

EGYPTIAN HIGH OFFICIAL'S VISIT TO ISRAEL IS DEEMED AS SIGNIFICANT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- Israeli officials had little of substance to report after a day of talks here with a senior Egyptian diplomat.

But they said that the visit of Shafi Abdel-Hamid, an Assistant Secretary of State at the Foreign Ministry in Cairo, was significant in itself since no official of this rank had visited Israel in a year and a half.

Abdel-Hamid told reporters that "the dialogue will continue in order to achieve common goals." The talks were continuing tonight over dinner in Tel Aviv. Abdel-Hamid is due to fly home tomorrow.

His visit reciprocates a trip to Cairo last month by Foreign Ministry Director-General David Kimche and Legal Adviser Elyakim Rubinstein at which the political dialogue between the two countries, frozen for months, was resumed.

Deeply Troubled Over The Cold Peace

But Israel is still deeply troubled over the cold peace, as Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali has termed it. Premier Yitzhak Shamir expressed Shamir's concerns to Abdel-Hamid today, arguing that warm relations between Israel and Egypt would be the best way to attract other Arab parties to join the peace process.

Abdel-Hamid contended that the meeting in Cairo last week between President Hosni Mubarak and PLO leader Yasir Arafat was designed to bring about an expansion of the peace process to include other parties. He did not specifically mention the PLO.

But Shamir asserted firmly and repeatedly that Israel could not and would not negotiate with the PLO. He urged Egypt to agree to a prompt resumption of the long-moribund autonomy talks.

Abdel-Hamid, for his part recited his government's unswerving commitment to the Camp David accords and the peace process, but he evinced little interest in Shamir's proposal that the autonomy talks start up again.

Shamir said peace without normal relations was "not complete peace" and pointed out that the absence of the Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv for more than a year was "not normal."

Israeli sources were "not acrimonious" but it was clear that "this was not a negotiating forum... at which outstanding issues would be resolved," they said.

U.S. SEES EGYPTIAN'S VISIT TO ISRAEL AS A STEP TOWARD 'DIRECT DIALOGUE'

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- The United States today welcomed the visit to Israel by Shafi Abdel-Hamid, an Assistant Secretary of State at the Foreign Ministry in Cairo, as a step toward the "direct dialogue" the U.S. has been urging between the two countries.

"We have long urged that there be a good dialogue between Israel and Egypt," State Department spokesman Alan Romberg said. He noted that the United States has said that improved bilateral relations between Egypt and Israel would come about if the two countries discussed their differences.

Abdel-Hamid is the first high-ranking Egyptian to visit Israel since Israel's invasion of Lebanon in June 1982.

SHAMIR BRACING FOR A STORM WITHIN HIS COALITION OVER PROPOSED MASSIVE BUDGET CUTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir is bracing for a storm within his coalition when the Cabinet convenes in special session tomorrow to consider massive budget cuts proposed by Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad to rescue the country from its present economic travails.

Shamir hopes to line up the Herut ministers behind an economic program that contains many painful and politically unpopular elements and thereby cajole or force his coalition partners into accepting it. He and Cohen-Orgad were engaged in intensive consultations today with other ministers and faction leaders, some of whom have already announced their opposition to proposed cuts.

Cohen-Orgad met this morning with Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, one of the more vocal critics of government economic policies. According to unconfirmed reports, Moda'i indicated that he would pose no problem at tomorrow's Cabinet meeting. But as a leader of Likud's Liberal Party wing, he must contend with his faction's intense dislike of proposed tax increases. The Liberal Party Executive is scheduled to meet tonight to discuss the new economic measures.

Opposition Within Herut

Cohen-Orgad, who stresses that he has Shamir's total support, still faces opposition within Herut. Deputy Premier David Levy who is also Minister of Housing and Construction, is fearful that a proposed freeze of development programs will cause unemployment, particularly in the construction and allied trades. He has indicated that he will not accept an economic program which carries with it government-induced unemployment.

Minister of Commerce and Industry Gideon Patt complained today that he was not consulted about proposed cuts in development programs. He indicated he was not at all enthusiastic over the new program.

