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SHULTZ PLEDGES FULL U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S TOUGH ECONOMIC MEASURES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz pledged the "full support" of the U.S. for the government's tough economic measures in letters to Premier Shimon Peres and Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, made public here today. Shultz stressed that "The key to success will, of course, be the full and vigorous implementation of your emergency economic package."

He noted, too, that Washington's supplemental economic aid is nearing enactment by Congress and would help Israel toward economic recovery.

Shultz's letter was received last week after a Cabinet majority approved the Treasury's emergency economic program that was strongly backed by Peres. It drew fierce opposition from Histadrut which accused the government of forcing wage-earners to bear most of the burden of economic austerity.

Shultz's Letter To Peres

Shultz, who is an economist, referred to such opposition when he wrote to Peres: "I ... want to congratulate you on your courageous decision to move boldly to address Israel's economic problems. I know how difficult such decisions are, and the inevitable dissatisfaction these measures may cause among some elements, especially in the short term."

"On the other hand, our experience suggests that in dealing with the kind of problems you face, firm comprehensive steps are far more likely to succeed and to command broad public support in the long run."

"I believe the new economic measures represent an important step forward in your efforts to stabilize the Israeli economy and lay the basis for long-term growth and prosperity. The key to success will, of course, be the full and vigorous implementation of your emergency economic package. I want you to know that you have our full support as you work to this end."

"As you know, we want to help Israel to achieve its economic objectives through our assistance program. I am confident that our supplemental assistance, which is now close to enactment by Congress, will be available in a timely way to provide support for this most important undertaking."

Shultz wrote his letter in response to a telephone call to him by Peres, offering congratulations for the release on June 30 of the 39 Americans held hostage by Shiite Moslems in Beirut. It began: "Dear Shimon, thank you for your thoughtful call Monday on the release of the hostages. Both our countries can take satisfaction from the successful resolution of the crisis. Your cooperation and support was very much appreciated and touched me deeply."

GOVERNMENT PUTS TOUGHEST ECONOMIC MEASURES ON HOLD

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) -- The government today put its toughest economic measures on hold in hope of reaching an agreement with Histadrut and avoiding a second general strike in less than two weeks.

Premier Shimon Peres and Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai spent most of the day in meetings with Histadrut Secretary General Yisrael Kessar and his aides. The upshot was that the government postponed invoking the emergency regulations by which it planned to implement its economic austerity program.

One of the first measures would have been the dismissal this week of about 10,000 government employees and people employed in government-supported local authorities and public institutions, such as the Jewish Agency.

New Wage-Price Freeze Delayed

Also delayed was the new wage-price freeze that was to be imposed by decree under emergency powers derived from the British Mandate regime and retained in Israeli law, though never used on the economic front. The intention was to avoid the lengthy process of union negotiations and Knesset debate. That, precisely was what infuriated Histadrut.

Kessar said between meetings today that Histadrut could not negotiate under the threat of decrees it considers undemocratic and a negation of agreements signed between the workers' representatives and their employers.

Peres said he agreed the negotiations should be held in a free atmosphere. The implementing of economic measures by decree will therefore be postponed to allow talks to proceed, he said.

The government apparently yielded on this point because of the immediate danger of labor strife that could paralyze the country. Local trade union leaders and the rank-and-file workers have emerged as far more militant than the Histadrut leaders and may be beyond the latter's control.

Strike Actions Considered

While Peres and Modai were meeting with Histadrut officials, some of the country's largest unions were holding meetings of their own to consider new strike actions. They included the unions representing employees of the Israel Electric Corp.; the Ports Authority; the Bezek Telephone Corp.; El Al; Israel Aircraft Industries; the merchant marine officers and seamen union; and the electronic and electrical appliances industries unions.

Their tone was strident. Spokesmen said the unions would confer again tonight to decide whether to call a general strike tomorrow. Some unions jumped the gun and announced a 24-hour shutdown beginning tomorrow morning. They may be joined by other unions, including those representing Ben Gurion Airport workers.

The government employees union has already called a three-hour work stoppage for tomorrow. The clerks union is expected to decide later whether to join in that demonstrative action.

Histadrut staged a 24-hour general strike last week which it said was 90 percent effective. The country was virtually shut down July 2/3 and cut off from air and sea communications with the rest of the world. It was hoped in government circles that the decision to postpone the emergency measures would deflate union militancy.

The decision was taken only hours after Modai declared on radio and television that the emergency economic measures constitute a package from which no components can be removed or changed.

Histadrut contends that the program imposes hardships on wage-earners and salaried workers but only minor inconveniences for the wealthy and self-employed. The trade union federation demands a more even distribution of economic sacrifice. It predicts that under the new program, real wages will decline by 30 percent.

