days.

Vance, who served in the Carter Administration, also approved of the American air strikes. "I think they (the marines) were the targets of attack and they have to defend themselves," he said. But Vance observed that while he favored good relations between the U.S. and Israel, there was no need for strategic consensus between them. He also stressed the need to revive the peace process. "Unfortunately ... almost nothing has happened for many, many months," he said.

Peace Process Prospects Seem Dim

But the prospects for reviving the peace process seemed to dim in light of recent events and various interpretations of them. Only yesterday, Israeli officials were taking pains to deny reports in the foreign media that the back-to-back U.S.-Israeli air attacks on the Syrians in Lebanon were evidence of collusion. The officials insisted that the American bombing raid was not coordinated in advance with Israel and did not represent or reflect collaboration in a joint operation.

The officials hinted, however, that the U.S. did inform Israel shortly before its aerial strike, but only because it wanted to avoid a "mishap" which might have occurred if Israeli planes were in the skies over Lebanon at the same time as U.S. aircraft.

They affirmed that Israel remains determined to hit at Palestinian terrorists in Lebanon and that the U.S. is on record that it will hit back if its forces in Lebanon are attacked.

Arabs Denounce U.S.-Israel Accords

Both the American air strike and the newly concluded U.S.-Israel agreements were denounced vigorously throughout the Arab world yesterday. Egyptian President Mubarak warned in Cairo that the agreement for "strategic cooperation" with Israel would spell disaster for America's friends in the Arab world. Mubarak, speaking to reporters, said that he had not received official confirmation of the American attack on the Syrians and could only "hope that these reports are false."

The official Algerian news agency said the air strike was practically "a declaration of war" against the Arabs. Amman radio deplored the attack, warning that it

would "only make matters worse and provoke new tension in the area." The raid was vigorously protested by the Sudan government, Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf states condemned it as "part of Israel's war on the Arab nations."

EEC DOCUMENT CALLS ON ISRAEL TO END ITS SETTLEMENT POLICY

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- The European Economic Community (EEC) has drafted a joint document calling on Israel to abandon its West Bank settlement policy and to recognize "the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, with all that this implies." The heads of the 10 member-states now meeting in Athens for their annual summit conference are due to approve the document tomorrow and issue it then.

The draft document prepared by the 10 EEC Foreign Ministers expresses Europe's "deep preoccupation" with the Middle East situation and says that the hopes raised by the Fez declaration of 1982 and President Reagan's peace plan have come to nothing. The document says a new initiative is needed and implies the 10 might at one of their future conferences issue a new joint policy statement.

The document says the 10 are "particularly concerned with the tragic situation in Lebanon" and calls on all concerned to respect the September 25 cease-fire.

Meanwhile, radio reports from Athens say Italian Premier Bettino Craxi indicated after a meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand that Italy might have to withdraw its contingent from the multinational force based in Beirut. There are 2,000 Italians in the 5,500 member four-nation force.

The Italian Premier told Italian reporters, "Our situation is different from that of the other participants as we (Italy) have no viable military deterrent." Several political parties, including Christian Democrat members of the Italian coalition government, have expressed serious misgivings about the recent escalation of fighting in Lebanon which is, they said, endangering the safety of the Italian troops.

4 DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS URGE CAUTION ABOUT INCREASING U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Four of the candidates for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1984 have urged caution about the increasing American military involvement in Lebanon in the wake of yesterday's U.S. air strikes against Syrian positions in Lebanon.

One of them, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, blamed the increased cooperation announced between Israel and the U.S. during last week's visit to Washington of Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir, for the heightened tension in Lebanon.

"When we sent (Lebanese President Amin) Gemayel back home empty-handed and sent Shamir back home with an armful, it was a signal that there was going to be an escalation of tensions in the Middle East," Jackson said on the NBC-TV "Meet the Press" program yesterday.

He said that by giving an "almost unlimited... kind of blank check military aid to Shamir," the Administration "did not contribute to the stabilization nor to any good feelings on the part of our Arab allies. And we do have allies on both sides."

Jackson said that to have provided more aid to Israel "without any kind of concessions" on the Golan Heights, the West Bank or the use of U.S. weapons in Israel's invasion of Lebanon, was not in "America's interests. I think we should always in our Middle East policy reconcile our own interests which include Israeli and Arab interests as well."

