

U.S. CONTINUES TO SEEK SYRIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration appears to be making a concerted effort to get Syria involved in the Middle East peace process, or at least agree not to continue trying to sabotage it.

"We hope that Syria can be helpful in the peace process," Secretary of State George Shultz said at a State Department press conference on Friday. But Shultz conceded that Syria does not support the Administration's basic requirement for a peace agreement -- direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

Shultz, however, said that Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, had some "very interesting and worthwhile discussions" during his recent visit to Syria.

Shultz's remarks followed a statement by State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb on Thursday in which he said the United States hoped that Syria would join the peace process and stressed that it is U.S. policy that the future of the Golan Heights, not just the West Bank and Gaza, should be resolved through negotiations.

Sees Considerable Progress

At his press conference Friday, Shultz maintained that "there has been some very considerable progress" in the peace process. "I think the recognition all around that in the end direct negotiations has to be the way in which an answer is found is positive," he said.

But when he was asked if he was including Syria, he said he was not, but was thinking about Jordan, Egypt, Israel and some "moderate elements" supporting them.

Shultz said another positive development is "the recognition that it's the process that we need to get going rather than feeling that there has to be an end result preordained."

"There isn't any preordained outcome," he said. "That's the whole point of negotiations."

However, Shultz said the problems remain of finding "what the right way is to represent Palestinians on a joint delegation with Jordan and some 'appropriate international context' for the negotiations."

Rules Out International Conference

The Secretary continued to rule out an international conference sought by King Hussein because it would include the Soviet Union. He said the USSR would first have to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, "examine the way it treats Jews in the Soviet Union" and "take a look at its emigration policy."

Meanwhile, Shultz pointed out that the "bloodiest war" now in the Mideast is the war between Iran and Iraq "which we would like to see draw to an end." He said the U.S. has urged its friends to stop supplying arms to Iran and if all countries, including the Soviet Union, ended their arms supplies to the two countries "perhaps we can see a resolution to that war."

U.S. JUSTICE AND STATE DEPT. OFFICIALS GOING TO ISRAEL ON THE POLLARD CASE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- A delegation of State and Justice Department officials will go to Israel early this week, possibly as early as Tuesday, to interview Israelis implicated in the case of Jonathan Pollard, Secretary of State George Shultz announced last Friday.

"We have every reason to believe that the issue involved will be resolved satisfactorily," Shultz told a press conference. He said the team will be headed by Abraham Sofaer, the State Department's legal advisor. Others in the team representing the Justice Department are Deputy Assistant Attorney General Mark Richard; John Martin, head of the Justice Department's unit that manages espionage investigations; and Joseph diGenova, the U.S. Attorney for Washington. There are also members of the FBI, but they were not identified.

Pollard, 31, a U.S. Navy counterintelligence analyst, is being held without bail on the charge of selling classified information to Israel. His wife, Anne Henderson-Pollard, 25, is also being held without bail on the charge of unauthorized possession of classified documents.

BODY OF 18-YEAR-OLD IDF SOLDIER FOUND ON PETAH TIKVA-LOD ROAD
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- The body of an 18-year-old soldier was discovered on the road from Petah Tikva to Lod near Mazor village Thursday night. He was identified as Moshe Levy, of Petah Tikva. He had died as a result of stab wounds. Police said his body had been burned after the stabbing.

Police are trying to establish whether his death was due to terrorist activity. He had reportedly been hitchhiking home from an IDF base together with another soldier who left the vehicle earlier.

Police have asked the driver of a car, which gave lifts to the two soldiers and let them off at two different places before continuing to Rehovot, to come forward.

Police are also investigating the deaths of two Arabs whose bodies were found Thursday in an avocado orchard of Moshav Sadot Micha seven kilometers southwest of Beit Shemesh, not far from where the bodies of two Jews had been found some months ago.

The murdered Arabs, whose names were not made public, were 29 and 31 years old. They were from Ramallah on the West Bank and from East Jerusalem. One was said to be known to the police as involved in drug traffic. The men had been shot in the head and the chest. They had been carrying identity cards and a large quantity of money.

Police sources said they were investigating both terrorist and criminal motives for the murders, but were "99 percent certain" that the killings were an underworld crime involving drug or gold trafficking.

SLAYING OF ARAB YOUTH DRAWS MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- Meir Braverman, 65, has been charged with manslaughter in the slaying of an Arab youth on Saladin Street, the main street in East Jerusalem last Yom Kippur eve. Braverman, who

shot the Arab in the head, claimed self-defense. He said the Arab, Ali Mash'hour, was harassing his woman companion, Tikva Cohen, while on a shopping trip. Braverman contends that when the man ignored his warnings and continued to shout oaths and menace the couple, he took out his pistol and fired into the air. But the police say Braverman fired at the young man's head, killing him.