The government hopes to work out a compromise. But even as it postponed the most painful measures, the various ministries were preparing lists of employees who will receive dismissal notices, whether by emergency decree or through negotiations with labor.

TRAIN-BUS COLLISION SITE CLOSED TO BUSES PENDING CORRECTIVE MEASURES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 8 (JTA) — A railroad crossing where 19 children and three adults were killed in a train-bus collision last month has been barred to buses by the Transport Ministry until corrective measures can be taken. But a dispute has arisen over which authorities — national or local — should do the necessary work.

The crossing is one of several hundred in Israel with neither gates nor warning signals because the road that crosses the tracks is little used. The road leads to a seashore nature preserve at Moshav Habonim south of Haifa. The collision victims were seventh-graders from a Petach Tikva junior high school, on an outing with their teachers and a few accompanying parents.

The accident was one of the worst of its kind in Israel's history. An official inquiry by the Transport Ministry found the bus driver, who lost her life, to have been at fault. But it also found that the "geometry" of the crossing contributed to the accident, specifically, a sharp bend in the road and a steep slope where it crosses the railway tracks.

According to the Transport Ministry, it was up to the Carmel District Council to remove that hazard. The Council maintains, however, that responsibility lies with the government which owns the railroad right-of-way.

EDUCATION MINISTRY DIRECTIVES TO SCHOOLS STRESSES DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) — The Education Ministry has issued a set of directives to the schools, stressing the need to teach students the principles of democracy. This, the Ministry said, should be the focus of education in the next school year.

Although no political movement was mentioned by name, the set of directives was clearly an attempt aimed at trying to cope with the growing support among Israel's youth for the views espoused by Knesset member Rabbi Meir Kahane, head of the Kach Party.

The Ministry assigned teams of teachers to prepare a comprehensive education program for the promotion of democratic values. According to the Ministry, within this framework, proper representation should be given to the variety of views in Israeli society, as long as they are expressed in a cultural manner, and do not conflict with the law.

However, the directives specifically ban any activities which may constitute incitement, promotion of violence, or animosity against certain sectors of the population, a clear reference to the Arab population. Kahane's Kach Party seeks the removal of all Arabs from Israel.

The teachers were asked to promote discussion of Jewish-Arab relations and to systematically act to help the students overcome their prejudice. The directives apply to the entire education system, from kindergarten all the way through the final high school grade.

HOUSEHOLD DETERGENTS CAN MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP OF SHARKS

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) — Research conducted by the Hebrew University here has resulted in the surprising discovery that common household detergents can be effectively used as shark repellent.

The discovery is the result of studies of the poisonous secretion of the Red Sea flatfish. The studies were conducted by Prof. Eliahu Zlotkin of the zoology department at the Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Sciences and Prof. Yechezkel Barenholtz of the biochemistry department at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School.

The professors succeeded in extracting the active agent in this secretion, a toxin called pardaxin, and discovered in their research that the toxicity of pardaxin and its shark repelling qualities seemed to be related to its surfactant, detergent-like properties, expressed in reduction of water surface tension causing foaming and reduction of drop volume.

Zlotkin, in concert with Prof. Samuel Gruber of the University of Miami, then compared the effect of pardaxin and a number of common detergents on the aggressive lemon shark. They found that two of the 15 compounds they tried were even more effective in repelling the lemon shark than even the natural toxin of the flatfish. Most recently, these detergents were found to be effective also in repelling large dangerous blue sharks in the open sea water off California.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A group of Gush Emunim settlers in the West Bank have converted an unused mosque into a synagogue near the Arab village of Sanour in northern Samaria. The settlers, consisting of 11 families, said they consulted religious authorities to find out if halacha permitted such a conversion. It was approved by the head of the regional rabbinical council. According to David Segal, chairman of the Samaria Regional Religious Council, "This is the fulfillment of the hazal (early sages) saying: 'theaters and circuses will end up becoming synagogues and schools of learning'."

JERUSALEM (JTA) — About 4,000 religious zealots demonstrated over the weekend against a new municipal swimming pool in the Ramot neighborhood because it will be open on the Sabbath and will permit mixed bathing — men and women. Several motorists were slightly wounded Saturday when their cars were stoned by ultra-Orthodox Jews in the adjacent neighborhood of Ramot Eshkol. Two city employees were attacked by a barrage of stones when they arrived by car Saturday to repair a broken water pipe in Makor Baruch, a neighborhood populated by religious and secular Jews.