Cohen-Orgad has no personal power base within Herut and must depend on Shamir's influence to sway colleagues such as Levy. Both men face difficulties with the smaller coalition factions.

Tami opposes any cuts in social services. The National Religious Party which holds the Education portfolio has made it clear that it will not accept the abolition of free high school education, instituted six years ago. Tehiya announced it would quit the coalition if the government imposed a freeze on new settlements in the occupied territories.

Tomorrow's Cabinet session will be held against the background of spreading labor unrest. There has been a wave of strikes and work slowdowns among government employees during the past week, protesting the erosion of wages by triple-digit inflation. The civil service unions announced additional sanctions today.

2 ISRAELI ARABS SENTENCED TO DEATH

TEL AVIV, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- Two Israeli Arabs were

sentenced to death by a military court today for the murder of an Israeli soldier who hitched a ride with them in January, 1980.

Both men, aged 29, are from Ara village, east of Netanya. They had joined El Fatah, the terrorist arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization and confessed to murdering the soldier on orders from El Fatah. One of the men shot their victim in the back of the neck while the other was driving.

The death penalty has rarely been imposed in Israel and was carried out only once, in the case of Adolf Eichmann. In all other cases, death penalties pronounced for capital crimes have been commuted to life imprisonment.

A LEADING U.S. MILITARY EXPERT EXPECTS THE U.S. AND ISRAEL TO EXPAND THEIR MILITARY COOPERATION

NEW YORK, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- A leading American military authority expects expanded strategic military cooperation between the United States and Israel to benefit both countries.

Returning from a mission of 13 retired American generals and admirals to Israel, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Harry Kinnard, former commander of the U.S. Army Development Command, said that the Jewish State would contribute combat expertise and experience and the U.S. its global view.

He pointed out that although "the Israelis are very, very good at some things ... we've had worldwide experience and I think we can still teach the Israelis a great deal."

Lt. Gen. (Ret.) William Nelson, former commander of the 12th Air Force, said that he welcomed the joint training of American and Israeli combat pilots.

In similar vein, retired Admiral Maurice "Mickey" Weisner, former U.S. Navy commander in chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, said that "there's been a substantial exchange of information on tactics and procedures, how we go about the various parts of warfare."

Different Naval Missions Noted

Weisner contrasted the different naval missions of the fleets of each nation, observing "Israel has hundreds of kilometers of coastline to protect and must protect its commerce as well, while the U.S. Navy has a world role and different goals." He added, however, that "they can cooperate and exchange information."

Emphasizing that the extent and means of increased strategic cooperation remain to be worked out, the American officers anticipated that a great deal of progress in this area will be made at a joint U.S.-Israeli military political meeting scheduled to assemble in Washington, in January.

In a press conference in Tel Aviv following a visit to the Rambam Hospital in Haifa, Israel's noted burn and trauma center for combat wounds, the American military men said they were convinced that the hospital was capable of caring for burn casualties resulting from the October bombing of the marine headquarters in Beirut and did not know why the victims were not flown there for treatment.

Members of the group said that they plan to share what they had learned with American political and military leaders and that they expect to lecture about their findings and impressions at schools, churches and fraternal groups.

JEWISH AND NON-JEWISH GROUPS IN THE U.S. CONCERNED ABOUT THE DROUGHT IN AFRICA JOIN FORCES
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- The American Association for Ethiopian Jews (AAEJ) has joined with more than 20 other private voluntary and public interest organizations concerned about the drought in Africa in a newly-formed Ad Hoc Group on the Africa Food Emergency.

At a recent Capitol Hill press conference, Rep. William Gray (D. Pa.) noted while "the United States has historically provided nearly 50 percent of all emergency food aid to Africa" this year its assistance is "less than 25 percent of immediate African needs."

Rep. Thomas Daschle (D. SD) urged that \$130 million which has already been appropriated by Congress under the Title II Food for Peace program "be utilized now" to meet the need in Africa.

