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# **The Time Is Inauspicious: REAGAN ADMINISTRATION DECIDES TO POSTPONE ARAB ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS TILL AFTER HIGH HOLY DAYS**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration has decided that the Jewish High Holidays are not an auspicious time to announce its intention to sell sophisticated weapons to Jordan and Saudi Arabia. It has postponed official notification of Congress until the end of the month.

The notification, required by law, had been expected this week. Rosh Hashanah begins this Sunday night, September 15, and Yom Kippur begins the night of Tuesday, September 24. Administration officials have informed Congressional circles that the announcement will not be made until September 26 at the earliest.

American Jews are strongly opposed to the sale of any weaponry to countries still technically in a state of war with Israel and they are supported in this by substantial majorities in both houses of Congress. Jordan is known to be seeking F-16 jet fighters and both ground-to-air and air-to-air missiles. Saudi Arabia is in the market for F-15 jets and mobile improved Hawk anti-aircraft missiles.

## **Trimming Down Arms Package To Saudis**

But Congressional opposition has been strong and the Administration is expected to drop plans to include 40 F-15s in its arms sales package to the Saudis, according to Congressional and State Department sources. It would be the first time the U.S. has rejected a major weapons item requested by the Saudis.

According to one Administration official, the decision "was a judgement on what's obtainable" on Capitol Hill. Yesterday, four key Senators -- Alan Cranston (D. Calif.); Robert Packwood (R. Ore.); Alan Dixon (D. Ill.) and Alfonse D'Amato (R.N.Y.) -- stated in a letter to their colleagues that the proposed arms sales would "fuel the regional arms competition" and erode Israel's military superiority in the Middle East.

## **CURFEW ON HEBRON MARKET LIFTED**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- The curfew on the Hebron vegetable market was lifted today, exactly a week after one Israeli soldier was fatally stabbed and another seriously wounded in that city. The curfew continued in force in the casbah, the old market and residential quarter where the knife attacks occurred.

Traders in the produce market reported business returning to normal. But tension remained high in Hebron where Israeli troops wounded four Arab youths yesterday when they fled from a routine identity check. One of them, a 12-year-old boy, was reported in serious condition at a local hospital.

Restrictive measures were taken in two other Arab villages in the West Bank. A curfew was imposed on Sair in the Hebron region where an Israeli vehicle was stoned yesterday and restrictions were imposed on the movement of residents of Burka, near Ramallah where a similar stoning incident occurred.

Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy visited Jewish settlers in Hebron last night to stress that the army alone was responsible for security in the territory and would act against anyone who breaks the law, Arab or Jew. The settlers said they would no longer undertake armed patrols in Arab towns or similar activities which could bring about confrontations with the army.

## **Peres Warns The Settlers**

Premier Shimon Peres warned the settlers, meanwhile, that only the government and Knesset will decide where Jewish settlements can be established and those decisions will not be taken under duress.

Addressing a meeting of Na'amat-Pioneer Women, the Women's Labor Zionist organization, in Tel Aviv, the Premier said recent events showed that developments in the West Bank proved that the settlers were not protecting soldiers. The soldiers have to protect the settlers, he said.

## **On The Eve Of The Reagan-Gorbachev Summit: NOVEMBER 19 IS ANNOUNCED AS A DAY OF SOLIDARITY IN SUPPORT OF SOVIET JEWS**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- Jews and non-Jews throughout the world will be asked to participate in a "Day of Solidarity" in support of Soviet Jewry November 19, the eve of the summit meeting in Geneva between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

This was announced today by Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry, at a press conference following the two-day meeting of the International Council of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry. He said the day is to be an "expression of our voices as powerfully" as possible.

Gerald Kraft, president of B'nai B'rith International, said that events would include prayers in synagogues, all-night vigils, moments of silence in legislatures and other government bodies, and other demonstrations. Kraft said the Geneva summit "opens a window of opportunity the like of which may never come again."

Dulzin said the executive of the World Conference will meet in Paris October 2 when Gorbachev is scheduled to meet with French President Francois Mitterrand and in Geneva for the Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

He said that since its creation four years ago, the World Conference has not succeeded in bringing about renewed large-scale Jewish emigration from the USSR. But Dulzin added, "We came out stronger, more united, more decisive in continuing our struggle." Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, noted, "I have never seen the Jewish

community so united on a single issue as it is now." The two-day meeting, attended by representatives from 24 countries at the headquarters of B'nai B'rith International here, concluded yesterday with a declaration that "as the world looks forward in hope to the summit meetings in Paris and Geneva, the World Conference delegates draw the attention of the world to the fact that if the plight of Soviet Jewry is indicative of Soviet credibility and the value of the solemn word of the USSR, then the summit begins under a heavy cloud. For humanity's prayers and expectations from the summit meetings to be realized, that cloud must be removed."

