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ARENS REPORTS SHULTZ WARNING THAT U.S. AID COULD BE ENDANGERED IF ISRAEL DOESN'T SOLVE ECONOMIC WOES
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz has warned the Israeli government that without a significant effort to solve the country's economic problems, even at the cost of reduced living standards, U.S. aid to Israel could be endangered.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens, who met with Shultz in Washington last month, disclosed the American view when he briefed the Cabinet yesterday on his latest visit to the U.S. The Reagan Administration seems most concerned with Israel's soaring inflation rate. Israel Radio reported that Washington has asked the government for a detailed plan of how it intends to restrain inflation.

In the Knesset today, MK Amnon Rubinstein of the opposition Shinui faction, called for an urgent debate over the American warnings and over the surprise resignations of two senior Treasury officials, Dr. Emanuel Sharon quit as Director General of the Finance Ministry yesterday. Shortly afterwards, Mordechai Frankl, senior economic advisor to the Ministry, stepped down amid charges that the government was abandoning its tough anti-inflation policies to gain the good will of voters in next month's Knesset elections.

Resignations Spark Unease

Sharon was promptly replaced by Nissim Baruch, Premier Yitzhak Shamir's economic advisor. But the two resignations exposed to the public a growing sense of unease among some ranking Treasury officials that the government is indulging in "election economics." Some officials have charged that election campaign considerations prevailed over economic prudence when the government recently agreed to generous wage hikes for regular soldiers and policemen. They are expected to trigger new wage demands from other sectors.

The government meanwhile was faced with an ultimatum from Histadrut yesterday to resume negotiations for new overall wage agreements. The trade union federation said it would otherwise withdraw from the collective bargaining process and force the government to deal individually with each union representing its employees. Baruch, the new Director General of the Finance Ministry, is expected to sit down with Histadrut officials in the next few days.

FOREIGN MINISTRY STAFF ON STRIKE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA) -- Foreign Ministry staff began a three-day strike today that has reportedly affected most Israeli legations and diplomatic missions abroad.

Pickets marched outside the locked Ministry gates carrying placards demanding wages equal to those paid employees of the intelligence services. Their contention is that their work is equally hazardous and demanding. Some of the signs referred to attacks on Israeli diplomatic offices abroad; others

quoted Premier Yitzhak Shamir's promises to improve Foreign Ministry salaries.

The strike delayed trips abroad by several prominent persons. Meir Shamgar, President of the Supreme Court, Likud MK Ehud Olmert and Ovadia Yosef, the former Sephardic Chief Rabbi were among those who could not get diplomatic passports today.

The strike is not expected to disrupt the visit of United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar who is touring the Middle East and is due here from Lebanon today. He is scheduled to meet tomorrow with Shamir who also serves as Foreign Minister. Compulsory back-to-work orders have been served on Ministry personnel involved in that meeting.

Meanwhile, Israeli embassies and other diplomatic establishments overseas were reported closed. The workers committee here is considering punitive measures against Binyamin Netanyahu, senior Minister at the Embassy in Washington who reportedly went to work today in disregard of the strike. Netanyahu ranks second only to Ambassador Meir Rosenne.

BERMAN, IN VALEDICTORY AS HEAD OF PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE, IS 'SATISFIED' WITH RELATIONS WITH REAGAN ADMINISTRATION
By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA) -- Julius Berman, the outgoing chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said today that he was "very satisfied" with the relationship the Conference maintained over the past two years with the Reagan Administration.

Berman, who is president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, said he was equally satisfied with the access the White House and other Administration departments provided to the Conference during his two year tenure as head of the umbrella group of 38 national Jewish secular and religious groups.

He assessed his past two years at a press conference at the headquarters here of the Presidents Conference. Berman, who will step down from his post on July 1, will be succeeded by Kenneth Bialkin, the national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, who was elected to a one-year term as chairman on June 4.

Shultz Brought Changes

In assessing the Presidents Conference's relationship with the Administration, Berman indicated that one of the factors which have influenced the Administration's attitude was the change in personnel in the Administration, primarily the change from Alexander Haig to George Shultz as Secretary of State.

