

KOHL SAYS SAUDI ARMS DEAL WILL PROCEED DESPITE ISRAELI OBJECTIONS

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl was on his way back to Bonn tonight after ending a five-day official visit to Israel without a joint statement by the two countries or a farewell ceremony at the airport where he was seen off by Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Defense Minister Moshe Arens and other officials.

Kohl, and Deputy Foreign Minister Alois Mertes, who accompanied him on his visit to Israel, both stated in separate interviews with West German television in Jerusalem Friday that the arms deal with Saudi Arabia will proceed regardless of Israeli objections. Bonn's plans to sell sophisticated weapons to the Saudis was the main point of contention between Kohl and Shamir during the Chancellor's stay in Israel.

Kohl, after reviewing the Israeli position, said "We have heard their arguments, but decisions on that matter are taken in Bonn, not in Jerusalem." Mertes told the interviewer, "Whatever happens, I want to make perfectly clear one can rely on our word." He was alluding to speculation that Bonn might drop its arms sales commitment to the Saudis. Both he and Kohl had stressed to the Israelis that a promise once made could not be withdrawn. (Separate Story, P.3.)

Meanwhile, editorial opinion here was critical of Kohl's conduct in Israel. According to Die Welt, his "unembarrassed manner" and "unselfconsciousness" went too far. The Munich-based neo-Nazi National Zeitung criticized the Chancellor for alleged failure to oppose Israeli attempts to use the past for "political blackmail."

ISRAEL TREADING GINGERLY ON U.S. REVIVAL OF PLAN TO ARM JORDAN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Israel appears to be treating with circumspection the Reagan Administration's revival of its plan to supply Jordan with \$220 million in military equipment for a projected 8,000-man Jordanian force to be used in emergencies in the Persian Gulf states — ostensibly in coordination with the American Rapid Deployment Force.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir told today's Cabinet session that Israel is in contact with the U.S. on this matter. It had vigorously opposed any U.S. arms to Jordan for any purpose when the plan was initiated in Washington last year, only to be blocked by Congress. But Israel apparently is aware that the U.S. is determined to go through with the project and now seeks only a Jordanian commitment that the force will not be used against Israel.

Reports last Friday said the Administration would submit the \$220 million request to Congress this week, probably on Wednesday. It would be part of a Defense Department supplemental request for the 1984 budget. The project is known as Joint Logistical Planning between Jordan and the United States.

Reportedly the U.S. would not only equip the 8,000-man Jordanian force but would transport it by air to any trouble-spot within a 1,500 mile radius of Jordan — most likely the Persian Gulf.

But in an interview in Amman yesterday, King Hussein seemed to reject the idea that Jordan would agree to be part of a strike unit outside its own borders, although he said it needs and wants U.S. weaponry.

Addressing 75 foreign journalists, Hussein stressed that no Jordan strike force exists or is contemplated. He said Jordan would help other Arab countries if requested, not at the behest of the U.S., but as a member of the Arab world, and would do so with or without U.S. aid.

He also stressed Jordan's need of modern weaponry for its own defense. "Should Israel attack us then, obviously we would use everything we have to defend ourselves. But our hope is that the whole situation can be saved before it reaches a point of no return," he said. His remark implied that Jordan would use American supplied weapons if attacked by Israel.

The Reagan Administration is expected to notify Congress this week of its intention to sell Jordan \$40 million worth of Stinger hand-held antiaircraft missiles for defense purposes. They would be separate from the strike force equipment, though the latter would include additional Stinger missiles.

Shamir's disclosure that Israel was talking to the U.S. about the Jordan strike force drew criticism from Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai who complained that such a sensitive policy decision was not first brought before the Cabinet.

Shamir Satisfied With U.S. Talks

Shamir also expressed great satisfaction with the progress so far made in strategic cooperation talks with the U.S. which began in Washington last week. The talks were agreed to when Shamir visited Washington last November and worked out arrangements for joint U.S.-Israel military and economic cooperation. The Premier was especially optimistic over the prospects of a free trade zone with the U.S.

