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Sharon Opens Political Hornet's Nest: DENOUNCES GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR WITHDRAWING FROM SOUTH LEBANON, IMPROVING LIFE FOR WEST BANK ARABS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- Industry and Commerce Minister Ariel Sharon opened a political hornet's nest this weekend by expressing opposition to government plans to base an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon on the deployment of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) troops in that area and by attacking government plans to improve the quality of life for Arabs in Judea and Samaria. Political analysts viewed Sharon's two-pronged attack as causing what could be the first crack in the national unity government.

In a sharp attack on the withdrawal plans, Sharon told Radio Israel that "this government will survive only if it concentrates on economic problems and on condition that it avoids action in other areas" where differences between Likud and Labor cannot be bridged. He warned that Likud did not agree to a national unity government to serve as a cover for Labor's defense and foreign affairs plans, which he described as "disastrous."

Sharon said he ruled out any cooperation with UNIFIL which he said had "cooperated with terrorist organizations, openly and secretly, during the years it was in Lebanon."

Israel's Position On UNIFIL

Government officials have said that Israel is ready to talk to the Lebanese under UNIFIL auspices in an effort to arrange sufficient security guarantees to enable the IDF to withdraw from Lebanon. But the officials stressed that such talks could not be within the framework of the Mixed Armistice Commission (MAC) established after the War of Independence in 1948. Israel claims that the Lebanese, by formally joining in the Six-Day War against Israel, abrogated the MAC and it could not now be used as a basis for talks by Lebanon.

The present official Israeli government policy advocates a controlled pull-back by the IDF from Lebanon, based on UNIFIL taking over the area between the Awali and the Zaharani rivers, and the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) controlling the area south of the Zaharani to the international border.

Premier Shimon Peres told the Cabinet today that steps and arrangements under study and discussion for an IDF withdrawal had been taken on the basis of decisions reached by the Ministerial Defense Committee. He said the government will decide on further steps in Lebanon at its next meeting.

Plans For West Bank Arabs Denounced

Sharon, at a Herut luncheon last Friday in Tel Aviv, also denounced government plans to improve the living conditions of Arabs in the administered territories, plans which the government announced following intense American pressure to do so.

In essence, the plan includes government approval in principle to allow the opening of an Arab bank in the territories, for the first time since 1967. All Arab banks ceased to function after the Six-Day War.

The sole exception was the Falastin Bank in Gaza which was not permitted to trade in foreign currency. The absence of local banks has been a key factor of slow economic development in the territories.

The plan also includes reducing military censorship of books and the possibility of local Arab residents replacing the government-appointed Jewish mayors of West Bank and Gaza Strip towns. But the plan does not envisage free elections in the territories nor the return of two Arab mayors deported from the West Bank in 1980 after a terrorist attack on yeshiva students in Hebron. But Sharon told the Herut meeting: "All the grandiose plans to develop the Arab localities while freezing Jewish settlements are unacceptable to us."

Political pundits described these statements as part of an effort by Sharon to shake the basis of the unity government, only five weeks after it was established. His statements came in the wake of growing tension between the Liberals and Herut.

Possible End Of Herut-Liberal Partnership

A case in point was the appearance of Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive, on Israel TV last night during which he reiterated the need to end the partnership between the Liberals and Herut. Dulzin, a leader of the Liberal Party, said this step was necessary to assure the stability of the unity government for a full four-year term.

Although Dulzin said that Herut should remain in the government even if the Likud coalition is dissolved with the breakup of the Liberal-Herut partnership, his remarks were a clear indication that should Herut leave the unity government, the Liberals would stay in -- giving the Labor-led coalition a comfortable majority in the Knesset. These developments were taking place just as the Herut Party Executive was to convene in Tel Aviv tonight.

Sharon's allies in the government were careful not to issue on the record reactions. However, associates of Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Sharon's statements reflected the views of Likud. Sources at the Premier's office said only that the improvement of the quality of life of Arabs in the territories would continue. Sources in the Defense Ministry refused to comment on Sharon's statements regarding Israel's cooperation with UNIFIL.

