

FRENCH JEWISH LEADER, WHO WAS WITH MITTERRANDIN SOVIET UNION, SAYS REFUSENIK SITUATION WORSENING By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 24 (JTA) — The situation of Jewish activists in the Soviet Union, bad all along, has gotten worse in recent months, according to Theo Klein, president of the Representative Council of Major French Jewish Organizations (CRIF) who returned last night from a four-day visit to Moscow as the personal guest of President Francois Mitterrand.

Klein was the first Jewish leader ever invited by a head of government to accompany him on an official visit to the Soviet Union. He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that Mitterrand's gesture served to make public opinion more aware of the plight of Soviet Jewry and probably made the Soviet authorities more conscious of the gravity with which the West views this issue.

Klein expressed the hope that the heads of other Western governments would follow Mitterrand's example and invite Jewish leaders to accompany them to the USSR.

Klein attended all official functions in Moscow. At his request, Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson raised the issue of Soviet Jews at his meetings with Soviet officials, especially Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko who is regarded by many in the West as currently the most powerful man in the USSR after President Konstantin Chernenko.

Cheysson Discusses 5 Jews

Cheysson referred specifically to the cases of five Jewish activists considered most urgent. Klein refused to name them however nor would he say what the Soviet response was.

He told the JTA that he himself managed to meet with a Jewish refusenik in Moscow. He did not identify the man who, he said, has been waiting 10 years for an exit visa. But he said he was told by the refusenik that in recent months the situation has worsened for Jewish activists and many now fear that the Soviet authorities might ban exit visas altogether. They attribute this at least in part to the worsening of East-West relations, Klein said.

On Friday night, the CRIF president attended services at Moscow's main — and only — synagogue where he found only a handful of elderly people. According to Klein, most Moscow Jews probably knew of his presence but were discouraged by the authorities from trying to approach him. He said he was told that attendance at the Friday night services was less than normal, probably for that reason.

Klein said the rabbi and sexton told him that the congregation's dues pay for the synagogue's upkeep. He said the building was in good condition, clean and well kept.

WAGE AGREEMENT ENDS STRIKES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 24 (JTA) — Histadrut and the Finance Ministry signed a new wage agreement today, halting the wave of strikes and slowdowns that threatened to engulf the entire public sector.

According to the pact, signed after 24 hours of continuous negotiations, each side yielded something. The extent of pay increases was not immediately clear but the Treasury reportedly agreed to slightly higher salaries than it would have preferred.

But the increases will be paid only with August and September salaries which are due on September 1 and October 1 respectively. The senior faculty at the universities dropped demands for a six percent increase in order to preserve the jobs of hundreds of junior lecturers facing dismissal.

Radio and television technicians, on strike since last week, returned to their jobs voluntarily and broadcasting was back to normal after a weekend of recorded music interspersed with brief newscasts. Earlier in the day, the government had issued a back-to-work order at the behest of Justice Gavriel Bach, chairman of the Central Elections Committee. The strike threatened to black-out the election campaign, depriving the public of vital information on the positions of all parties.

Some Still Hold Out

The civil servants union, the clerks and government employed technicians agreed to the new wages. But several professional unions are holding out for higher increases.

The Cabinet met today before the pact with Histadrut was finalized. Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orad briefed his colleagues on the status of the negotiations. After the session, Likud ministers met privately to discuss economic measures aimed at pleasing the voters before election day.

Meanwhile, the Coordinating Committee of private employers and manufacturers appealed to the Bank of Israel today to lower interest rates which they claimed were the highest in the world. The committee said that high bank charges and interest rates made it impossible for local industries to compete abroad.

ISRAELI PATROL KILLS 2 TERRORISTS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 24 (JTA) — A Israel Defense Force patrol killed two guerrillas in south Lebanon Friday after they fired on the soldiers near Amik village in the eastern sector of the front. One soldier was grazed by a bullet but was able to continue his duties.

The dead bodies yielded firearms, grenades and explosives, an IDF spokesman reported.