Sources here and abroad saw in the absence of negative reaction by Israel to the projected Jordanian strike force signs that Washington had made clear that, in exchange for strategic cooperation it expects Israel to be more "understanding" of American efforts to help friendly Arab states.

BEN-PORAT RESIGNS FROM GOVERNMENT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Mordechai Ben-Porat announced today that he has resigned from Premier Yitzhak Shamir's Cabinet because of serious doubts that the Shamir government is capable of functioning properly.

Ben-Porat, a Minister-Without-Portfolio, said he would remain in the Likud-led coalition as a one-man Knesset faction and continue to work for creation of a national unity government. Failing that, he said, he would strongly support early elections.

Ben-Porat's departure from the Cabinet has contributed to growing doubts that the Shamir government can long survive, despite its defeat of three opposition non-confidence motions on the economy in the Knesset last week. In his letter of resignation, he referred to personal and party conflicts of interests within the Shamir coalition. "My hopes that the government would function

properly have been disappointed," he told the Premier. Ben-Porat and former Finance Minister Yigael Hurwitz were members of the Telem faction of the late Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. After Dayan's death, Telem was dissolved but its two surviving MKs remained part of the coalition Knesset faction.

Meanwhile, the Labor Alignment, having failed repeatedly to depose Likud on non-confidence motions, intends to present a bill in the Knesset next month calling for new elections. Ben-Porat could be decisive in the vote on such a motion. Shamir warned today, however, that elections at this time would damage the country. He said the government must do everything possible to serve out its full term, which expires in 1985 and not worry about opinion polls.

GOVERNMENT, OPPOSITION LEADERS CONDEMN ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP ISLAMIC SHRINES ON TEMPLE MOUNT By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Government and opposition leaders joined today in forcefully condemning an attempt to blow up Islamic shrines on the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem, attributed to Jewish zealots.

The attempt was foiled by Israeli security forces who, after being summoned to the area by Moslem guards Friday, discovered 18 Israel army issue grenades and more than five kilograms of high explosives in and near the plaza which is the site of the El Aksa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, two of the holiest shrines of Islam. The Israeli forces were alerted after the guards who patrol the holy places noticed two intruders using ropes and ladders to hoist boxes over the eastern wall of the compound.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg denounced the attempt as a contravention of "the basic principles of the State." Justice Minister Moshe Nissim issued a similar statement. The Mufti of Jerusalem, Sa'ad A-Din Al-Alami, sent a telegram to Premier Yitzhak Shamir yesterday protesting the attempted attack.

He urged that the authorities make every effort to find the perpetrators and bring them to justice. Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem visited the Mufti today and assured him that the majority of Jews in Israel and the administered territories deplored such acts.

Large-Scale Attack Indicated

Police said the quantity of explosives and grenades indicated that a "large-scale" attack was planned on Friday, the Moslem sabbath, when the Temple Mount would be crowded with worshippers. The attack would also have coincided with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit to Jerusalem.

Discovery of the explosives on the Temple Mount follows a series of incidents in recent months in which grenades or explosives detonated or were found in or near Moslem and Christian religious sites in Jerusalem and on the West Bank. In most of these cases, anonymous telephone callers claimed that a group calling itself "terror against terror" was responsible. No arrests have been made so far. Two yeshiva students associated with Rabbi Meir Kahane were detained by police last night but later released.

Meanwhile, the police have strengthened security in the Temple Mount area and are reportedly seeking more efficient warning systems against intruders.

CHILE URGED TO APPREHEND FORMER NAZI OFFICIAL SOUGHT BY ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has called upon

President Augusto Pinochet of Chile to immediately take into custody Walter Rauff, a former Nazi official sought by Israel for crimes against humanity, "in order to make certain that he does not evade being brought to judgement once again."

At the same time, the leader of Reform Judaism in this country, has urged Pope John Paul II to instruct the Apostolic Delegate to Chile to support Israel's request for extradition of the accused Nazi mass murderer.

In a telegram to Pinochet, Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director and head of its international affairs division, supported Israel's request for extradition under the genocide treaty of the United Nations. Foxman said that "justice to some 250,000 Jews murdered by Rauff's diabolic invention of movable gas vans" demands that Chile declare him "persona non grata."