Accusing U.S. policy of becoming "provocative" in Lebanon, Jackson said that while the U.S. forces should not withdraw unilaterally, they should be pulled out as soon as possible "before we find ourselves in a quagmire and cannot get out."

Says Reagan Is 'Trigger-Happy'

Another candidate, Sen. Alan Cranston of California, accused Reagan of being "trigger-happy and reckless" as demonstrated by the air strike. He said there was a "U.S.-Soviet equation" in the Middle East and that the U.S. bombing of Syrian positions in Lebanon posed a potential conflict between the two superpowers because of the presence of Soviet advisors in Syria.

Sen. John Glenn of Ohio said the U.S. "should exercise the utmost caution and measure our response to this extremely dangerous situation very carefully." While stressing that he does not favor withdrawal of the marines, Glenn said that "for nearly a year I have warned against allowing the situation in Lebanon to deteriorate into a direct Syrian-American confrontation. I have called for clearly defining our mission. If the Administration considers a large and protracted battle with the Syrians in Lebanon an option, let them present their plans to the Congress and the American people."

Glenn added, if the U.S. does not want to be in a war in Lebanon, "then lets stop stumbling toward it."

The fourth candidate, Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado, said "It's almost inevitable that there will be an escalation of the conflict the longer we remain on Lebanese soil." Hart said the U.S. role in Lebanon should not be a military one but "diplomatic and political. I'm deeply concerned that the Administration will increase the level of hostilities, particularly with the Syrians."

AT CHANUKAH CELEBRATION, REAGAN PLEDGES U.S.-ISRAEL BONDS MUST NOT AND WILL NEVER BE WEAKENED

By David Friedman

ROCKVILLE, Md., Dec. 5 (JTA) -- President Reagan lit one of the five candles during the Chanukah celebration at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington here yesterday and pledged that the "bonds" between Israel and the United States are "growing stronger and they must not and never will be weakened."

"Israel's quest for peace and security is in constant peril from those driven by hatred and violence," the President said. He noted that he had told Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir last week that "Israel has a friend in America and good friends stand together."

Reagan said that "Chanukah is symbolic of the Jewish struggle to resist submission to tyranny and to sustain its spiritual heritage. No people have fought longer, struggled or sacrificed more to survive, to grow, to live in freedom than the people of Israel. Whether we be Americans or Israelis, we are all children of Abraham, children of one God."

The President reaffirmed the U.S. determination to defend Israel at the United Nations. He said he wanted to make it clear once again "if Israel is ever forced to leave the United Nations, the United States and Israel will leave together."

Although the center was crowded with hundreds of people for its annual family Chanukah celebration, only 227 persons could sit in the auditorium for the lighting ceremony at which Reagan participated. But those present represented every part of the community, from infants in their parents arms to the elderly.

Reagan was presented with a menorah by the Center's president, Philip Margolius, who noted it was a "symbol of peace and freedom." Margolius said the menorah is lit not only to remember the heroic deeds of the Maccabees "but to state forever to the world as our brethren in Israel do every day that the lamp of liberty and freedom will also burn brightly in our hearts."

Reagan Moved By Soviet Immigrant

During the ceremony, Reagan was visibly moved by Tamar Feldblum, an immigrant from the Soviet Union, who stressed that Jews in the USSR are still "trapped" and denied their basic human rights. Mrs. Feldblum, who is now a U.S. citizen, pointed out that in another part of the Center some 50 Soviet immigrants were being started along the process toward their own citizenship. "Now we shall have a real home, we shall belong," she said.

Mrs. Feldblum also spoke about her 10-month old son who was born in the United States and who, she said, "will never know persecution" and "who will be able to celebrate Chanukah, Passover and be a proud Jew."

Reagan said that on behalf of the more than 230 million Americans, he wanted to tell these immigrants "welcome to your new family." He said it was "wonderful" that the American Jewish community was using Chanukah to assist Jews in the Soviet Union.

Pledges To Help Soviet Jews

"Today Soviet Jews are fighting for their future and their freedom as the Maccabees once did," Reagan declared. "But their fight is a peaceful one." The President pledged that "we will not remain silent" in helping Soviet Jews in their struggle to emigrate or in their effort to practice their religion within the Soviet Union.