REAGAN AND NASA OFFICIAL URGED TO STRIP FORMER NAZI OF DSM AWARD By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- President Reagan and NASA administrator James Beggs, have been urged to strip Arthur Rudolph, the German-born scientist who was forced last week to renounce his United States citizenship for concealing his Nazi activities during World War II, of the Distinguished Service Medal awarded to him in 1969 for his contributions to the Saturn V rocket program.

In separate telegrams to Reagan and Beggs, Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman said Rudolph "is a notorious Nazi war criminal who was forced to leave the United States ... because of the unspeakable crimes committed against thousands of slave laborers in his charge."

"It is a disgrace for an American medal to remain in the hands of a beastly killer. I believe it is critical that our government in no way honor such a man and thereby condone his unforgivable crimes," said Holtzman, who as a member of Congress was instrumental in forming the Office of Special Investigations, an arm of the Justice Department responsible with investigating and taking legal action against alleged Nazi war criminals living in the United States.

The OSI last Wednesday afternoon announced that Rudolph had left the United States for West Germany after it was determined that he had lied about his past Nazi activities. Rudolph had been director for production of V-2 rockets in a factory attached with a Nazi concentration camp.

Rudolph renounced his citizenship rather than challenge charges that he "participated in the persecution of forced laborers, including concentration camp inmates who were employed there under inhumane conditions." A third to one half of the 60,000 prisoners at the Dora-Nordhausen camp died.

A Second Former Nazi Leaves The U.S.

Just two days later, the OSI announced that John Avdzej of Roselle Park, N.J., had left the United States for West Germany, and gave up his U.S. citizenship after it was revealed that as a Nazi-installed Mayor during the war he was allegedly responsible for the murder of at least 3,000 Jews and Polish civilians.

Avdzej, 79, was installed by the Nazis as a regional mayor of Stolpce, Rayon, and according to the Justice Department, he admitted that nearly all the Jews of this region were killed under his regime. Stolpce is now part of the Soviet Union.

In the Rudolph case, Neal Sher, head of the OSI, said that the 77-year-old scientist participated in the persecution of forced laborers while serving as chief operations director in an underground factory which produced V-2 rockets for Germany from 1943-45. The laborers included inmates of the Dora-Nordhausen concentration camp who were forced to work under inhumane conditions.

Rudolph was one of about 900 German scientists brought to the U.S. after the war to work on American rocket and missile programs. He was employed by NASA and was a resident of San Jose, Calif., when the Justice Department investigators discovered his Nazi past.

Arrangements Worked Out With Justice Department

Last November, Rudolph signed an agreement with the Justice Department to renounce his citizenship and leave the country in four months. He complied last May, having returned to West Germany. The outcome of the case was announced last week by the Justice Department.

Avdzej also worked out an arrangement with the Justice Department. Last January he was given two months to leave the country and relinquish his citizenship in return for the U.S. government not bringing legal action for his alleged Nazi activities. Sher said Avdzej acknowledged concealing his Nazi past when applying for entry into the U.S., saying he had spent his war-time years as a farmer and tradesman in Poland.

Rudolph became an American citizen in 1954, and was brought to the United States in 1945. He spent two years rebuilding the V-2 rocket systems at the White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico. He was also loaned to the British to assist in their testing of V-2 weapons.

Between 1951 and 1961, according to reports, he served as a manager of and technical director of the Pershing System, recently deployed in Europe. In 1965 he was made director of the Saturn V program that produced the rocket that carried the Apollo Astronauts to the moon. For his contributions to the space program, he was given the Distinguished Service Medal, NASA's highest honor.

Reactions By Jewish Organizations

Meanwhile, leaders of American Jewish organizations hailed the Justice Department's action against Rudolph. The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said that the case "stands as a reminder that war criminals whether past, present or future, will not go unpunished."

A spokesperson for the American Jewish Committee praised the Justice Department for pursuing the case and suggested that the West German government continue the investigation of Rudolph's case. Reports suggested that West Germany will pursue the case.

John Ranz, president of the Holocaust Survivors Association USA, said, "We are frustrated and angry that this Nazi criminal, Arthur Rudolph... was allowed to live here as a free man." Ranz claimed that he escaped punishment for his crimes because he was "protected by the United States government."