Says Chile Can Benefit From Bolivia's Example

In a separate statement, Foxman noted that in 1962, Chile had denied a request for Rauff's extradition from West Germany on grounds that a 15-year statute of limitations had elapsed. Declaring that it is important that such technical considerations not be permitted to obstruct justice for this war criminal, Foxman said that Chile can benefit from the example of Bolivia which acceded last year to a French government request for custody of another Nazi war criminal, Klaus Barbie.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said in a cable to the Vatican that Rauff "was and is sought as a war criminal. He reportedly told in 1962 of having been given refuge in Vatican City convents for 18 months after World War II before escaping to Chile."

Rauff has been accused of heading the German team responsible for the preparation, building and equipping of mobile units used to put Jews to death in the period before the Nazi concentration camps of Eastern Europe. The role of the Vatican in aiding war criminals escape from Europe was first documented in a three-part series by Charles Allen, Jr., in the February 16, 17 and 18, 1983 issues of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Daily News Bulletin.

LEGISLATORS ASKED TO SUPPORT CONTINUED U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz and Richard Murphy, the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, last week met with Congressional members in an effort to seek continued support for United States involvement in Lebanon amid growing criticism in Capitol Hill of Administration policy in Lebanon.

Shultz briefed a closed session of the House of Representatives last Thursday. Earlier, Murphy appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee's subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East and reiterated the Administration's view that "the events in (Lebanon) are inextricably related to broader American interests in the Middle East."

He noted as one of the "positive factors" in the Middle East situation is "our close relations with Israel and our ironclad commitment to its security and well being, as is Israel's support for strengthening the government of Lebanon. Israel's confidence in our commitment to its security is essential to progress toward peace."

In a prepared statement to the House subcommittee last Thursday, Murphy focused primarily on the Lebanese situation but in addition, called on Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat to seek a negotiated settlement to the Palestinian problem. "We hope that Arafat will now understand that the only way to tangible gains for Palestinians is through direct negotiations between Jordan and Israel and that violent struggle is doomed as a way to achieve Palestinian goals," Murphy said.

The State Department official said continued turmoil in Lebanon "heightens the danger of further warfare" between Israel and Syria. "Because of the major Soviet presence in Syria, such hostilities could lead to wider international conflict as well. He accused 'outside forces' of having 'exacerbated' Lebanon's internal strife.

"Indeed, Lebanon has become a stage for the larger struggle in the Middle East between those who want peace through accommodation and those who practice confrontation, violence and terrorism," Murphy stated. "Almost all the major players in the region are involved in Lebanon, demonstrating that the struggle there has wider ramifications. If extremist forces prevail in Lebanon, the prospects for peace elsewhere in the region will suffer greatly."

A Test Of U.S. Leadership

Murphy contended that continued U.S. involvement in the multi-national force in Lebanon is viewed by both "friends and adversaries" as "a test of our ability to exercise leadership towards a wider peace in the Middle East." He indicated U.S. support for the May 17 Israel-Lebanon security and troop withdrawal agreement, saying, "if Lebanon is penalized" for this agreement, it "would have ominous implications for peace elsewhere in the region."

But Murphy said the Syrian government of President Hafez Assad "remains an obstacle." He said Syria has refused to discuss the withdrawal of its occupation forces from Lebanon until the Lebanese government repudiates the May 17 accord with Israel. "Syria's acquiescence in terrorism against U.S. and other targets in Lebanon ... also casts doubts on its intentions," he said.

"We also have put Syria on notice that we are serious about a solution that both protects our mutual interests in Lebanon and Lebanon's sovereignty so that Lebanon can again play its unique role in the region," Murphy declared. He urged Congress not to curtail the original 18-month mandate for the marines to stay in Lebanon, saying the Administration "believes such actions would be a serious blow to our interests and diplomacy in Lebanon in the Middle East."

ISRAEL EMBARRASSED BY OFFICIAL'S STATEMENT OF 'PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE' AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA IF BONN SELL'S ARMS TO THAT COUNTRY
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA) — The Israeli government is embarrassed by the remarks of Mattityahu Shmuelevitz, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, to a leading West German daily that Israel might launch a "pre-emptive strike" against Saudi Arabia if Bonn goes ahead with its planned arms sales to that country.