HERZOG GRANTS AMNESTY TO TWO JEWISH UNDERGROUND MEMBERS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog has granted amnesty to two of the 27 members of a Jewish underground terrorist network in the West Bank serving sentences for acts of violence against Arabs, his office announced.

Most were convicted and sentenced earlier this year. Dan Be'eri, 41, a former Roman Catholic from France who converted to Judaism, and Yosef Tzuria, a 26-year-old Jewish settler in the West Bank, were sentenced in 1984 for plotting to blow up Islamic shrines on the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem. Each was given three years and would have been eligible for parole in several months had Herzog not intervened to release them sooner. Herzog freed another underground member earlier this year.

There had been demands from rightwing politicians and West Bank settlers for a blanket amnesty while the trials were still in progress. Herzog made clear at the time that he would consider amnesty on an individual basis only after the judicial process ran its course.

Rightwingers in the Knesset plan to present a bill for amnesty for those remaining in jail. They include settlers convicted of the 1980 car bombings which maimed two West Bank mayors and blinded a police sapper, and others found guilty of killing three Arab university students in the West Bank.

HEAT ON LAND FRAUD SALE CONTINUES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- Some Labor Party and leftists in the Knesset demanded over the weekend the suspension of Michael Dekel from the post of Deputy Defense Minister because two of his former aides have been indicted in a West Bank land sales fraud. Dekel, who had been Deputy Minister of Agriculture, was named by the Cabinet to the defense job last Wednesday.

His critics have implied that he, too, might have been involved in the scandal for which his former aides, Avi Tzur and Claude Malka, were arrested last week. Likud has countered with charges that the arrests were politically motivated. Police Minister Haim Barlev is a prominent figure in the Labor Party.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, leader of Likud, said Friday that he saw "some exaggerated industry" on the part of the police "and I believe it is motivated by political considerations." Dekel has refused to comment on suggestions that he was implicated, but he defended Tzur, presently employed by the Airport Authority.

Tzur is accused of taking bribes, pocketing some of the money and passing the rest on to Likud. According to Dekel, he was within the law raising money for a political party. "All the parties are doing it and so did Likud," he said.

FLEDGLING LIBERAL CENTER PARTY ISSUES ITS POLITICAL PLATFORM WHICH IS CLOSE TO THE LABOR PARTY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- The newly-formed Liberal Center Party, led by Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat and Jewish Agency Chairman Leon Dulzin, has issued its political platform -- demonstrating a basically moderate line on foreign policy.

Following day-long deliberations by the leadership in Tel Aviv last Thursday, the party announced that it was opposed to annexation of the administered areas, and was opposed to a "binational state" which would result from such annexation. Israel, the party declared, must be a Jewish and Zionist state.

While Israel had an historic right over the territories, it should be prepared to give up territories for peace, the party said. Jerusalem, however, is not a matter for negotiation. The party also rejected out of hand the creation of an independent Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan. The platform also stressed the equality of all Israeli citizens regardless of religion, race or sex.

The platform is thus close to that of the Labor Party and the new group must therefore be considered a potential partner of Labor, rather than of Likud -- if it succeeds in winning seats in the Knesset.

Other party leaders include former Likud-Liberal Minister Yitzhak Berman (who resigned from the Cabinet over the Lebanon war), and former Likud-Liberal Deputy Minister Yehezkel Flomin.

LONG TIME REFUSENIK RECEIVES PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- Eliahu Essas of Moscow, often referred to as "the spiritual father of Hebrew teachers" in the Soviet Union, his wife and three children have received exit visas for Israel after 12 years of trying to emigrate. Essas, a mathematician who first applied for visas in 1973, is expected to leave the Soviet Union within a few weeks.

According to the World Jewish Congress, the decision to grant Essas an exit visa was made known to the WJC during the summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last month in Geneva. A senior Soviet official contacted WJC president Edgar Bronfman with the news that Essas would be given permission to leave. "We have received an official cable from Moscow with a positive response to your request," the diplomat told Bronfman.

Bronfman, the first WJC president officially received in Moscow last September, met with Essas there and requested his release in meetings with Soviet officials.

HOUSE APPROVES BILL REQUIRING UNIVERSITIES TO DISCLOSE SIZEABLE GIFTS FROM FOREIGN DONORS

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- The House of Representatives approved a Higher Education bill that would require colleges and universities receiving federal aid to disclose sizeable gifts from foreign donors. Similar legislation is expected to come before the Senate in 1986.