Nathan Shapiro, the AAEJ's president, said in a statement from the group's headquarters in Highland Park, Illinois, that "now, more than ever, as conditions in Africa continue to worsen due to meager harvests and depleted food stocks, the United States government must increase its rate and level of response to pleas from international relief agencies for food, medical and transportation supplies."

An October, 1983 report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization warned that 120 million people in 22 African countries will need 3.2 million tons in food aid next year, to replenish the food shortage caused by the widespread drought. In Ethiopia, three million people, among them many Falashas, are endangered by starvation and as many as 100 children die every day from hunger-related diseases.

RUSSIAN DEFENDER OF JEWS THREATENED

NEW YORK, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- The running battle between a Leningrad non-Jewish Russian academic who renounced his degree to protest official anti-Semitism and the authorities has escalated with a barrage of articles, a joint letter and a telephoned KGB threat, according to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.

Dr. Ivan Martinov had announced recently he was giving up his Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences degree (equal to a PhD) because a Candidate status was still held by Lev Komeyev of Moscow, a notorious and prolific anti-Semitic writer, and Jewish exit applicants were harassed. Soon thereafter, he and refusenik Yakov Gorodetsky, who helped him collate data on anti-Semitism, were told by the authorities to apply to emigrate. The pair told friends they smelled a trap.

The Leningrad paper, *Smena*, published an article denying that anti-Semitism was printed in the Soviet press, asserting this was all anti-Soviet propaganda by foreign "Zionists". Other press articles attacked refuseniks and claimed that those who sought to leave had no jobs or no work in their professions.

According to the SSSJ, the KGB phoned Martinov and told him that the *Smena* article was the authorities' answer to him and Gorodetsky. Martinov was also told that there had been some thought of giving the pair exit visas, but to do so now would make them into heroes. Not only were they refused permission to exit but were warned that they could be imprisoned, the SSSJ reported.

Martinov responded with a hunger strike and an open letter to the Soviet press co-signed by 43 Jewish supporters. Having been confined to a mental institution four years earlier for speaking out on other matters, the SSSJ said that Martinov knows the threats of punishment for discussing Jewish rights are real, indeed.

CANADIAN JEWS APPOINTED TO LEADING BODIES, RECEIVE ORDER OF CANADA

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- The Canadian Senate has a new Jewish member, Leo Kolber, 54, a Montreal businessman. His appointment brings the total number of Jewish Senators to seven, the largest number ever in that body. Senators are appointed by the government in power. Kolber is closely associated with the Bronfman family real estate, investment and mercantile interests.

In other appointments, Maureen Forrester, the internationally famed opera singer, was named chairman of the Canada Council, a government-sponsored agency which encourages and funds artistic, literary and creative musical endeavors. Forrester, 53, converted to Judaism after she married violinist Eugene Kash.

Among those announced as recipients of the Order of Canada, the country's highest distinction, are: Dr. Victor Goldbloom of Toronto and Montreal, a former Cabinet minister in the government of Quebec and now president of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews; Naomi Bronstein of Ottawa, founder of Heal the Children, a child rescue agency; and Albert Cohen of Winnipeg, an importer who is active in civic affairs.

BROWN U. MAY BE FIRST IVY LEAGUE COLLEGE TO HAVE TWO JEWISH COACHES

By Haskell Cohen

PROVIDENCE, R.I., Dec. 29 (JTA) -- Brown University, one of the leading Ivy League institutions in the country, has become one of the first, if not the first, colleges to have its two top featured sports, basketball and football, headed by Jews. Brown University has announced the appointment of John Rosenberg as head football coach. The university's basketball team is headed by Mike Cingiser.

Rosenberg has a long and varied career as a mentor on the gridiron. Prior to coming to Brown, he was with the Philadelphia Stars of the U.S. Football League for whom he served, last year, as defensive back field coordinator. Previously, he was an assistant coach for one year at Harvard University and for two years at the University of Pittsburgh.

Rosenberg also served two terms as an assistant at Pennsylvania State College and then went to Villanova in Philadelphia for two gridiron seasons. He subsequently returned to Penn State and remained there from 1974 to 1982, after which he joined the Philadelphia Stars.