CANADIAN SENATE PANEL'S MIDEAST REPORT IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE, SOFT ON THE PLO By Janice Arnold

OTTAWA, July 8 (JTA) — After three years of study, a Senate committee on Middle East policy has produced a report highly sympathetic to the Palestinian cause and soft on the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Fears that the report would call for Canada's recognition of the PLO, fueled by leaks to the press a couple of weeks before it was presented proved unfounded. However, the two Jewish legislators on the Senate committee, Jerry Grafstein, a Liberal, and Nathan Nurgitz, a Progressive Conservative, have disassociated themselves from the report and the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) has called it "misleading and ill-considered."

Nurgitz told the Senate the day the report was presented that the report was "offensive" to the Jewish community of Canada in its treatment of the Arab-Israeli conflict. What is "especially shocking," according to the CIC, is the report's portrayal of the PLO as "some sort of frustrated, but essentially democratic organization."

The report describes the PLO as a "relatively democratic" umbrella organization, moving toward moderation, that is regarded by the "vast majority of Palestinians ... as their principal representative."

While the Senate committee was "not persuaded on balance that Canada should proceed to recognize the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people," it recommends that the Canadian government continue its contacts with the PLO and, under some circumstances, show more flexibility.

Highly Critical Of Israel's Policy

The report is very critical of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, particularly its settlement program which is seen as a major obstacle to peace. It calls for withdrawal of Jewish settlements as "part of an overall political agreement in which Israel would undertake responsibility for the removal of the settlers from the settlements." In the meantime, the report urges an end, not just a freeze, to settlement activity.

The report emphasizes that the "Palestinian problem is central" to the Arab-Israeli conflict. "There can be no resolution of the Arab-Israeli dispute until there has been agreement on how to accommodate the Palestinian people while at the same time ensuring the security and legitimacy of Israel."

The report says the Canadian public's perception of the PLO has been dominated by its military and terrorist activities, overlooking its contributions to the social welfare and "self-respect" of the Palestinians.

The study is the first examination of Canada's relations with the Middle East by a parliamentary committee. The House of Commons gave the Senate the mandate to begin the study only days after Israel entered Lebanon in June, 1982.

The committee heard from 63 witnesses at hearings in Ottawa. Among the most controversial personalities to testify before the committee was Zehdi Terzi, PLO observer at the United Nations. During a Middle East tour in 1983, committee members met then Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and King Hussein of Jordan. Others testifying includ-

ed Edgar Bronfman, president of World Jewish Congress, and Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij. Further recommendations made in the report are that Canada send foreign aid to Palestinians on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, a flexible attitude toward Palestinians wishing to emigrate to Canada, opposition to Israel's "unilateral annexation" of East Jerusalem, and no anti-boycott legislation.

The report outlines a peace plan comprising first-stage negotiations between Israel and Egypt, Jordan and "moderate non-PLO Palestinians." An international conference involving the United States, Soviet Union and three other permanent members of the UN Security Council is proposed for the second stage of talks.

The Senate is the upper house of the Canadian parliament through which all legislation must pass before it becomes law. Its responsibilities, however, are largely regarded as ceremonial.

STUDY CLAIMING THAT NAZI IDEOLOGY IS WANING IN AUSTRIA IS DISPUTED By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, July 8 (JTA) — A prominent young historian has sharply criticized a recent study which claimed that Nazi ideology is on the wane in Austria.

According to Dr. Gerhard Botz, head of the Botzmann Institute for Historical Social Science in Salzburg, the findings are "palliative" and based on "outdated" material. He noted that according to the latest scientific investigations, it is not yet time, 40 years after the end of World War II, to sit back and consider de-Nazification an accomplished fact.

The study, presented here last week, maintained that Nazi ideology as a set of values and political ideas is virtually non-existent in Austria today, although Austrians admittedly still score high when polled on their attitudes toward specific characteristics of authoritarianism. The latter include anti-Semitism, xenophobia and anti-parliamentarianism. But the study insisted, these attitudes too are declining, although only gradually.

But Botz, one of the younger generation of historians, cited figures showing that significant numbers of Austrians hold views which were part of Nazi ideology. He noted that 40 percent of the population believes there are better and worse nations; 15 percent still contend that Austria needs more territory for "lebensraum"; and 21 percent would prefer political decisions to be made by a single, competent politician rather than the long, complicated democratic process.

COMPUTER CRIME INCREASING IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) — Computer crime, which has become the bane of advanced technology all over the world, has risen to significant proportions in Israel. But much of it goes unreported by the victims for fear of bad publicity, Deputy Attorney General Yoram Bar-Sela told an international symposium on computers and the law at the Hebrew University. He said the Justice Ministry is drafting recommendations for special legislation to deal with this type of white collar criminality which will include sanctions against victims who fail to report their suspicion of such crimes.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES A UNIQUE PILOT PROJECT By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) — Thirty American teachers will leave for Israel July 27 on a three-week Holocaust study trip, striving to better understand the tragic period and relay their findings to their students.