Eli Rosenbaum, a former government lawyer who was responsible for investigating and compiling the evidence in the Rudolph case, is a member of the Generation After, which is active in finding Nazi war criminals and combating racism and neo-Nazis in the United States.

IDF SOLDIER DIES OF HIS WOUNDS; FIVE OTHER SOLDIERS WOUNDED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force soldier, shot in south Lebanon yesterday, died of his wounds today, bringing the casualty toll in Lebanon to 600 killed and nearly 5,600 wounded since Israel invaded Lebanon in June, 1982.

The soldier, identified as 30-year-old Alon Tsur, a corporal from the northern border kibbutz settlement of Shamir, was hit by fragments of a rocket fired at his army vehicle near the Zaharani River bridge.

In a series of incidents in Lebanon over the weekend, two Israeli soldiers were wounded, five terrorists were killed, one was captured and two others were wounded.

Two terrorists were killed and two IDF soldiers were slightly wounded when a navy patrol vessel encountered a rubber dinghy with the terrorists aboard off the coast of Beirut. The small boat was said to have been on its way to land the terrorists in Israel where, according to reports from Beirut, they were to have attacked an army rest camp in the north of Israel.

Three other terrorists were killed, two wounded and one captured in a clash with an IDF patrol in Baka a-Shouf.

FLATTO-SHARON BEGINS PRISON SENTENCE

TEL AVIV, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- Former Knesset member Shmuel Flatto-Sharon today began his 90-day prison sentence, which he will serve as an "external prisoner," working at a police installation during the day and returning to his Savoyon home at night. Flatto-Sharon was convicted last summer of bribery to win votes in the elections seven years ago. He won a Knesset seat and thus stalled an extradition request from France for his return there to stand charges of financial mismanagement. He was given a nine-month prison sentence but this was reduced by the Supreme Court on appeal to 90 days.

MOROCCO REFUSES TO ALLOW TWO ISRAELIS TO ENTER COUNTRY AFTER BEING INVITED BY FORMER SENEGALESE PRESIDENT TO WORLD POETRY CONFERENCE By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- Israeli writer and philosopher Aharon Amir is returning today to Israel after Morocco denied him entry to attend an international conference in Marrakesh. Amir and another Israeli, writer and Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Andre Chouraqui, had been invited to the World Conference on Poetry by its chairman, former Senegalese President Leopold Senghor.

Morocco's refusal to grant them entry visas, in spite of earlier promises, is seen here as a definite break with past Moroccan policy and is interpreted as a gesture to Libya with which it signed an alliance last month.

Numerous Israelis, a couple of thousand at least, have visited Morocco in recent years and have been granted visas with relative ease. Morocco prided itself on its "open door" policy. Israeli politicians, journalists and also ordinary tourists attended congresses, came on pilgrimages or just visited the country.

Several Israelis visited Morocco as recently as earlier this summer. The new policy banning the entry into Morocco of all Israeli visitors, is reportedly being carried out on instructions from either the Moroccan Prime Minister or King Hassan himself.

Situation Changed Within A Few Days

Amir told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that both he and Chouraqui received their formal invitations to the Congress in Israel together with letters from Senghor telling them that the formalities for their entry into Morocco had already been arranged.

When Chouraqui, who arrived in Paris a few days before Amir, called the Moroccan Ambassador he was also told that "there are no problems" and that both he and Amir should contact the Consulate where the visas would be granted.

It was only a few days later, after Amir's arrival, that the Embassy said that "difficulties" had cropped up and let it be understood that it had received new instructions from Rabat. The Embassy offered to let Chouraqui in on condition he used his French passport. Chouraqui holds dual Franco-Israeli nationality. He turned down this offer in solidarity with Amir.

The two waited for over a week for a possible change. They were also told that Senghor and other African leaders had intervened on their behalf. Amir decided to return to Israel after it became clear that he could not attend the Congress.

CUSTOM HOUSE IN NEW YORK WILL BECOME A MUSEUM OF THE HOLOCAUST

NEW YORK, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- The anomaly of the absence from the world's largest Jewish community of a public memorial to victims of the Holocaust has been ended by the announcement by the federal government that the unused Custom House in lower Manhattan will become a museum of the Holocaust and the history of Jews in the diaspora.