Shmuelevitz's statements to the Jerusalem correspondent of Die Welt were widely publicized in West Germany during Chancellor Helmut Kohl's five-day visit to Israel which ended today. Shmuelevitz and the Government Press Office initially denied that any such state-

ment had been made. Later they acknowledged the statement but complained it had been taken out of context. Government spokesmen are trying to lessen its effects.

Efraim Lahav, the Die Welt correspondent, made available a transcript of the interview which he had taped. According to the transcript, he asked Shmuelevitz "could the supply of arms to Saudi Arabia or other Arab countries place Israel in a position where it could deal a preventive blow?" Shmuelevitz replied, "Yes, this would place us in such a situation. I'm saying this as a personal opinion."

According to the interview published in Die Welt, Shmuelevitz went on to remind Lahav that he had predicted Israel's pre-emptive strike against an Iraqi nuclear facility near Baghdad in 1981 which the Israelis claimed was producing atomic weapons.

Shmuelevitz, a top aide to Premier Yitzhak Shamir, also expressed grave misgivings over the projected arms sale and serious disappointment with Kohl's visit and certain remarks by the Chancellor. He was ranked by the West German leader's stress of Germany's support for Israel's right to exist. "We do not need this recognition and we ask no one to give it," Shmuelevitz told Die Welt according to the published interview.

He added: "But we deny the right of others to annihilate us. I want to add to this, on our part, we were extremely open to accept the other Germany—even among people like me who lost their whole families in the Holocaust. We wanted to accept Germany as a democratic country, as part of the free world. I cannot say that the visit of Chancellor Kohl contributed toward that end."

According to Die Welt, Shmuelevitz said France and England also should refrain from selling arms to the Arabs. But he noted that no one maintains there is another France or another England, as in the case of Germany.

U.S. URGING GERMANY TO ANNUL SALE OF BULLET-PROOF VESTS TO SYRIA
By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 29 (JTA) — The United States is reportedly applying pressure on West Germany to annul the planned sale of 30,000 bullet-proof vests to the Syrian army this year. Chancellor Helmut Kohl is expected to make a binding decision on the deal shortly. It was originally confirmed by the government but officials said later that it was against Bonn's policy to sell military material to Syria.

If the contract is cancelled, West Germany would have to pay a penalty running into several million dollars. A spokesman for the Fulda-based Mehlher Co., which manufactures the vests, told reporters here that the sale has been confirmed by the government and there is no backing out of it. He said it would go through.

But a spokesman for the Economics Ministry said the matter is still under consideration. He added that the government would keep its word to Parliament that no West Germany military equipment will go to Syria.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Local government services were paralyzed throughout the country Sunday by a strike of more than 70,000 employees of municipal and village councils. They are demanding salary increases, especially for their lower-paid colleagues whose incomes are far below the average salary.

ADL OFFICIAL SAYS CONTROVERSY OVER AJCONGRESS INSTITUTE MEETING IS 'UNWARRANTED AND OVERSTATED'

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Theodore Freedman, director of the national intergroup relations division of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said that the controversy over the conference sponsored by the American Jewish Congress at the University of Lucerne in cooperation with the Vatican Commission on Religious Relations with the Jews "is both unwarranted and overstated."

Freedman's statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was in response to the polemic in the Jewish world over the creation by the American Jewish Congress of an Institute for Jewish-Christian Relations to promote dialogue on theological issues. The Institute's first annual conference which took place in Lucerne earlier this month, on "The Authority and Interpretation of Scripture in Judaism and Christianity," was attended by scholars from all over the world.

The Institute, which is affiliated with the AJCongress, is co-sponsored by the Institute for Christian-Jewish Research of the Theological Faculty of Lucerne, a Roman Catholic institution, in cooperation with the Vatican Commission on Religious Relations with the Jews.