He suggested that Shultz's role within the Administration had somewhat muted the earlier influence maintained in foreign policy decisions by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. Shultz, he said, came into office with the intention of tackling some of the major foreign policy issues, including the Middle East.

Berman said that one of the highpoints for the Presidents Conference during his tenure was reached in September, 1982 when President Reagan unveiled on national television his Middle East peace initiative. He said he had been called earlier in the day by Ambassador Richard Fairbanks and informed that Reagan would be

delivering a major initiative for the region. Fairbanks, Berman recalled today, had asked that a delegation from the Presidents Conference meet with Shultz the following afternoon to provide the Administration with its reaction to the proposal. The high point, as Berman said, was when the members of the Conference met and were able to reach a working consensus of its position toward the initiative.

This working consensus was stressed repeatedly by Berman as the central force of the Presidents Conference. He said a serious challenge confronted the Jewish organization on September 2 before the meeting with Shultz on how the organized American Jewish community would present itself to the Secretary of State on the President's initiative.

Speaks On Issues Of Consensus

Berman acknowledged that "it is no secret" that members of the Presidents Conference are divided on certain issues, one, he said, was the future status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But instead of the issues that separate the members of the organization, he noted that the Conference maintains a consensus on issues such as Jerusalem and the PLO, which the Presidents Conference said the U.S. should not hold negotiations with until it recognizes Israel's right to exist and accepts UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Presidents Conference "cannot take positions when there is no unity," he declared. He noted in addition that the Presidents Conference, established some 30 years ago, was not established to take issue with Israeli foreign policy but to discuss American foreign policy.

Berman said that the Presidents Conference has not met with Arab American leaders, saying that they have no role in arranging for peace initiatives in the Middle East. He said the Presidents Conference does not meet with Arab leaders in the Middle East, except for Egyptian officials. The Presidents Conference does not take on diplomatic initiatives, he said in response to a question.

MOSCOW REFUSENIKS DENY FEW JEWS WANT TO EMIGRATE FROM SOVIET UNION

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA) -- Three Moscow refusniks held an unofficial press conference in the Soviet capital last week to refute claims by the authorities that only a few Jews desire to emigrate from the USSR, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported here today.

The trio are Boris Klotz, a 34-year-old mathematician; Victor Fulmacht, 39, a computer engineer; and Lev Tukachinsky, 35, an engineer. All have been refused exit visas for a combined total of 11 years.

Fulmacht asserted that "We decisively disagree with the authorities' version" that only a trickle of emigration applicants seek visas. Klotz said "a large number of people have been told they're refused because of the bad relations between East and West." He said others are simply informed that their application "is not appropriate," the SSSJ reported. According to the SSSJ, 400,000 Russian Jews presently hold "invitation" documents from Israel which are required to begin the application process. But they are prevented from using them.

The SSSJ reported that Klotz's son has been denied treatment of a serious eye infection because his family are refusniks. Tukachinsky has never seen his daughter who was born in Israel after his pregnant wife, Elena, was allowed to emigrate in 1981.

KIBBUTZNIKS EXPELLED FOR DRUG USE By Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA) -- Kibbutz Shaar Hagol-

an on the Golan Heights has expelled five of its members for drug use after they refused to undergo therapy to overcome the habit.

The incident, said to be unprecedented in the kibbutz movement, exposed a problem that has been of concern to Israeli society for some time. The men involved, native-born Israelis, recently completed their army service, much of it in Lebanon where, apparently, they picked up the habit.

According to Herzl Sinai, a spokesman for the kibbutz, drugs, particularly hashish are easy to obtain in Lebanon where they are widely and openly used. He said however that the drug problem dates back to Israel's occupation of Sinai where soldiers were first introduced to drugs and, under the pressures of war, became users. Drugs were introduced to the kibbutzim by volunteers from abroad, according to one report.

Shaar Hagolan hired a private detective to trace the drug users. He posed as a volunteer and became friendly with the five men. They were offered the choice of therapy or dismissal and chose the latter after the kibbutz membership voted 150-2 to expel them.

UJA SUPER SUNDAY '84 TOPS GOAL WITH MORE THAN \$33 MILLION

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA) -- Super Sunday '84, the United Jewish Appeal's fourth annual volunteer telephone marathon, topped its goal and those of the three previous events by raising a total of \$33,110,694, according to Jerome Dick of Washington, UJA Super Sunday National Chairman.