The decision, announced by William Diamond, regional administrator of General Services Administration (GSA), said an evaluation panel had chosen the New York City Holocaust Memorial Commission to be the 77-year-old building's tenant because the Commission's proposal "was the strongest and best deal for the government, based on the amount of money offered." The GSA owns the building.

The decision ended a half-year competition between two groups for rental of the landmark building -- one, the Commission, the other, a consortium of arts agencies which sought to convert the building into a cultural center.

Diamond said the museum will include research facilities and an auditorium for performances. He said he could not give details of the Commission's offer but did say the Commission will provide \$5 million toward restoration of the building. He said the Commission's proposal "will at least cover the cost" and that "there will be no loss to the government."

JEWISH LEADER NAMED TO UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATION

PARIS, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- The chairman of the French section of the World Jewish Congress, Senator Michel Dreyfus-Schmidt, has been named by France to its delegation at the United Nations General Assembly session currently meeting in New York.

A close associate of President Francois Mitterrand, Dreyfus-Schmidt has represented Belfort in the Senate since 1980. Previously he served as an elected Deputy in the National Assembly. He was elected chairman of the WJC-French section in 1981, representing the largest Jewish community in Western Europe numbering some 700,000 members.

Dreyfus-Schmidt, who will arrive at the United Nations at the beginning of November, was last month named by the new French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius as Extraordinary Representative to the Ministry of European Affairs with responsibility for the Council of Europe.

According to the WJC Paris office, Dreyfus-Schmidt, held a private meeting two weeks ago in Strasbourg with UNESCO president Amadou Mahtar M'Bow in which a number of issues of Jewish concern were raised. Specifically, the Paris office reported, the discussions included a follow-up to a written question earlier by Dreyfus-Schmidt to M'Bow concerning continued UNESCO condemnation of Israeli archaeological digs in Jerusalem despite the report of UNESCO's own investigator of the propriety of these digs. M'Bow and Dreyfus-Schmidt are scheduled to have further talks on this subject.

PERES: HUSSEIN'S REFUSAL TO ENTER PEACE TALKS IS NOT HIS LAST WORD By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- Israeli Premier Shimon Peres believes King Hussein's refusal so far to enter peace negotiations with Israel is not his last word and indicated there would be wide scope for bargaining once negotiations between Israel and Jordan get underway, according to an interview with the Israeli leader published in the mass circulation West German news magazine Der Spiegel.

Peres also remarked that experience shows that the outcome of peace negotiations always differs from the initial positions of the parties involved, Der Spiegel reported.

He said in response to questions that what Israel has to offer Jordan above all is peace. He did not mention territorial concessions but hinted they were possible when, according to Der Spiegel, he said it was not possible or necessary to dismantle Jewish settlements on the West Bank because it was in principle unthinkable to have Israeli villages under Arab sovereignty.

He said there were many possibilities for economic cooperation between Israel and Jordan and joint development projects, such as water resources. He also said confederative solutions were possible, Der Spiegel reported.

AJCOMMITTEE WELCOMES REPORT THAT THE VATICAN FAVORS THE DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee has welcomed a report that the Vatican "favors the diplomatic recognition of Israel." The statement was issued by Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of international relations for the Committee, who said the agency's comment was based on an NBC news report from Rome that the Vatican now favors such a move.

Tanenbaum, who until recently had been the AJ Committee's director of interreligious affairs and who is presently in charge of the Committee's relationship with the Vatican, also said "as we have informed Vatican authorities, during a number of conversations in recent years, the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the State of Israel would be a significant contribution to the cause of peace and reconciliation in the Middle East."

He said "it would signal to rejectionist Arab states that the Vatican supports the existence of the State of Israel as a permanent and sovereign reality and that Arab nations should do likewise by coming to the negotiating table to talk peace."

"The American Jewish Committee will watch closely and welcomes concrete steps that the Holy See will take during the coming months to translate this report into reality," Tanenbaum said.

