

SHAMIR WARNS THAT CANCELLATION OF MAY 17 ACCORD WILL MARK END OF LEBANON AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 1 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir warned today that abrogation of the May 17, 1983 Israel-Lebanon agreement by President Amin Gemayel would mark the end of Lebanon as an independent nation.

Such action, under Syrian pressure, would harm Lebanon more than it would hurt Israel, Shamir told reporters during a visit to the Israel Electric Corp. coal-fired power station at Hedera.

He conceded, however, that "it is not a positive development for Israel." Gemayel, who is in Damascus conferring with President Hafez Assad of Syria, is expected to abandon the May 17 accord, the price Syria demands for cooperation with his government.

Israel Will Arrange Own Security Needs

Shamir stressed that whatever happens, Israel will look after its security needs. "If this agreement is abrogated under Syrian pressure, under the terrible pressure of Syria, we would regret it and arrange our security needs as we understand them and as the situation obliges us to do," he said.

He said redeployment of the Israel Defense Force in south Lebanon was a "technical matter which will be discussed by our security men and the government." He added that IDF General Headquarters will soon start working out plans for future security in Lebanon.

Shamir said Israel is "interested in having friendly ties and friendly relations with all our neighbors, including Lebanon. But in this case it doesn't depend on us." He said any discussions would be held with Lebanon, not Syria and if the May 17 agreement is cancelled, Israel would be released from all of its commitments under that agreement.

Meanwhile, according to the Voice of Israel reporter in Cairo, former Egyptian Premier Mustapha Khalil said today that the cancellation of the accord would have no negative influence on the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. He told the reporter that the treaty has been ratified and that the Egyptians have never sought to abandon it. Khalil said Israel could not force the Lebanese to ratify an agreement while it was under occupation. The May 17 accord was signed but never ratified by the Lebanese Parliament.

U.S. INTENDS TO SELL SAUDIS \$141 MILLION ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILE SYSTEM

WASHINGTON, March 1 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration announced that it intends to sell a \$141 million anti-aircraft missile system to Saudi Arabia. The Pentagon informed Congress of plans to provide the Saudis with 400 "Stinger" ground-to-air shoulder launchers along with 1,200 missiles and spare parts.

Saudi Arabia will be the first Middle East country to possess the weapons system, manufactured by the General Dynamics Corp., which has already been provided to NATO. Israel manufactures a similar weapon of its own. According to the Pentagon, the

deal includes training and technical support. The law requires that Congress be informed of large-scale military sales abroad. Defense Department officials said they did not expect opposition.

ISRAEL SCORES MAJOR VICTORY IN ILO

GENEVA, March 1 (JTA) -- Israel scored a major victory here yesterday when two-thirds of the governing body of the International Labor Organization (ILO) voted, against strenuous Arab opposition, to admit Israel to the Asian Regional Conference and regional activities of that United Nations agency.

The issue arose two years ago when the ILO's Committee of Structure recommended that there should be four regions: the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa. The Arab states applied immediately for admission to the Asian group. Israel did not apply at that time because there was some feeling in Jerusalem that it should seek to be a member of the European group.

The matter became one of some urgency because the annual ILO conference next June is expected to adopt the Structure Committee's proposals, leaving Israel a member of no region. The Asian countries, under Arab pressure, opposed Israel's entry into the Asian Regional Conference on the grounds that it would "disturb the harmony existing between the Asian countries."

The Israeli delegate, Gideon Ben, observed that statements made about "Asian harmony" are cynical at best inasmuch as there is no harmony between Iran and Iraq or between Jordan and Syria, not to mention Vietnam and its neighbors.

The outcome was the admission of Israel to a sub-region of the Asian Regional Conference which includes Turkey and Iran.

AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT MEETS WITH U.S. JEWISH LEADERS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 1 (JTA) -- Dr. Rudolf Kirschlager, the President of Austria, said today that Austrians feel it is their "duty" to help the Jews of Austria to get rid of "the feeling of isolation" they might have as a result of the events during the Nazi era. He said that anti-Semitism in Austria had its roots in the 19th century, but, he added, that Austrians today have feelings of "responsibility" for the events during the Holocaust.