In many communities Super Sunday was January 13, the national date. In others, the date varied, depending on local campaign calendars, he said.

He said "our 37,914 volunteers in 135 communities in the United States obtained 276,429 individual commitments. Their total surpassed our goal of \$33 million and exceeded last year's figure of \$30.1 million. The result is a new record for a one-day mass appeal."

He said six communities have not held their Super Sunday programs, which will increase the figures still further. He said that, when all the numbers are in, some 280,000 people will have participated, contributing to a final result "that will be a record hard to beat -- at least until Super Sunday '85."

He said planning for the next Super Sunday, scheduled for January 27, has begun with the scheduling of five one-day regional training seminars, in Chicago on October 2; in Newark on October 16; in New Orleans on October 21; in Los Angeles on October 22; and in Fort Lauderdale on November 5.

ISRAELI UNIT FIRED ON

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA) -- An Israeli army unit was fired on in the eastern sector of the Lebanon front early today, but suffered no casualties.

The unit was engaged in setting up a barricade across a road at the entrance to B'alal village a mile or so east of Lake Karoun in the Bekaa valley when light arms fire was directed at it from a house in the village. The unit searched the area, but the results of their investigation was not disclosed. (By Hugh Orgel)

EXHIBIT OF JEWISH FILM STARS

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA) -- The Joseph Exhibition Room at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion will come alive with the images of notable Jewish actors and actresses in the roles which made them famous, July 9-August 15. In cooperation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and Brandeis University, the College will sponsor an exhibit of 70 black and white photographs which depict "The Jewish Experience in American Film."

WRITER I. B. SINGER, APPROACHING 80, STILL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE OF JEWISH PEOPLE, URGES HOLDING ON TO ROOTS
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA) — It's not clear if Isaac Bashevis Singer expected 2,500 people to come hear him at the Sutton Place Synagogue last week, but the long line that snaked around the block and then some for two and a half hours prior to starting time have made the producers of "Indiana Jones" or "Star Trek III" jealous.

Singer's appearance marked the end of this season's Jewish Town Hall series, hosted by Rabbi David Kahane. The Nobel Laureate, who will be 80 years old July 14, proved to be in fine form as he fielded questions probing the experiences of his four-score years. When asked to sum up the memories of his first 20 years in his father's rabbinical court, Singer deftly humored the audience with his, "Rabbi, it's not easy for me to speak about 20 years, because when I was 20 years old, I felt like I was 90!"

Thus, the writer of dybbuks, seances, thieves and penitents brought his perennial nonagenarian's views to bear on Jewish life in the shtetl and America, and shed some well-received hopefulness on the continuation of Jewish culture in a land where he himself once felt lost.

Reminiscing on his arrival in America in 1935, Singer said he encountered "so many Jews following a certain idol — Communism, Socialism, Capitalism," that he then described the Jews as "an idolatrous people." People, he said "follow leaders like sheep."

But, he continued, he didn't come here "with a message to improve America. I came to improve myself."

Shtetl's New-Found Glamour

Focusing on the nostalgia for the shtetl which forms a backdrop for so much of his popular works, Singer couldn't resist a tease about its new-found glamour and remarks about its possible resurrection. "It would be very silly to build a shtetl in New Jersey. To resurrect a shtetl so that tourists will come, that would be very silly."

"We write about them" said Singer, "as we cannot resurrect anything. We can be writers, not magicians."

And, Singer emphasized, it isn't enough to just know a person to write about him. "You must know his roots."

Elaborating on the legacy left by the Jews who suffered through the most difficult travails, Singer said he believes the ghetto taught the Jew to survive. The Jews who "lived through all the bad times are the basis of all of us. And the longer we can exist, the more we can learn from this."

Singer's reflections on the diaspora as a whole are equally optimistic. Although he agreed the diaspora "was bad from a physical point of view," it was "very good from a spiritual point of view," he opined. "I don't say it's better that we wouldn't have been thrown out of our land," he went on, "but that doesn't mean that Joshua ben Nun and the others were any better than us." In fact, he suggested, "the diaspora has done the Jew a great favor."