Program coordinator Vladka Meed, a Holocaust survivor, said that President Reagan's recent Bitburg visit has sparked interest among Holocaust related organizations "to transmit to American youth the events and lessons of the Holocaust." Meed explained that "This pioneering program is designed to reach secondary school students by providing teachers with a new and intensive training program."

The program, Introduction to the Holocaust and Jewish Resistance, is jointly sponsored by the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors (AGJHS), American Friends of Ghetto Fighters House, the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), AFL-CIO, and the Educators Chapter of the Jewish Labor Committee.

This pilot project, directed by Henry Feingold, author of "The Politics of Rescue, The Roosevelt Administration and the Holocaust, 1933-1945," and a professor at the City University of New York and Baruch College, is built to knit the experiences of Holocaust survivors with the young generation of the 1980's.

Project Nourished By A Survivor

"The idea of this unique project was born and nourished by a survivor," commented Meed, chairperson of the Education Committee of the American Gathering and vice president of the Jewish Labor Committee, as she referred to herself. "Working out the project was not an easy undertaking," added Meed, who is also the author of "On Both Sides of the Wall," an account of her own experience in the Warsaw Ghetto; but an "enthusiastic response" and an "inner feeling to our historic commitment overcame the hardship," she said.

The Ghetto Fighters House in Israel, which will host the program, is an education center founded by survivors of ghettos and concentration camps and is located on Kibbutz Lohamei Hagetaot (Ghetto Fighters Kibbutz) in the northern Galilee. Here, where there is a complex that includes a library, an art collection and the largest archive of Holocaust related films in the world, the teachers will draw on the personal experiences of members of the kibbutz and will visit sites of historic Jewish resistance such as Masada and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

"We the survivors know the pictures are real," Meed stressed, "but they present only one part of what went on during the German occupation" of Europe. While much attention has been devoted to the victimized Jew of the Holocaust, Meed asserted that there is "another part — filled with life and dignity." She also believes that there must be a sharper focus shifted on the resistance and the struggle against Nazism.

At an orientation meeting last month, the participants were briefed about the aims and goals of the program. "When I became a parent," revealed Roman Kent from the American Gathering, "I realized that you as teachers have much more power over students than we the parents." He added that "We from the American Gathering realize that for us it is

too late to do something. With your help, they (the students) will be able to prevent another Holocaust." Feingold said he hopes to "develop a cadre of trained teachers who can transmit meaningfully the Holocaust experience." Each participant will also be expected to keep a journal to record reactions and personal observations. These will be left with the kibbutz and collected over the years for the program to evaluate the teachers and to determine its own progress and success.

A Deep Concern Expressed

Many of the teachers, recruited on the basis of previous demonstration of their commitment to Holocaust studies, expressed a deep concern over spreading the Holocaust message to other ethnic groups. Due to a lack of education, some of the teachers, a majority of whom work in the New York area school system, pointed out that there still exists many stereotypes and misconceptions about the Jewish people among minority children. "It is not a problem solely of the Jewish people," declared Jeannette DiLorenzo, treasurer of the UFT. "It is a problem of all thinking people."

Dr. Belle Zeller, professor of political science at City University of New York, will follow through once the training is complete and check how each teacher is implementing the program. "I hope to see that the children, regardless of their ethnic background, get to understand this time period," remarked Zeller.

But before any results can be tabulated or charted, three weeks of living and breathing the memories of the Holocaust await these 30 pioneers. And as Meed suggests, "An inner spiritual strength must be captured," because "divorced from the reality of Jewish life, the story of Jewish death cannot be told."

OFFICIAL REQUEST TO FREEZE NEW WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS REJECTED BY SETTLERS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) — Jewish settlers in the West Bank have rejected an official request to freeze new settlements in the territory for economic reasons. Otniel Schneller, secretary of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judeaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, warned yesterday that if the government fails to carry out an earlier decision to establish six new settlements, the settlers will do it themselves.

Schneller flatly rejected a request by Nissim Zvili, head of the World Zionist Organization's settlement department, that new settlement activity be held in abeyance because of the economic crisis. His request was supported by Yacov Tsar, Minister of Absorption.

Tsar called for a freeze on settlements for economic reasons and because, he said, there is no national consensus that they are necessary. He charged that some Cabinet ministers used the settlements issue as a political tool without consideration of the real needs of the territories.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Samuel Lewis, who ended an eight-year tour of duty as U.S. Ambassador to Israel in May, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Bank Leumi Trust Co. of New York, the major American subsidiary of the Bank Leumi, Israel's largest bank. The Bank Leumi statement announcing the appointment said that Lewis, a career diplomat until his retirement, was selected because of his wide connections in Israel and the U.S. and his desire to continue working for deeper relations between the two countries.