The Lucerne conference was criticized by the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC) which was set up nearly 20 years ago as the official representative organization of the manifold voices of World Jewry and recognized as such by the Vatican. IJCIC comprises representatives of the World Jewish Congress, Synagogue Council of America, American Jewish Committee, ADL, and the Israel Jewish Council for Interreligious Consultations.

The nub of the controversy is that IJCIC representatives claim that the AJCongress' new Institute is being used by the Vatican to circumvent IJCIC. Furthermore, representatives of Orthodox Jewry say they object to any form of theological dialogue. The AJCongress insists that the Institute operates solely on an academic level with no representational character and does not seek to usurp the role of IJCIC.

Statement By Freedman

Freedman, in his statement, said:

"The controversy which has been generated over the conference sponsored by the American Jewish Congress at the University of Lucerne in co-operation with the Vatican Commission on Religious Relations with the Jews is both unwarranted and overstated."

"While it is correct that IJCIC and the Vatican Commission view each other in a special relationship for discussions on matters of Jewish concern and that the consortium of organizations within IJCIC constitutes an important and significant segment of the Jewish world, there need not be exclusivity in that relationship either by IJCIC or the Vatican."

"The Anti-Defamation League which is a part of the consultative process within IJCIC at the same time reserves for itself and to other Jewish organizations the right to engage in interreligious dialogue with whatever party they choose, while at the same time being aware of and sensitive to the complexities of the ongoing discussions with world church bodies."

"On the question of the dialogue on theological issues, the Orthodox community through its membership to the Synagogue Council exercises considerable

influence over IJCIC decisions as to the topics within the dialogue with the Vatican. At the same time, it should be noted that topics other than social or political have been included in the agenda of previous IJCIC/Vatican consultations which could be viewed as theological, without polemics or medieval disputations, but rather as a mature and scholarly exchange of views."

Informed sources told the JTA that a letter is being sent to the Vatican Commission by IJCIC which will express sentiments of "dismay" and "concern" that the AJCongress' venture "may be misconstrued as an attempt to break the unity of the Jewish people."

Freedman, in his statement, said that to his knowledge "no such letter has been prepared as yet and the Anti-Defamation League will be signatory only after an appropriate review of its contents."

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION CANCELS ISRAELI ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- The Smithsonian Institution has cancelled an Israeli archaeological exhibition scheduled to open next May after the Israeli government asked to be released from the undertaking. The Israelis objected because the Smithsonian decided to exclude 11 items from the Rockefeller Museum in East Jerusalem on grounds that their ownership is in dispute.

The museum, which the Israeli government took over after the capture of East Jerusalem from Jordan in 1967, was established by the Rockefeller family in the 1920s and was privately owned until 1948 when it was nationalized by Jordan. Danny Kyram, a spokesman for the Israel Embassy here, said the Smithsonian was believed to have come under pressure from Arab and other sources which do not recognize Israel's sovereignty in East Jerusalem, but said he had no firsthand knowledge of such pressure.

Kennedy Schmertz, director of the Smithsonian's office of international activities, denied there was any pressure. He said the 11 items were excluded in order to preserve the Institution's neutrality in the ownership dispute. He did not describe the items but said they were not essential to the exhibit. Kyram insisted they were.

The exhibition was to have run from May 4-July 15 at the Smithsonian and then to have toured American cities until 1986. The tour also has been cancelled. The episode is the second of its kind involving a major American museum.

Two years ago, the Metropolitan Museum in New York cancelled an Israeli archaeological exhibit because it refused to display under Israeli aegis, items from the West Bank which is disputed territory. The Metropolitan also said at the time that the exhibit would have created security problems for the museum.

SWEDISH LAWMAKERS NOMINATE PEACE NOW FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Four members of the Swedish Parliament have informed the Jerusalem Post that they have nominated the Peace Now movement in Israel for this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

In a telegram to the Post they explained they "consider the Peace Now movement to be one of the most important elements in fostering a dialogue which could lead to peace between Israelis and Arabs ... a solution to the conflict between Israel and the Arabs may also contribute to a lessening of tensions between the superpowers."

Former Premier Menachem Begin shared the Nobel Peace Prize with the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat after conclusion of the Israel-Egypt peace treaty.