A Katyusha rocket was fired at an IDF unit near Ansariya in the southern sector of the front Friday and a rocket propelled grenade was fired near Tyre. There were no casualties in either of the incidents.

A patrol of the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army was fired on from a passing car near Tyre today. There were no casualties.

KNESSET ELECTION CAMPAIGN BEGINS WITH GENTLEMANLY RADIO DEBATE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 24 (JTA) — The Knesset election campaign began officially over the weekend with a debate between Defense Minister Moshe Arens and former Premier Yitzhak Rabin, broadcast by the Army Radio yesterday.

It was a gentlemanly exchange and, if it indeed sets the tone for future debates between Likud and the

Labor Alignment, the 1984 campaign promises to be on a higher plane than that of 1981 which was characterized by fierce polemics and bitter personal attacks.

There seemed, in fact, to be little basic difference in policy between the two parties. Rabin, who is slated to become Defense Minister in the event of a Labor victory, proposed a gradual withdrawal of the Israel Defense Force from south Lebanon which, he believed, could be completed in a matter of months.

Arens, who is likely to retain the defense portfolio if Likud remains in power, suggested that the less talk there was of an IDF withdrawal the easier it would be to reach an understanding with Syria which occupies a much larger area of Lebanon. Rabin also called for reduced government spending on settlements in the West Bank, primarily for economic reasons.

Likud Promises More Settlements

Likud promises to increase settlement activity in the occupied territories, eliminate the military and political potential of the Palestine Liberation Organization and improve the peace with Egypt, now at a low ebb. The party also points to the low rate of unemployment and its efforts to narrow the social gap.

The Labor Alignment stands on a platform commitment to resume efforts to solve the Palestinian problem within the framework of negotiations with Jordan but pledges no return to Israel's pre-1967 borders. It would continue to build settlements, but only on the basis of security needs and strategic considerations and not in the densely populated areas of the West Bank. On the sensitive issue of religious hegemony, Labor stands on the premise that all branches of Judaism deserve official recognition -- a view fiercely disputed by the Orthodox establishment -- and opposes any change in the Law of Return defining "Who is a Jew."

Labor Leads In Polls

The latest public opinion polls continue to give Labor a substantial lead over Likud with elections only four weeks away. A poll published today in Yediot Achronot projected 54 Knesset seats for the Labor Alignment to 39 for Likud. The poll was conducted between June 19-21 among 1,183 persons of voting age. Earlier in the month, Labor led Likud by 52-40.

The smaller parties showed no significant changes. About a third of the respondents were undecided, indicating that the situation could change by the time the voters go to the polls on July 23.

The election campaign opened in the midst of widespread labor unrest (See separate story.) Striking employees of the State-owned Broadcast Authority returned to their jobs today under a back-to-work order issued by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer. They had threatened to black-out radio and television electioneering.

The Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel (AACI) has, for the first time, issued a comprehensive voters guide in English for the benefit of new immigrants from North America. It favors no party but explains the electoral system and carries excerpts from the platforms of all parties.

HART RAPS REAGAN FOR NOT BRINGING ABOUT MIDEAST TALKS By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 24 (JTA) -- Democratic Presidential hopeful Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado last

Friday assailed the Reagan Administration for failing to get the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to the negotiating table.

"It is a tragedy that three and a half years have gone by under this Administration with not only no real progress in bringing the hostilities and conflicts (in the Mideast) to an end, but in fact, some steps that have exacerbated that conflict, particularly the increased militarization of all the parties to the very difficult situation in Lebanon," Hart told a luncheon at the National Press Club here.

Continuing, Hart declared, "I think it would take very little in the case of the Middle East, and for that matter, in the case of East-West arms negotiations, to get the parties to at least begin to talk about sitting down at the bargaining table, if not actually doing so ... I have seen virtually no leadership on the Middle East by this President and very little by the Secretary of State to bring the principal adversaries to the table to pursue the Camp David accords."

Hart also said that he believed "history will judge this Administration poorly for its failure in the Middle East" and with regard to other international problems "for not taking more leadership and offering the good offices of this nation in regional conflicts."