The House legislation, passed last week, was introduced by Rep. Robert Matsui (D. Calif.). Based on a proposal drafted by American Jewish Congress lawyers, the bill is designed to discourage intrusions on academic freedom by foreign sources that attempt to tie politi-

cal or propaganda strings to such gifts or obtain exclusive rights to university research findings. Theodore Mann, AJCongress president, who hailed the passage of the legislation, pointed out that this measure "is not designed to prohibit gifts from any sources, including foreign donors. But it does require that any college or university that is a beneficiary of federal grants or contracts report to the Secretary of Education gifts or contracts of \$100,000 or more in any 12-month period, as well as all conditions attached to the use of the funds."

Mann stated that the attempt by foreign donors to tie political or propaganda strings to such gifts "is an unacceptable breach of academic autonomy" and "represents a threat to institutional integrity and standards."

He noted that the urgency in passing disclosure legislation on a national scale "has been quickened by the knowledge that certain Arab governments have financed the establishment on major university campuses of so-called 'research' institutes on condition that final approval of appointments, curricula or other academic policies be vested in the donor."

In addition, Mann said, "There is also the very real danger that foreign companies and governments are able to invest secretly in university research done by American universities and gain exclusive use of the results of the discoveries. Such arrangements have become increasingly common in recent years."

A TAIL WITH A TALE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 8 (JTA) — It was inevitable that someone would find the Jewish angle in Halley's comet, now making its appearance in our skies.

It wasn't discovered by Edmond Halley, the British astronomer-explorer and colleague of Isaac Newton 200 years ago — even though he established that the comets which had appeared in 1531, 1607 and 1682 were one and the same and predicted it was to appear again 76 years later, in 1758, when it was given Halley's name — even though he did not live to see its predicted reappearance.

A comet which appears every 70 years is mentioned in the Talmud. The Jewish angle was mentioned by Rabbi Zvi Ilani, of the religious-oriented Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan during an Israel Radio program last week on the comet.

The Talmud's Seder Nezikin, section Horayoth, page (Daf) II, tells that Rabban Gamliel, on a journey to Rome in the year 95, was accompanied by Rabbi Yehoshua Ben Hananya, sailing in a ship which was beset by storms and went off course owing to faulty navigation.

Gamliel had taken only bread with him, but Yehoshua had also taken a reserve supply of flour, which he shared with his companion when Gamliel's bread ran out because of the delays.

"Did you know that we should be so much delayed that you brought flour with you?" the Talmud quotes Gamliel as asking. Yehoshua replied: "A certain star rises once in 70 years and leads the sailors astray, and I suspected it might rise and lead us astray."

HERZOG MAKES APPEARANCE AT COMMUNIST PARTY CONVENTION BUT IS REBUFFED BY SOVIET DELEGATE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA) — President Chaim Herzog appeared at the official opening of the Rakah

(Communist) Party's four-day convention last week, becoming the first President of Israel ever to extend that courtesy to the pro-Moscow, anti-Zionist faction. But his gesture to Rakah, a party represented in the Knesset but which is anathema to most Israelis, brought him only a rebuff from the Soviet delegate.

The latter, Michael Menashev, said Friday that Herzog's presence would not influence Kremlin policy on Soviet-Jewish emigration nor would it advance the renewal of diplomatic ties with Israel, broken since 1967. The man from Moscow suggested, however, that the President's attendance reflected Rakah's "growing influence in Israeli political life."

The party has four seats in the present Knesset, the same as in the previous one. It polled 3.4 percent of the vote in the last elections.

The head of the Polish Communist Party's delegation to the convention, Tadeusz Czechowicz, said his country would establish diplomatic ties with Israel only after the Israelis recognized the rights of the Palestinian people. He drew a distinction, however, between diplomatic and other forms of relations, noting that Poland and Israel have had cultural and economic contacts since the end of World War II.

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DUE IN ISRAEL TO DISCUSS ISRAEL-EEC RELATIONSHIP

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA) — Foreign Minister Roland Dumas of France is due in Israel this week, mainly to discuss Israel's export relationship with the European Economic Community after Spain and Portugal join the EEC next year.

Dumas, regarded as a friend of Israel, will be returning Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir's visit to France last June. He will come here on a two-day official visit following the meeting of the EEC foreign ministers in Brussels.

Meanwhile, an Israeli delegation representing several government departments will leave for Brussels tomorrow for talks on such matters as how many tons of avocados and flowers Israel may export to the EEC countries each year without tariff and how high the tariffs will be on each ton over the tariff-free ceiling.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israeli soldiers Sunday prevented a dozen Jews from setting up an illegal settlement in Jericho. The group tried to light candles at a seventh century synagogue in celebration of Chanukah, but left without incident when the soldiers ordered them away.