Kirschlager made these remarks at a meeting with about 20 Jewish leaders and heads of Jewish organizations. The meeting was sponsored by the World Jewish Congress (WJC) and was held in the corporate board room of Edgar Bronfman, chairman of the Board of Seagram and president of the WJC.

In a brief statement following a private meeting with Bronfman, the Austrian President praised the contribution of Jews to Austria's spiritual and cultural life. "I am fully aware of the great contribution of Jews to the cultural and spiritual life of Austria and their significant contribution to Austrian society as a whole," he declared.

In response to questions from the Jewish leaders as to whether the Austrian government intends to pursue more vigorously the prosecution of Nazi war criminals still at large, Kirschlager said that he is not in a position "to give a satisfactory answer," since the issue is handled by the courts of Austria.

In response to another question, about the present relations between Austria and Israel, the President replied: "Our relations with Israel are very good, including our economic relations." He noted that he does not see a need for special economic relations with the Jewish State because of the past.

Kirschlager attended the meeting with a large delegation of Austrian officials, including the Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lang. At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Leon Zelman, a leader of the Austrian Jewish community, presented the President with a book on Jewish culture.

FRANCE DECIDES TO WITHDRAW ITS MEN FROM THE MULTINATIONAL FORCE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 1 (JTA) -- France decided today to withdraw the 1,250 men it still has in Beirut, the last remnant of the original four-national multinational force sent to the Lebanese capital. There was no date given for the withdrawal of the French paratroopers but French official sources said they would leave "in the very near future."

France decided to withdraw its men after the Soviet Union last night vetoed in the United Nations Security Council a French resolution providing for the creation of a UN force to replace the multinational force.

Official sources in Paris said the Soviet veto dashed France's hopes to have the UN step in to fill the breach left by the four powers' initial force. The French were prepared to wait and keep their troops in Beirut as long as they thought a UN contingent would eventually take over the task.

The decision to withdraw the French troops was taken by President Francois Mitterrand today after consultations with defense and foreign affairs advisers. The general tone of these reports were highly pessimistic.

Most of the French advisers believe fighting will break out anew in Beirut and President Amin Gemayel's reconciliation with Syria's Hafez Assad will not guarantee either his political survival nor a continuation of the cease-fire.

BONN URGES U.S., BRITAIN AND FRANCE TO COORDINATE WESTERN ARMS SALES TO THE MIDDLE EAST

By David Kantor

BONN, March 1 (JTA) -- The Bonn government has called on the United States, Britain and France to coordinate Western arms sales to the Middle East. Deputy Foreign Minister Alois Mertes stressed in a statement on the eve of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's departure on a visit to the U.S. that cooperation in this matter is needed to prevent, or at least limit, possible negative consequences of Western arms sales to the troubled region.

Mertes was apparently seeking to ward off American criticism of West Germany's plans to sell advanced weapons to Saudi Arabia. The issue has already been raised in Congress and is fiercely opposed by American Jews and by Israel.

Mertes made it clear that Bonn rejects the notion that it is acceptable for the U.S., Britain and France to supply arms to Saudi Arabia and other Arab states, but not for West Germany. No German, American, British or French tanks must endanger Israel, he said, "but it would be irresponsible to make moral differences among those four most important Western export states."

West Germany, Mertes said, would not tolerate discrimination against its arms industry. "A special treatment of Germany within the Western alliance concerning arms exports would involve political and psychological risks," he said.

WASHINGTON RABBI FOUND STABBED TO DEATH IN HIS HOME

WASHINGTON, March 1 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held today for Rabbi Philip Rabinowitz, for 34 years spiritual leader of the Keshet Israel synagogue here, who was found stabbed to death in his Georgetown home yesterday morning. He was 63. Burial will be in Israel.

Rabinowitz was widowed and lived alone. His stabbed and bludgeoned body was discovered after members of his Orthodox congregation, the second oldest in the Washington metropolitan area, became concerned when he failed to appear for morning services. Homicide investigators said they have no suspects and no known motivations in the case.

Rabinowitz was born in Lomza, Poland in 1920 and came to the United States in the 1930s. He studied at the Hebrew Theological College in Chicago, at Columbia University, Brooklyn College and Wagner College, all in New York City. He taught at Hebrew schools in New York, Chicago and Washington and at the Hebrew Academy in Silver Spring, Md. He became rabbi of Keshet Israel Congregation in 1950.