As Reagan and others lit the candle on the large menorah, the sixth grade chorus of the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, which is across from the Center, sang the blessings. Reagan left the stage to go to the helicopter for the flight back from this suburban Washington location to the White House. But suddenly he returned and shook the hand of each of the 20 youngsters in the chorus who earlier also sang Hebrew and Yiddish songs.

SHULTZ: TALKS WITH SHAMIR, GEMAYEL RESULTED IN IMPROVED BASIS FOR WORKING TOWARD COMMON OBJECTIVES By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz said today that his talks last week with Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Lebanese President Amin Gemayel resulted in an "improved basis for working toward the objectives we are seeking" in Lebanon.

Shultz, responding to reporters questions at a news conference in the State Department, said that the talks with the Israelis were "helpful to us" and would lead to "concrete steps" in the aim of helping Lebanon regain control of its territory. But he was not specific on what these steps are.

Shultz stressed that the security of Israel is an important element in the stability of the Jewish State. He said among the discussions with the Israelis was the "very substantial" Soviet military build-up in Syria and how this should be dealt with.

The Secretary noted that Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's special envoy for the Middle East, will be leaving Washington tomorrow to return to the Middle East to further the progress that has been made in the talks in Washington last week.

Shultz stressed that yesterday's U.S. air attack on Syrian targets in Lebanon was not an escalation of force by the U.S. or a message to the Syrians aimed at convincing them to pull their forces out of Lebanon. He said the air attack took place after U.S. reconnaissance planes were fired upon "very heavily" by those who knew the planes were U.S. reconnaissance planes.

"We're there in a peacekeeping role," Shultz stressed. He said the U.S. military in Lebanon returns fire only when fired upon, and by targeting the source of the fire not any particular country or group.

Shultz stressed that the U.S. "intends to see it through" in Lebanon. He said the marines are there to support U.S. policy in the Mideast and to help Lebanon reestablish its sovereignty and gain control over its territory, the first of which, he noted will be the territory which is not occupied by any foreign forces.

Shultz emphasized that the marines are in Lebanon "on our decision, not Israel's." He asserted that he believes the American people will support keeping the marines there because they "want to see peace and stability in the Middle East."

In a brief comment on the Israeli-U.S. political-military joint group, Shultz said it will try to "systematically" keep track of the various matters that are discussed during the meetings between the Israelis and the Americans. The group's first meeting will be in January.

TRUDEAU SAYS ISRAEL SHOULD LEAVE THE WEST BANK AND GAZA

MONTREAL, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau said in Kuwait, where he is visiting as part of his worldwide trip to promote peace, that Israel should leave the territory it captured during the Six-Day War and allow the Palestinians there to elect their own leaders, even if it means the election of PLO chief Yasir Arafat.

"The Palestinian people should be given their rights and a homeland in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," Trudeau told reporters in Kuwait City. "Consequently, we ask that Israel withdraw and its settlement policy be stopped and reversed." He added that the Palestinian people "should be at the center of any settlement to the Israel-Arab wars."

Meanwhile, a staff member of the Canadian Television Network (CTV) covering Trudeau's tour of the Persian Gulf countries, was recalled to Canada for biased reporting from Abu Dhabi.

Correspondent Brian Nelson accepted an invitation to co-anchor a newscast on Abu Dhabi television, but was given little time to go over his script which contained references to Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir as "that terrorist Shamir" and calling Israel "the Zionist entity." The characterization of Shamir was evidently a reference to his activity as a member of the pre-State Stern group.

EUROPEAN HIGH COURT TO BE ASKED TO RULE ON LEGALITY OF BRITAIN'S REFUSAL TO SELL OIL TO ISRAEL

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- The European Court of Justice will be asked to pronounce on the legality of Britain's refusal to sell oil to Israel.

This was decided in the English High Court Friday despite opposition by the British government. Lawyers expect the case to come to the European Economic Community's tribunal in the latter part of next year, barring a successful last minute appeal by the British government's attorney general.

The case stems from a dispute between two oil companies following a refusal to load an Israel-bound cargo at the British North Sea oil terminal in the Shetland Islands.

A Swiss subsidiary of the Bulk Oil Co. had purchased the oil on behalf of the Israeli Delek Co. from the American owned Sun Oil, the world's 12th biggest oil concern.

The first shipment was barred in May, 1981 by British Petroleum, which had produced the oil in the North Sea and which operates the giant Sullom Voe terminal on the Shetlands.