The delegates pledged to Soviet Jews "that we shall never relent in our efforts until they are free," and stressed that "the USSR's treatment of its Jews will come to be the test of Soviet sincerity in all its international relations."

A delegation of seven Jewish leaders from five continents led by Abram made that point to Reagan when they met with the President at the White House yesterday. Abram reiterated today that the President pledged to bring up the issue at the summit. He added that the President "very wisely left it to his own sense of statesmanship exactly the form and substance to which he will address the problem; but address it there is not any doubt."

#### Will Not Soft Pedal Human Rights Issues

Dulzin said that Claude Kelman, chairman of the Council for Soviet Jewry in France, told Reagan he plans to meet with Mitterrand to ask the French President to address the issue of Soviet Jewry with Gorbachev.

Arieh Handler, chairman of the National Council for Soviet Jewry in Britain, said that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher gave him a written statement to bring to the Washington meeting in which she said that in seeking to improve British and Western relations with the USSR, "we have not and will not softpedal questions of human rights." A copy of the statement was also given to Reagan by the Jewish leaders yesterday.

#### Statement By Administration Official

At a dinner at the Capital-Hilton Hotel last night, which concluded the International Council's two-day meeting, Michael Armacost, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, reiterated the position made continuously by the Jewish delegates.

Soviet violations of the "obligations" it undertook under the 1975 Helsinki Accords, "cannot but affect perceptions of Soviet willingness to abide by other accords and erode political confidence needed to make progress on a variety of issues," he said.

"It is our hope that Soviet authorities are coming to recognize that human rights will remain central to the United States-Soviet agenda," Armacost said.

"We are not asking Soviet authorities to do the impossible -- but only to live up to their international obligations, and loosen the screws of repression tightened so cruelly in recent years. We watch the patterns of Soviet-Jewish emigration, as you do. We are prepared to respond as improvements occur."

Armacost noted that "Soviet officials hint that improvements in human rights, including Jewish emigration, can follow an upward swing in overall relations." But he stressed "the reality is that Soviet abuses of human rights undermine the political confidence needed to improve relations, negotiate arms control

agreements, and cooperatively lessen regional tensions." Dulzin, who is also chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, stressed today that Jews live both in the East and the West and, "by nature, we are interested in peace and cooperation and good relationships." But this must be based on cooperation between the two superpowers and cannot be a "solo dance."

#### MEMBERS OF REFORM MOVEMENT JOIN SIT-DOWN STRIKE OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- The Ethiopian Jewish immigrant community's week-long sit-down strike outside the offices of the Chief Rabbinate Council was joined today by dozens of members of the Reform Jewish community in Israel who brought with them food, cold drinks and flowers.

Rabbi Asher Hirsch, world secretary of the Reform movement, said the fight of the Ethiopians for equal treatment as Jews was also the fight of the Reform community. The immigrants began the sit-in strike a week ago to protest the Chief Rabbinate's insistence that they undergo ritual immersion, a religious conversion rite, before they are allowed to marry.

The Ethiopians, all devout practicing Jews, regard this demand as humiliating and insulting because it questions their authenticity as Jews. They voted yesterday to continue the strike despite appeals by Premier Shimon Peres and the Director General of the Religious Affairs Ministry to end it.

Meanwhile, they have won an order nisi from the Supreme Court requiring the Chief Rabbinate to show cause why the Ethiopian immigrants must undergo ritual conversion.

Rabbi Hirsch said, "We regard them as Jews for all intents and purposes. It was already decided they are Jews. We brought them to Israel and therefore we must treat them as full Jews."

#### REMAINING ATLIT DETAINEES RELEASED

JERUSALEM, Sept. 10 (JTA) -- Israel released 119 Lebanese Shiites from the Atlit detention camp today, the last of more than 1,000 security detainees captured during the final stages of the withdrawal from Lebanon last spring.

The freed men, some members of the extremist Hertzballah (Party of God) Shiite movement, boarded buses for the border checkpoint at Rosh Hanikra where they were transferred to the Red Cross for return to their homes in Lebanon.

Israel has now freed 1,032 prisoners who were originally held in the Ansar camp in south Lebanon. They were transferred to Atlit, near Haifa when Ansar was closed shortly before the last Israeli soldiers left Lebanon early in June.

Israel stated at the outset it intended to release them in stages, depending on the security situation in south Lebanon. The prisoners were freed over the summer at the rate of several hundred at a time.

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**CORRECTION:** The date of Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's address to the United Nations General Assembly was incorrect in the September 9 Bulletin. He will speak on October 2.