On his most recent published work, "The Penitent," a tale of a New York man whose family and business problems lead him on the path of religious self-redemption to Jerusalem, Singer pointed out that the story's protagonist finds solace only within the

ultra-Orthodox quarter where life parallels the European ghetto. In the secular society of Tel Aviv and the kibbutz, the penitent felt just as much lost as he did in New York.

"The religious Jew doesn't care where he is," said Singer, "he cares what he is. I wouldn't say a person who wants to be religious must go to Israel. He can lead a religious life anywhere. We didn't lose our Judaism in the diaspora."

He also proffered a hope that "the people in Israel would be united in our times."

He cautioned, however, that he "cannot convince anyone to believe in things in which I myself have doubts." Asked if he had resolved the conflict between the world of the yeshiva and the secular, Singer replied, "I've lived long enough to know that you can't resolve anything."

Among the unresolved questions in the literary world of which Singer has become a lauded member, Singer tried to unravel the puzzle of the definition of a Jewish writer.

American Writers

Many American Jewish writers, he said, claim they are American but "happen to be Jewish." For Singer, being Jewish "is the very essence of my life." But what is Jewish writing? "If a Christian writes about a Jewish theme, does he then become a Jewish writer?" he asked rhetorically. Rather, he observed, writers are defined according to their language. So he prefers to be classified as a Yiddish writer, but admits he does not take umbrage when called a Jewish writer, even feels honored to be so called. Being Jewish "didn't do me any damage. The Gentiles like me for this," he quipped.

Now that he has been translated into so many languages — and Singer revealed he often does his own translations or consults heavily with the translator, finding not only the translator's mistakes, but often his own original blunders — Singer laughed recalling that he did, in fact, come from Poland. "For years I thought the Poles would ignore me. But since I got the Nobel Prize, they consider me one of theirs." He was even astonished, he admitted, at how good their translations were.

Singer began as a young man to write in Hebrew, and then consciously chose Yiddish as his means of expressing himself and reaching a likely audience. It was his curiosity about people, he said, that made him decide to become a writer, particularly the awareness that the women who came to ask his father ritual questions "didn't speak like men," and their very differences piqued his curiosity in people's individuality. "Individuality is a great pleasure for human beings, so I was very happy we're not alike."

Role Of Women

Singer added that "Without women, the Jews in exile could not have endured. It was the women who eamed the living. They were keeping the diaspora alive." He ventured that "the Jews made a great mistake by not giving women a greater role, and mistakes have to be corrected." Recently meeting a woman en route to Minneapolis to become a rabbi, Singer claimed he told himself "Here is a big mistake being corrected." But, he went on, not only women have to be liberated, "Men have to be liberated."

Asked to comment on the future of the Jews in America, specifically if Jews might become spiritually lost in America, Singer smilingly answered, "I'm ashamed to say I'm an optimist. If you tell me I'm inconsistent — I don't have to be consistent."

No other people, he reminded, was ever in exile without vanishing. "When it comes to the Jews, I'm an optimist. We might lose branches and leaves, but we never lose our roots." The Jewish spirit, Singer said lovingly, is "still here, and I don't think it will ever disappear."

CANADIAN LIBRARY NAMED FOR BELLOW By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, June 11 (JTA) -- Thousands of admirers of Saul Bellow, the Jewish-American Nobel laureate, greeted him in a ceremony yesterday in which officials of Lachine, Bellow's birthplace, honored him by dedicating Lachine's new public library, named for Bellow.

Israeli, American and Quebec flags flew, and brass bands played during the sunny day as Bellow's admirers applauded him on a day which was also Bellow's 69th birthday.

A major display of pictures of Abraham Bellow, the laureate's father, and his family had been placed at the maintenance of the new library. On display in glass cases were Bellow's books in English and in translations into European languages and into Hebrew and Yiddish.

Guy Descary, mayor of Lachine and members of the municipal council, as well as representatives of the province and local authorities formally greeted Bellow. Lachine is a small town near Montreal.

Bellow told the assemblage that "If (President) Kennedy said 'Ich Bin Ein Berliner' on his visit to Berlin, 'I say 'Je Suis un Lachinois' (I am a Lachiner)." Continuing in English, Bellow said he had enjoyed his childhood in Lachine where he said, full harmony always existed between all elements of the city.