Leaders of the Jewish community here expressed shock and sorrow over Rabinowitz's death. They described him as a scholar with a deep commitment to learning and teaching his faith, particularly to young people. In addition to his rabbinical duties, he taught Hebrew and Jewish studies to high school students and conducted a weekly Torah class for adults.

VICTIMS OF THE NAZI REGIME ACCUSE BONN GOVERNMENT OF FAILING TO BAN GROUP OF FORMER WAFEN SS MEMBERS

By David Kantor

BONN, March 1 (JTA) -- The Association of Victims of the Nazi Regime has accused the government of ignoring the law by its failure to ban HIAG, the umbrella organization of former Waffen SS members.

In a letter to Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann, the group cited Paragraph 139 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic which outlaws a-priori, all successor organizations to the SS and SA. The letter protested the upcoming annual reunion of former members of the Waffen SS "Totenkopf" (Deaths Head) unit in Oberaula, a town in Hesse.

Kurt Erlebach, chairman of the Association, said at a press conference that HIAG resorts to conspiratorial methods to avoid public protests against its activities. In contrast to their past practices, organizers of Waffen SS meetings use false names and fail to disclose the towns where they plan to hold reunions, he said.

Fourteen separate reunions are expected to be held all over West Germany this year. The meeting at Oberaula came to light after anti-Nazi groups protested to the town authorities for renting a public hall to the "Totenkopf" alumni.

DEPOSED MAYOR OF RAMALLAH RELEASED FROM 'HOUSE ARREST' AFTER TWO YEARS

JERUSALEM, March 1 (JTA) -- Karim Khalaf, the deposed mayor of Ramallah, said today that he was just released from "house arrest" after two years' con-

finement to the town of Jericho. But the Israeli authorities say he was never placed under any restrictions.

Khalaf was always free to go wherever he wanted, according to Brig. Gen. Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, coordinator of government activities on the West Bank. Khalaf said he was notified by the civil administration yesterday that his confinement was lifted. He and his lawyer insisted that the ex-mayor was under verbal orders not to leave Jericho and that according to military regulations a verbal order is as valid as a written one.

"In the past two years I was confined to my town. Nobody was allowed to visit me and sometimes I was under house arrest, not town arrest," Khalaf told reporters.

DEPUTY PREMIER CRITICIZES U.S. BEHAVIOR REGARDING LEBANON

JERUSALEM, March 1 (JTA) -- Deputy Premier David Levy said the United States behavior regarding Lebanon was due to its "tiredness and weakness." In comments to reporters, he said that Washington had been "duped" by Syria but had itself exhibited tiredness and weakness. Levy said he could not but be "disappointed." This criticism of the U.S. is in marked contrast to Premier Yitzhak Shamir who has carefully avoided outright criticism of the Reagan Administration.

The Deputy Premier said the abrogation of the May 17 Lebanese-Israeli agreement was "very serious ... but the heavens will not fall in." He said the Cabinet would very soon decide on a long-term policy in Lebanon. The guidelines, he said, should be "minimal presence and maximal ability to act." Levy is reportedly a foremost advocate in the Cabinet of an Israel Defense Force withdrawal to a more southerly line in south Lebanon.

ISRAELI ATHLETE HONORED FOR HER COURAGEOUS ACTION DURING MASSACRE OF ISRAELI OLYMPIANS IN MUNICH

TEL AVIV, March 1 (JTA) -- An Israeli woman athlete was given an Olympic bronze medal for her courageous action during the 1972 Munich Olympics where terrorists murdered 11 members of the Israeli team.

The award was presented here to sprinter Esther Roth by Juan Antonio Samaranch of Spain, president of the International Olympic Committee. Roth was cited for her "example of Olympic spirit" by continuing to compete after her teammates, including her trainer, were gunned down.

Samaranch, on a three-day visit to Israel, said he would do his best to have Israel included in European groupings at international sports events. Israel has been trying for years to be included in European soccer tournaments.