Claims And Counter-Claims

It was stopped under a four-year-old government ruling that British North Sea oil can only be sold to members of the International Energy Agency, the European Economic Community and other countries with whom there was already a pattern of supply. This included Finland but excluded Israel.

Sun Oil has been claiming damages for loss of profits from Bulk Oil, whose Swiss subsidiary has in the past been the main non-Israeli procurer of oil for Israel. Bulk argues that the British ban on oil for Israel breaches the 1975 Free Trade Area pact between Israel and the EEC.

Had the deal gone ahead it would have involved the delivery of 13 cargoes of North Sea crude oil over an 18 month period worth about \$200 million.

The British government's oil export guidelines were issued during a world wide oil shortage which briefly followed the revolution in Iran. Prior to that, Israel had discreetly obtained about half her oil from Iran and was apparently hoping that Britain would help to replace it.

Denies Discrimination Against Israel

The government denies that Israel was being discriminated against, pointing out that many other countries are not on her list of approved oil customers, and that since Britain sells Israel coal she cannot be accused of kow-towing to the Arab boycott.

Israelis, however, reply that the oil ban hits them harder than other countries, since they are barred from most of the world's markets. Recently, Norway agreed for the first time to sell North Sea oil to Israel. However, British officials have said they will not change their policy whatever the Norwegians do.

The First Time In Many Years: SOVIET ENVOY MEETS WITH JEWISH LEADERS TO DISCUSS JEWISH ISSUES

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- A delegation of Mexican Jewish leaders was received by Soviet Ambassador, Rotislav Sergeiev and First Secretary Yuri Mishin for wide-ranging discussions in a two-hour meeting.

The meeting has caused a sensation in Jewish circles throughout Latin America since this is the first time in many years that a Soviet Ambassador had agreed to receive a Jewish delegation and discuss Jewish matters, according to a member of the delegation, Chaim Lazdeiski, editor of the Yiddish publication, "Der Veg," and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's correspondent here.

The delegation of the Comité Central Israelita de Mexico, the representative body of Mexican Jewry and the World Jewish Congress affiliate, protested against discrimination suffered by Soviet Jews, particularly the treatment of activist and Hebrew teacher Iosif Begun who was recently sentenced to 12 years in prison and internal exile.

The delegation, headed by Enrique Beraha, vice president of the Comité, handed Sergeiev a letter of protest addressed to Soviet leader Yuri Andropov which the Soviet envoy promised to forward on his government in Moscow.

Elements In the Letter

The letter "strongly protests the unjust detention" by Soviet authorities of Begun. The handling of his case is described as a violation of domestic Soviet law and international commitments of the Soviet Union including the Helsinki accords and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Similarly, the letter decries the "odious treatment of the Jewish minority living in the Soviet Union" and emphasizes its lack of free emigration and transit and the hardships engendered in preventing the reunification of families in other nations. The letter was signed on behalf of the Comité by its president, Bernardo Weizner, Beraha and Secretary-General David Shamosh.

According to Lazdeiski, Sergeiev told the group that there was no anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and stressed the point by referring to names of Jewish members in the Politburo. In accepting the letter, Sergeiev said he was ready to meet with Jewish leaders at any time when they felt the need to discuss Soviet Jewish problems. He added that Jewish leadership should not put stock in the hate propaganda of "Yankee imperialism," Lazdeiski reported.

SETTLERS STILL OCCUPYING NABLUS SITE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 5 (JTA) -- Militant Jewish settlers are continuing their occupation of Joseph's Tomb in Nablus, a site they took over last Thursday to protest the axe attack on a Jewish settler in the Nablus marketplace last Monday morning.

The settlers agreed, however, to restrict their presence to the daylight hours in conformity with army regulations. At night they gather at Bracha, a settlement near Nablus which is the home of the attack victim, Yosef Stem. The settlers said they were dissatisfied with the response they got from Defense Minister Moshe Arens at a meeting in Tel Aviv Friday over the deteriorating security situation in the West Bank.

Arens, who learned of the situation when he returned from Washington Thursday, said the occupation of the tomb site in Nablus was "illegal" but no action was taken to remove the settlers. The military government rejected their request for permission to stage a demonstration in Nablus, the largest Arab city in the territory.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Only 56 Jews were permitted to leave the Soviet Union last month, the lowest figure in nearly 20 years.