SRI LANKA PRESIDENT, JEWISH DELEGATION DISCUSS TERRORISM

NEW YORK, June 24 (JTA) -- President Junius Richard Jeyewardene of Sri Lanka told a delegation of Jewish leaders last Friday that the greatest threat to world stability and global peace in international terrorism.

Israel Singer, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, reported that the focus of the discussions between Jeyewardene and the four Jewish leaders was the role of "radical Arab inspired" terrorism seeking to cause turmoil within Sri Lanka.

The Jewish leaders thanked Jeyewardene for his recent decision allowing for the re-establishing of an Israeli diplomatic presence in his country. Jeyewardene expressed his gratitude for the aid being given by Israel to Sri Lanka in the fight against terrorism and was appreciative of the understanding and support conveyed by the Jewish spokesmen in this regard, Singer reported.

The one-hour meeting took place at the Waldorf Towers here and was attended by Singer; Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; and a representative from the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Jeyewardene met in Washington last week with President Reagan and other Administration officials.

FRIDAY NIGHT DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 24 (JTA) -- Several hundred riot-equipped police and border police dispersed hundreds of black garbed Orthodox Jews demonstrating outside a Petach Tikva movie house Friday night as about 1,000 young patrons lined up to see the American film, "Breakdance."

It was the 16th consecutive Friday night that local Orthodox elements attempted to interfere with a performance at the Heichal Cinema. This time their shouts of "Shabbas, Shabbas" were drowned out by the amplified music of "Benzine", a popular rock group that performed outside the theater.

The appearance of baton-wielding police was sufficient to break up the demonstration without resort to violence.

RABBI STRESSES NEITHER PARTY HAS 'LOCK' ON JEWISH VOTE

NEW YORK, June 24 (JTA) — A rabbinical leader predicted here that if President Reagan is re-elected in November, he will press Israel for concessions to implement his 1982 "Reagan Plan" for Middle East peace, which Israel rejected soon after the President announced it. The plan called for negotiations between Israel and Jordan for a federation of Jordan and the West Bank but barred any Palestinian state in the West Bank.

The forecast was made by Rabbi Mordecai Waxman of Great Neck, N.Y., president of the Synagogue Council of America, at a meeting last week of the executive committee of the SCA, which represents the rabbinic and congregational organizations of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Judaism.

Waxman also said neither the Republican nor the Democratic party had "a lock" on the votes of American Jews, adding that American Jews "will judge the candidates on such domestic issues as social welfare, aid to urban centers and minority rights, and such international problems as nuclear disarmament, Soviet Jews and Israel." He said that "a very important factor" for Jewish voters "will be how the Democratic party handles the anti-Semitic tone which has surfaced in the primary campaign."

Warns Against Ignoring Anti-Semitism

Waxman said that "Jesse Jackson's rainbow has led 'to a pot of gall rather than a pot of gold.'" He said Jackson's anti-Semitic slurs and "the very strong anti-Semitic and violent statements by (Louis) Farrakhan," a leader of American Black Muslims and a strong supporter of Jackson, "cannot be ignored by the Democratic candidate."

The Democratic Party "and its candidate must make it plain that there is no weaseling on the matter and that there is no bargaining on this matter of principle," Waxman said. "The American nation, made up of many diverse religious and ethnic groups, cannot afford to allow anti-Semitism or attacks upon any group to become part of the political process, nor will the Jewish community ignore the matter."

Waxman praised both parties for their overall record on Israel, but he expressed caution about some of the policies carried out by both the Carter and Reagan Administrations.

"The Reagan Administration has certainly undertaken many positive actions in aiding and supporting Israel," he said. "However, it clearly pursued policies which placed great burdens upon Israel and were inimical to Israeli interests."

Reagan Plan

He said the Reagan Administration "seems to have a plan of its own for the settlement of Middle Eastern affairs which may well be at variance with the needs of Israeli security. While this 'Reagan plan' seems currently to be in abeyance, there is every reason to believe it will be restored to prominence, that Israel will be pressed for concessions should Mr. Reagan be returned to the White House."