ISRAEL'S CHIEF RABBIS PROPOSE SOLUTION FOR NATION'S PROBLEMS

TEL AVIV, March 1 (JTA) -- Israel's two chief rabbis have proposed a solution for the nation's problems. In advertisements published in the daily press yesterday, they appealed for special prayers to end drought, road accidents and disease.

Borrowing from the Yom Kippur liturgy -- "Repentance, Prayer and Charity can avert the evil decree" -- the Chief Rabbis declared: "In the wake of events recently witnessed in our country, we now suffer drought, the scourge of

road accidents, an increase in serious disease unseen in generations, senseless hatred, dissension and outrageous desecration of the Sabbath." They urged that the special prayers be recited before the start of the new Hebrew calendar month.

ISRAEL'S TOP PRIORITY SAID TO BE REDUCTION OF FOREIGN TRADE DEFICIT

JERUSALEM, March 1 (JTA) -- Moshe Mandelbaum, Governor of the Bank of Israel, said today that Israel's top economic priority was to reduce its foreign trade deficit. The fight against inflation also must not be neglected, he told a delegation of the International Monetary Fund.

The IMF delegation is on its regular annual visit to prepare a report on Israel's economy. Mandelbaum said that reduced public demand and the general slowdown of the economy stemmed from the fact that the public has lost about 30 percent of its monetary assets in recent months. It is time for the government to implement its planned budget cuts, he said.

AN APPEAL TO LEBANESE DRUZE

JERUSALEM, March 1 (JTA) -- Sheikh Amin Tarif, spiritual leader of Israeli Druze, urged the Druze community in Lebanon today not to permit the infiltration of anti-Israel elements into their ranks or into the territory they control in Lebanon. Addressing visitors to his home village of Julis in Galilee, Tarif said Israeli Druze regard themselves as an integral part of Israeli society and any harm done to Israel would be regarded as harming the Druze community.

NAVON IS HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF ISRAEL BONDS OPERATION B'NAI AMI

NEW YORK, March 1 (JTA) -- Former Israeli President Yitzhak Navon has accepted the honorary chairmanship of the Israel Bond Organization's "Operation B'nei Ami," which will be conducted during the period of March 26 to April 9 in Jewish communities in the United States and Canada, to help increase the number of synagogues participating in the 1984/5745 High Holy Day Appeals.

The announcement of the synagogue effort, which will see Israeli rabbinic leaders, writers, academics and consular representatives visiting Jewish communities, was made by David Hermelin, national campaign chairman of Israel Bonds, and Brig. Gen. (Res.) Yehudah Halevy, the president of the Bond Organization, who initiated the synagogue operation.

Halevy said, "The appeals serve as the linkage between Israel and the Jewish communities in the U.S. and Canada. The unique aspect of the 1984 High Holy Day campaign is that we are beginning this effort six months earlier than last year."

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Israel's first test tube twins were born at the Sheba government hospital Wednesday. The two girls were delivered by Caesarian section to a 30-year-old woman who had been implanted with a fertilized egg after having been barren for 14 years.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- An Egged bus crashed into a bridge abutment, injuring 31 persons, three of them critically Wednesday. The cause of the mishap was not immediately established. The bus reportedly veered off the road, struck the concrete abutment and fell into a six-foot ditch near Petach Tikva.

BLUM: ISRAEL MUST REMAIN A UN MEMBER

NEW YORK, March 1 (JTA) -- The 1984 of Orwell has arrived at the United Nations, Israeli Ambassador Yehuda Blum told a group of 600 women attending the B'nai B'rith Women international biennial convention. "Words have lost their meaning" in the UN, he said, where "the Soviet Union, Iraq and Syria are called peace-loving nations."

The UN "has become the focal point of international terrorism," Blum declared. In the General Assembly, "people can say with impunity what they couldn't say elsewhere." He cited as an example the description of Israel as a "cancerous tumor" used by the representative of one Arab country.

Blum was adamant, however, in his belief that Israel must remain in the UN, despite the abuses that it endures there. "Giving up membership is tantamount to giving up our place in the international community," he said. "Membership in the UN is a sign of statehood like the national flag. Withdrawing would be saying to the world that we consider ourselves a pariah, as our Arab enemies wish us to feel. There is no reason to oblige them."