Asked about the probable effect of such a Vatican step on its position in recent years as that of calling for adoption of an international statute for the status of Jerusalem, Tanenbaum declared that "once diplomatic relations would be set between the Vatican and Israel, then clearly a series of negotiations would probably begin on such issues as the respective approaches toward the status of Jerusalem, control of the Holy Places and any outstanding questions relating to Catholic communities in Israel."

Tanenbaum has participated in meetings in recent years with the Vatican Secretariat of State, in cooperation with the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Contacts, which represents major Jewish organizations.

WNET RESPONDS TO ORTHODOX JEWISH OBJECTIONS TO 'HERITAGE' SERIES

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- The executive producer of "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews," the heavily-promoted nine-segment series being telecast on the more than 270 stations of the Public Broadcasting Service, said today that WNET, distributor of the series, regretted "that some representatives of the Orthodox Jewish community have felt it necessary to question the thrust and the context" of the series. The fourth segment will be telecast Monday.

Arnold Labaton declared the charge of five Orthodox agencies "allege an interpretation of the Torah that is not made in the series. The program never asserts that the Torah was a man-authored work incorporating myth and legend."

That was one of the complaints made in a joint statement on October 5 by Agudath Israel of America, National Council of Young Israel, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the Rabbinical Council of America and the Religious Zionists of America. The first segment was shown October 1.

A spokesman for Agudath Israel, which coordinated preparation and distribution of the criticism, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, that the state-

ment had been sent to WNET, the major PBS station in the area. On repeated calls, station spokesmen insisted the statement had never been received. A spokesperson said Labaton's rebuttal had been made on the basis of telephonic calls and a report to WNET on the Orthodox critique.

Leaders of the Reform and Conservative movements told the JTA that on the whole, they approved of the first three segments. Rabbi Alexander Shapiro, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis, said, however, he regretted "the insensitivity in the program to the feelings of traditionalist Jews, who affirm a different set of values."

Labaton said "our aims" in producing the series "has been to present Jewish history in the light of modern scholarship, to seek a fresh understanding drawn from research and discoveries in fields such as archaeology and anthropology while remaining respectful of Jewish traditions. We have attempted to produce a fair and scholarly study of this great people." Labaton also rejected the charge by the Orthodox groups that the producers had enlisted "the counsel of only that segment of Jews whose philosophies undermine the foundations of authentic Judaism."

Labaton responded that "we solicited the advice of respected scholars representing various forms of Jewish belief and practice, as well as scholars outside the Jewish community." He added "we are confident that we have produced a history consistent with the vast majority of modern scholarship."

"We have tried to hold true to our purpose of a scholarly series while respecting the beliefs of various sectors of the larger community for whom our programs are intended," Labaton declared. "We have sought a fair, intelligent and informed middle ground, and we hope that the great majority of our audience will feel that we have succeeded."

Abba Eban, former Foreign Minister of Israel, who helped produce the series, is narrator for the program.

ISRAELI RUNNERS TO PARTICIPATE IN NEW YORK MARATHON OCTOBER 28

NEW YORK, Oct. 21 (JTA) -- Fourteen Israeli runners will be among the 18,000 running enthusiasts to participate in the New York Marathon October 28, and will be arriving in the U.S. a few days prior to the race to do their last-minute training here.

The runners represent a wide spectrum of Israeli life: there are immigrants from the Soviet Union, England and Yemen; doctors, civil servants and kibbutzniks; and one young runner is scheduled to enter army service on his return from the marathon. The Israeli runners are being hosted once again by the Jewish runners of Livingston, N.J., who received them in their last run in 1982.

The marathon will start from the Verrazano Bridge on Staten Island. The runners follow the set course through all the five boroughs of New York City for 26.2 miles. The run will end after a little more than two hours for the fastest runners at Central Park in Manhattan.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Archaeological finds dating back to the earliest period of Canaanite Jerusalem were discovered in this season's excavations in Jerusalem's City of David. Prof. Yigal Shiloh, head of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Institute of Archaeology and director of the excavations, told journalists at a press tour. These finds date back to the earliest settlement of Jerusalem in the third millennium B.C.E.