Cingiser is in his second year at Brown. Prior to that he coached for 10 years at Lynbrook High School in Long Island. A graduate of Brown University, Cingiser was a member of the U.S. Maccabiah team which won the international championship in the 1965 Games in Israel.

AN AMERICAN AND DUTCH SCIENTISTS ARE TO SHARE WOLF FOUNDATION PRIZE IN AGRICULTURE FOR 1983-84

By Hugh Orge!

TEL AVIV, Dec. 29 (JTA) --An American and a

Dutch scientist are to share the \$100,000 Wolf Foundation Prize in Agriculture for 1983/84, the Israeli-based foundation has announced here.

The Wolf Prize, said to be the largest international prize in the field of agriculture (in other fields Wolf Prizes are frequently followed by Nobel Prizes to the Wolf recipients), is being awarded to the two scientists for separate work which resulted in "innovative contributions to the quantitative understanding of soil-water and other environmental interactions influencing crop growth and yield."

The two winners are Prof. Don Kirkham, of the Iowa State University in the U.S., and Prof. Cornelis T. De Wit, of the Agricultural University, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Kirkham, 75, is being honored for his pioneering mathematical and physical analyses of the movement of water in soil.

De Wit, 59, has been cited for introducing a powerful new approach to agricultural research in his innovative application of computer simulation models in the study of the new environmental determination of crop production.

The Wolf Prizes in mathematics, agriculture, physics, chemistry medicine and arts (this year also for architecture) will be presented by President Chaim Herzog at a ceremony in Jerusalem next May.

JNF PLANNING PARK IN MAALE EDUMIM

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund is planning a park in the West Bank town of Maale Edumim, a rapidly expanding dormitory suburb east of Jerusalem, just off the Jerusalem-Jericho road.

The park, spread across 50 dunams, will occupy a valley between the two sections of the town which are built on hills. The JNF has poured 60,000 cubic meters of earth to raise the floor of the valley by some 10 meters. The park will have two artificial lakes and an amphitheater for open-air performances.

It will be served by a small electric railway that will provide free transportation for residents. The park site is semi-desert terrain. The JNF is selecting trees and plants suitable to the climatic conditions.

HEBREW U. SCIENTISTS DEVELOPE NEW REMEDY FOR HERPES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- Hebrew University scientists have developed a new preparation for treatment of the type of herpes that infects the mouth and nasal regions. It contains natural ingredients already approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

The anti-viral agent, IDU, incorporated in the new preparation was found to be more effective than other preparations currently in use for the treatment of cold sores. It permits better contact with the skin and mucous membranes, has a cooling, soothing effect and a pleasant taste.

Prof. Ruth Segal, who helped develop the new medication, believes it may prove effective in the treatment of genital herpes. The Yissum Research Development Co. of the Hebrew University is seeking financial support for further research.

BONN (JTA) -- The 1,034 political prisoners whose freedom from East Germany was bought by the Federal Republic this year include several Jews, it was learned here. According to activists of the International Society of Human Rights, the Jews were involved in an independent peace movement and were not detained because of their religious or ethnic origin.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

AUSTRALIA AND THE MIDEAST IN 1983

By Bill Rubinstein

MELBOURNE, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- A number of domestic political events developed in 1983 which will have an important effect on Australia's role in the Middle East, including its traditionally good relations with Israel.

Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister since 1975 at the head of the Liberal-National Party (conservative) Coalition, was defeated in the March 3 elections by the standard bearer of the Australian Labor Party (ALP), Bob Hawke, a moderate, former head of the country's trade union organization and Australia's most charismatic politician.

Fraser had been one of Israel's staunchest friends and allies during his years as Prime Minister. One of his more recent actions was to commit Australian troops to the Sinai peace-keeping force in 1981 in the face of an initially hostile public opinion.

Under Fraser, Australia often was part of the small pro-Israel minority in the United Nations and other international bodies. His government also pursued a steady pro-American foreign policy. In 1982 he received a humanitarian award from the B'nai B'rith.