He added that the Democratic Party "has a long tradition of support for Israel but obviously some of the actions and attitudes of the Carter years and the attitudes which have reflected in the memoirs of those years, has left questions in the minds of the Jewish community."

The rabbinical leader said Walter Mondale's record on Israel "is well known" but that Mondale is in a position of having to recapture an element which abandoned the Democratic party in the last election

and, therefore, a forthright indication of his policies with regard to the Middle East and of the people who would implement them is very necessary."

He said that while the American Jewish community applauds the "increasing role" of the Black community in the political process "and the role of Jesse Jackson" in contributing to that advance, he said the Jewish community "rejects the notion that there should be any Black-Jewish confrontation or that there is any reason for it. Any element in America which attempts to make political hay out of setting Jews in confrontation with any group deserves contempt and must be forthrightly rejected by all political leaders."

ADMINISTRATION WARNED JERUSALEM EMBASSY BILL TO BE APPROVED SOON

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 24 (JTA) — The Arab world would regard the moving of the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem as "the first step on the part of the United States" toward U.S. acceptance of the Israeli position on Jerusalem, Michael Armacost, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittees on Mideast Affairs and International Operations. Armacost was the last to testify in two days of hearings on the highly emotional issue last week.

The Administration strongly opposes the proposal and has been trying to get Congress to defer a vote on the proposed legislation to move the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem until after the November elections. However, supporters of the legislation warned the Reagan Administration at hearings that they intend to force a House vote by early August.

Rep. Tom Lantos (D. Calif.), who originated the legislation in the House, and Rep. Daniel Mica, (D. Fla.), chairman of the International Operations Subcommittee, told Armacost that the bill most likely would be approved by the Foreign Affairs Committee in late July and by the full House in early August.

If the legislation passes, President Reagan will have two options — vetoing the legislation or ignoring it on the grounds that Congress lacks the constitutional power to mandate the location of embassies.

Armacost testified that moving the Embassy would compromise U.S. ability to act as impartial negotiator between Arabs and Israelis. "It is the wrong issue at the wrong time and the wrong way to move the peace process forward," he stated. He pointed out that the Administration does not think the problem can be solved by various compromises that had been suggested, such as changing the legislation to a non-binding "sense-of-the-Congress" resolution or bringing the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem under the control of the Embassy in Tel Aviv.

ETHIOPIAN JEWS PROTEST IN JERUSALEM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 24 (JTA) — Almost 1,000 Ethiopian Jews demonstrated last week in Jerusalem against "government inaction in helping their families to immigrate to Israel."

Many demonstrators argued that they did not accept the government's claim that it was doing its best to save Ethiopia's Jews, and that publicity might hurt the cause. They said the situation could not get any worse.

The demonstration was held outside Binyanei Haoma, site of the session of the Zionist General Council. The demonstration then moved to the Prime Minister's office, where after a sit-in which lasted six hours, a representative of the Premier told them Yitzhak Shamir would receive a delegation of the group this week. A delegation was permitted to meet with Haim Aharon, head of the Jewish Agency Aliya Department.

REAGAN ADMINISTRATION FINDS EAST EUROPEANS 'FLAWED' IN PERFORMANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, June 24 (JTA) — The Reagan Administration has described as "flawed" the performance of the Soviet Union and the East European countries in the area of human rights.

"Although the record of compliance varied among the Eastern states, the performance was in general flawed in human rights and the humanitarian area," the State Department said in the 16th semi-annual report on the implementation of the Helsinki Act. The report also deals with the followup on Helsinki which ended in Madrid last fall.

The report, which covers the period from Dec. 1, 1983, to March 31, 1984, was submitted by the State Department on behalf of President Reagan to Rep. Dante Fascell (D. Fla.), chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

The report documents the persecution which many Soviet citizens, including Nobel Prize winning scientist, Dr. Andrei Sakharov, have suffered for focusing attention on and attempting to alleviate the violation of human rights in the Soviet Union. This report is an important element in the U.S. government's effort to assess the progress and shortcomings in the Helsinki Act's goals of "strengthening security, expanding cooperation, building mutual confidence, and protecting human rights," a State Dept. spokesman stated when the report was transmitted.