"Throughout the ages we have been called names and couldn't reply," Blum said. "Now we are still called names but have a microphone to reply."

Continuing, Blum declared: "I consider it a great privilege to be a spokesman for the Jewish State. I myself had my Bar Mitzvah in a concentration camp. If you had told me then that I would witness the birth of Israel and would be one of its citizens, I would not have believed it."

"I consider myself a spokesman for my classmates who went up in the smoke of Auschwitz and Treblinka. I think of them when I sit behind the nameplate of Israel."

RABIN SAYS ALIYA IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabin

NEW YORK, March 1 (JTA) -- Former Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin warned last night that if the Jewish people fail to meet "the challenge of aliya to Israel," it might have an impact on the future of the Jewish State.

Addressing an Aliya Assembly at Congregation Kehilith Jeshurun here, sponsored by the North America Aliya Movement in conjunction with the Israel Aliya Center, Rabin, presently a member of the Knesset and a leader of the opposition Labor Party, said that the issue of aliya is the "most important" issue facing Israel today.

"I believe that the question of how many Jews will live in Israel is, in the long run, more important than the issue of Lebanon, or the PLO," Rabin declared. He said that "everything would have been different" as far as Israel's standing in the world community and its relations with the Arab countries is concerned, if there were in Israel today six or seven million Jews instead of only 3.5 million.

Israel Is Searching For The Jewish People

"For 2,000 years the Jewish people were searching for the Land of Israel," Rabin said. "Today, the Land of Israel is searching for the Jewish people."

Rabin said that although the number of olim from the United States to Israel is small, "it is important to keep the stream of aliya" and strengthen the bond between American Jewish communities and Israel. "Even if we have a small number of olim, it keeps the partnership and commitment between

American Jews and Israel," Rabin said. Rabin, who was in New York on his way to Miami to address a gathering of the Israel Bond Organization, said, in response to a question, that the Israelis who left Israel (yordim) and settled abroad, mainly in the United States, are "deserters."

"Anyone who leaves Israel is a deserter from the Jewish people's struggle to build its country. They (the Yordim) are weak people who could not endure the hardship of living in Israel," Rabin told the some 150 people at the meeting, some of whom plan to go on aliya shortly.

But the former Premier said that he is against any restrictions to prevent those Israelis who want to leave Israel from doing so. "We are a free, democratic country," he said, adding that Israel cannot restrict emigration while demanding that the Soviet Union permits its Jewish citizen to emigrate.

A Probable First: YESHIVA HIGH SCHOOL OF L.A. WINS A LEAGUE TITLE IN AN OPEN LEAGUE

By Haskell Cohen

NEW YORK March 1 (JTA) -- The Yeshiva University of Los Angeles (YULA) Boys' High School basketball team has won the Westside League championship, making it probably the first Yeshiva High School team to win a league title in an open league.

Unlike the all-Yeshiva league which exists in the New York City area, YULA plays in a league comprising Southern California-based private and non-Los Angeles city public schools. Its overall season record of 15-5 provided the Yeshiva with its second consecutive qualification to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoff tournament.

But YULA, playing with its season's top scorer Jeff Remer hampered by a wrist injury, was defeated in the first round of the tournament by Pasadena Poly, 53-34.

The 5-foot-10, 170-pound Remer, who has averaged 27 points, five rebounds and five assists per game this season, was held to one point by Pasadena. Remer, a guard, was selected Westside League player of the year. He has received a basketball scholarship from Yeshiva University in New York.

Yeshiva Has a Non-Jewish Coach

Unlike most yeshiva basketball clubs around the country, the Los Angeles institution has a non-Jewish coach, Scott Rice, a graduate of Hope College in Michigan who, in addition to coaching basketball, serves as the yeshiva's athletic director and chairman of the physical education department.

Rice has had his share of problems throughout the year while coaching the Yeshiva University quintet. The club's starting center left school before the start of the basketball season to study in an Israeli yeshiva. The school also has no gym of its own and the three formal practices held since the start of the season were conducted on a parking lot basketball court owned by the school.

To help improve the team's performance, Rice scheduled several pre-league games against non-league teams. But scheduling is difficult since, as is the custom of all yeshivas, school studies come first. On Sunday's the team would play pick up games to improve their performance.