New P.M. Is A Staunch Zionist

Hawke is even more friendly toward Israel and to the Jewish people and is widely known in Australia as a staunch Zionist. He is personally extremely close to Israel Labor Party leaders, has what is often termed an "emotional commitment" to Israel, and has attempted to negotiate with the Soviet Union for the release of Soviet Jews. In 1979 he visited Moscow on a widely publicized but unsuccessful mission to help alleviate the plight of the refuseniks. He subsequently participated in a world conference on Soviet Jewry in Rome.

The ALP contains a clear majority of moderates in the Parliament who are fairly sympathetic to Israel (although critical of former Premier Menachem Begin's policies), but the party also contains an extreme leftwing minority whose virulent hatred of Israel is often astonishing in so remote a country as Australia.

This faction of the ALP is especially strong in Victoria (whose capital is Melbourne) and is led by Bill Hartley who is widely known as "Baghdad Bill" because of his links to Iraq. This faction is equally vehemently anti-American and dislikes Hawke, who is perceived as a rightwinger in the context of the ALP. Although this so called "Socialist Left" faction is weak on the national Parliamentary level, it consistently sided with Fraser. The ALP also passed a resolution harshly critical of Israel's invasion of Lebanon and which called for a Palestinian state in the West Bank. The resolution also called for the withdrawal of Australia's Sinai force.

Bill Hayden, who is the Foreign Minister in the Hawke government is pro-Arab (although not anti-Israel in any real sense) and met PLO chief Yasir Arafat in Beirut in 1980.

Disturbing Changes In Mideast Policies

Preoccupied with such nearby areas as southeast Asia, the new government initially said very little about the Middle East. Last September, however, the government announced a series of minor but disturbing changes in its Mideast policies, including

the opening of an Arab League office in Australia and allowing Australian Ambassadors to have official meetings with PLO representatives.

Shortly before that, Australia abstained on a resolution on racism during a session of the UN in Geneva. This resolution included a harsh anti-Israel statement. Previous governments and most Western nations voted against this resolution.

Hawke Offers Key Concessions

These changes occasioned a hastily summoned meeting between Jewish leaders and Hawke who was surprised by the vehemence of the Jewish response to these changes. The Jewish delegation, headed by Isi Leibler, leader of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, won a number of key concessions from Hawke, including a promise that Australia would not change its voting pattern in the UN regarding Israel's interests and a commitment that the Arab League office in Australia could not engage in boycott activities or include PLO members.

These concessions received considerable press coverage. A number of other government policy changes, among them a reduction of funding to private schools, including Jewish schools, have evoked concern.

There is no doubt that Hawke is staunchly pro-Israel. Hayden, who is scheduled to visit Israel and the Mideast in January, is less pro-Israel, but even he is now believed to favor keeping Australian troops in the Sinai. Australia's slight tilt away from the pro-Israel stance of the Fraser government can be expected to continue, although this country's Jewish leaders have sensitized the Hawke government to its concerns.

FIRE DAMAGES JEWISH-OWNED CAFE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- Jewish organizations in France are differing over who might have been responsible for a fire which caused extensive damage to a Jewish-owned cafe in a Paris suburb last Sunday night and the motives behind the arson.

One group, the Union of Suburban Jewish Communities, is claiming that the arson was the work of anti-Semitic elements. But another organization, Jewish Revival, is cautioning against drawing conclusions before police end their investigation.

Police investigators said the fire was started by criminal elements but refused to ascribe a possible motive. The cafe owner, Joseph Attia, is the vice president of the Pavillon-Sous-Bois Jewish community. The area is rife with criminal elements and police say that racketeers are known to be active in most Paris suburbs.

The fire broke out when the cafe was closed and the Attia family, which resides in the same building, was not at home. Police investigators said they found empty gasoline cans on the site and nearby a daubing of a swastika and an anti-Semitic slogan.

Police, acting on the orders of Interior Minister Gaston Defferre, have preventively reinforced their patrols in suburbs with large Jewish populations and have stationed radio cars near most local synagogues and communal centers.

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CORRECTION: A story on the Jewish Agency's 1984-85 budget referred, incorrectly to an \$8 million budget for Project Renewal. The correct figure is \$48 million.