Few 'Bright Spots'

The report pointed out a few "bright spots." It stated that "For most of the CSCE participating states, the status of implementation over the current reporting period did not change significantly from earlier periods. Some encouragement could be taken from progress by Bulgaria in resolving divided family cases, the continuing dialogue between the Polish government and the Roman Catholic Church, a limited extension in U.S.-Czechoslovakian cultural relations, and an upsurge during the first three months of 1984 in the number of citizens allowed by the German Democratic Republic to emigrate. The Eastern governments also generally complied with their undertaking to publish the Madrid Concluding Document. These relatively bright spots must be seen, however, in the wider context of strict government control and limitations on political and religious expression."

The report stressed that "Continued deterioration of the Soviet Union's already poor record of compliance, however, gave greatest cause for concern. The Soviet authorities introduced further amendments to the legal code to strengthen their hand against independent forms of expression and to lend a fictitious air of due process to the ongoing campaign of repression against dissident elements. Laws on treason and anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda were broadened. A new regulation introduced the concepts of 'service secret' or 'work-related secret' aimed at even further inhibiting the free flow of information and ideas between Soviets and foreigners."

The report added, "Soviet persecution of individuals who attempted to express themselves outside the framework of state-controlled organs continued apace in the period under review. Religious believers, proponents of greater cultural and political rights for ethnic minorities, peace activists, and human rights

activists Andrei Sakharov, Yuri Orlov and Anatoly Shcharansky continued to suffer varying degrees of unjustified confinement and persecution. Numerous less well-known figures were sentenced to terms in the notorious Soviet labor camp system. Soviet abuse of psychiatry also continued."

Emigration Continues To Decline

Despite commitments under the Helsinki Final Act to facilitate family reunifications, the report charged that "the rate of emigration from the Soviet Union continued to decline below the disappointing figures of early 1983. The decrease in Jewish emigration was accompanied by an increase in the level of official anti-Semitic propaganda."

"The Helsinki and Madrid Accords are not juridically binding documents, and there are no enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance," the report states. "The U.S. will continue to exert political and moral pressure for improved performance, and will call to account those who fail to live up to their commitments in the Helsinki process," the report points out.

The final Madrid Document provides for another followup meeting in Vienna in November 1986. A series of supplementary meetings will also be held before then. "The United States will use these to keep the Helsinki issues alive and before the public, while strengthening the Helsinki process," the report states.

DISPUTED ISRAELI ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBIT TO OPEN AT METROPOLITAN

NEW YORK, June 24 (JTA) — The Metropolitan Museum of Art has announced that it will stage in the fall of 1986 an exhibit of archaeological artifacts from Israel that include many items from the West Bank. The items from the West Bank have been the subject of a dispute which held up the proposed exhibit for nearly two years.

The exhibit is expected to contain a significant amount of archaeological artifacts from the West Bank. "The final selection hasn't been made, but some of the more beautiful things in the region are from that area, and we're going to pick them based on artistic merit," said William Macomber, the Metropolitan's president, at a news conference at City Hall last week.

A similar exhibit as the one now scheduled by the Metropolitan was cancelled by the Smithsonian Institution. The Metropolitan had intended to show the Smithsonian exhibit, which was to have opened last month when it left Washington. The Metropolitan reportedly said that it would present its own show should the Smithsonian decide against staging one of its own.

Israel decided against providing items to the Smithsonian exhibit because it wanted to exclude items from the occupied West Bank, housed in the Rockefeller Museum in East Jerusalem. Israel was concerned that Arab groups may sue, claiming ownership of the items from the West Bank.

But last month, the State Department issued a document, called a certificate of immunity from judicial seizure, that provides protection for foreign exhibits from lawsuits from other countries.

The Metropolitan cancelled the exhibit two years ago saying that it was concerned with providing proper security for the exhibit and also that it considered the showing of artifacts from disputed territory inappropriate.

Many of the items to be displayed by the Metropolitan have never before been displayed outside the Middle East.