Alain Marcoux, mayor of Rimouski, a city in Quebec more than 50 miles distant from Montreal, came to pay his respects and said Bellow should come back again so that French-speaking Canadians would develop a better acquaintance with his writings.

YIDDISH THEATER MEMORABILIA GOES TO HEBREW UNIVERSITY By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA) -- A wealth of material related to the Yiddish theater in Israel and abroad will be presented to the Hebrew University here shortly under an agreement signed today.

The material will be transferred from the archives of the Israel Goor Theater and Museum of which the late Israel Goor was founder, director and curator until his death two years ago.

It includes programs of theatrical performances presented by the Katzet Theater, the Yiddish drama troupe of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp immediately after World War II when the camp housed displaced persons. Other items include scripts and texts from Yiddish theaters in various parts of the world and the private collections of Israeli actors on the Yiddish stage. Much of the material is rare.

CORNERSTONE LAID FOR BELZER SYNAGOGUE By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA) -- Thousands of Belzer Hasidim from Israel and abroad witnessed the cornerstone laying here yesterday of the movement's new synagogue, which they say will be the largest in the world when it is completed in about five years.

The trowel was wielded by Rabbi Issacher Dov Rakeah, the 36-year-old Belzer Rebbe who heads the sect founded 170 years ago in Galicia, then a prov-

ince of Austria-Hungary. He was surrounded by 5,000 Belzer Hasidim who flew here last week from the U.S., Europe and Australia to join the 10,000 Belz families who live in Israel for the ceremonies.

The \$12 million synagogue and beit midrash (house of study) will accommodate up to 4,500 worshippers. It will be the centerpiece of the new Belz residential quarter in Jerusalem which is planned as a modern version of a 19th century Galician "shtetl."

Belz Hasidim believe the Messiah will visit their synagogue once the ancient Temple in Jerusalem is rebuilt.

MAN IN FRENCH PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL CLAIMS ISRAEL FORGOT HIM FOR 35 YEARS By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 11 (JTA) -- A man who says he was sent to France for medical treatment by the Israeli army in 1949 has just been released from a French psychiatric hospital after 35 years.

According to 54-year-old Yosef Amzallag, he was sent to a French hospital after having served seven months in the Israeli Defence Force. Since then he seems to have been forgotten by all, he says.

Amzallag, who was released Friday by the Saint Albain Hospital in central France, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "I don't know how all this happened. I still consider myself an Israeli soldier."

The Israeli Consul in Paris, Joel Gilat, said the military authorities and the Ministry of Interior are trying to trace Amzallag's origin and verify his story. "At first glance it is hard to believe that the proper administration could have forgotten this man's existence," Gilat said. He added that verification might take a few days because the staffs of the Ministry of Interior and the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem are presently on strike. He said however, that everything is being done to ascertain the facts.

Restaurateur Helped Gain Release

Amzallag was released after a Tel Aviv restaurant owner, Elie Ronnen, who learned of his story when it was published in the Israeli daily, Yedioth Achronot, took up his case. Ronnen, who was in Paris on his way back to Israel from Morocco, contacted the hospital.

He told JTA: "To my considerable surprise the doctor in charge of Amzallag's case told me that medically nothing stands in the way of his release." Ronnen said he was told by the hospital that if Amzallag was not released earlier it was because no one had ever asked the hospital to release him.

Amzallag says he has two brothers and two sisters in Israel. One of his brothers contacted the hospital in 1982 but failed to obtain his release.

Ronnen says hospital doctors told him they contacted the Jewish Agency in Marseilles, on at least five occasions to draw its attention to Amzallag's existence and his internment but received no reply.

According to the Moroccan born Ronnen, Amzallag might have been sent to France by the Israeli authorities in 1949 because unofficial policy at the time was not to accept as immigrants people with mental problems. Amzallag may have had psychiatric problems at the time, when he was 19.

The JTA correspondent saw Amzallag, who looks much older than his 54 years, calm and taciturn. He speaks a few words of Hebrew and some Arabic as well as French. He claims to be Israeli and says "I want to go home."