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A 40-foot menorah has been erected in Lafayette Park across from the White House for the seventh consecutive year. The menorah was placed by the American Friends of Lubavitch.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Cabinet approved an additional \$10 million for health care as hospitals, unable to pay their bills, said they were running out of medicine, food and fuel. The Tnuva dairy conglomerate has stopped supplying several hospitals with milk, saying the Finance Ministry owes it some \$1.3 million. A Cabinet spokesman said the extra \$10 million was for the Histadrut's sick-fund to help pay its debts to government and Histadrut-owned hospitals. Some hospitals are seeking private donations to provide food and medicine.

WORLDWIDE COORDINATED EFFORT IS NEEDED TO COMBAT RISE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, SAY EXPERTS IN THE FIELD

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- Experts in the field of international terrorism maintained here that there is a growing need for a worldwide coordinated effort to combat the rise in terrorist attacks. They differed, however, on whether such activities could be implemented on an international scale and whether they would be effective.

The experts appeared at a news conference sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, held to make a year-end evaluation of the status of international terrorism and assess prospects for 1986.

"There must be a coordinated response because we are confronting an international terrorism network," said Yoram Dinstein, professor of law at Tel Aviv University and visiting professor of law at New York University. "Nations are mistaken if they think they can cope by themselves, and the United States realizes or ought to realize this."

In addition, also advocating internationally coordinated efforts to combat terrorism were Dr. Yonah Alexander, director of the Institute for International Terrorism at the State University of New York, and Dr. Eric Willenz, senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

According to Willenz, the basic elements involved in combating terrorism are not in place. He said terrorists act with impunity in nations that lack sufficient strength to enforce domestic laws. "Terrorists act on weaknesses," he said.

But, he said, an "internationally coordinated effort would engage the international community against terrorist acts and thereby lessen the burden of any one country to take this action."

1985 May Be 'Year Of The Terrorist'

Willenz, a former member of a State Department unit involved in counter-intelligence against terrorism, advocated an international anti-terrorist task force under the aegis of the United Nations. But he emphasized that Third World nations must be involved because "the Third World is the fulcrum of most terrorism activities."

Alexander, meanwhile, warned that 1985 may be the "year of the terrorist" because of the high number of terrorist incidents worldwide. He urged the establishment of "an international commando unit by likeminded democratic states" including the United States and other West European nations. "Otherwise the world will remain hostage to these blackmailers," said Alexander, a senior research member of the Center for Strategic and International Studies at Georgetown University.

According to Alexander, from January 1985 to September 1985, there were at least 2,265 terrorist incidents worldwide, resulting in 4,906 deaths and 3,901 wounded. The year 1985, he said "may go down as the bloodiest ever when all the statistics are counted."

The view of increased terrorism is shared by a recently released study saying terrorism is expected to continue increasing worldwide. "The trajectory is upward," said Brian Jenkins, a consultant for the Rand Corporation, who recently published a study on the topic. "Terrorism has become bloodier and we will see an increasing number of large scale, indiscriminate attacks," he said.

The State Department said there were 600 terrorist incidents worldwide in 1984, an increase of 20 percent in five years. In the first months of this year, there were 570 incidents, an increase of 35 percent. About 35 percent of the world's terrorist incidents take place in the Middle East, according to the State Department.

World Terrorism Will Soon Reach U.S. Shores

Dinstein, in calling for cooperation between law enforcement officials worldwide, said "we simply have not taken the first step." He said that while nations have coordinated against international hijackings, there remains no uniform extradition agreement for terrorists.

The panelists agreed there has been a drop in domestic terrorism in the U.S., although it was noted that Americans travelling or living abroad are subjected to greater threats. According to another participant at the news conference, Tom Sheer, deputy assistant director in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in New York, the number of terrorist incidents in the U.S. has dropped "dramatically."

Sheer said that in 1982 there were 51 terrorist incidents compared to seven recorded thus far in 1985. He added that 63 persons across the country are in prisons either awaiting trial on charges of terrorist activities or have already been convicted on such charges. Sheer warned, however, "international terrorism will soon breach our shores."

21 RABBIS FOUND GUILTY OF ILLEGAL DEMONSTRATION AT SOVIET EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (JTA) -- A superior Court judge yesterday found 21 rabbis guilty of taking part in illegal demonstrations last summer in front of the Soviet Embassy. Each defendant was given a suspended 15-day jail term, six months unsupervised probation and a \$50 fine.

They had protested the treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union. They were arrested on charges of violating a law banning such demonstrations within 500 feet of an Embassy. The case was the first to be tried after more than 150 arrests in seven demonstrations at the Soviet Embassy from May to November.

Previously, a motion for dismissal on grounds of inconsistency had been denied. The defendants argued that none of the more than 2,000 demonstrators in similar actions in front of the South African Embassy had been arrested.

Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly ruled last Thursday the demonstration by the rabbis was illegal and imposed the sentences. More than 50 rabbis and around 100 other demonstrators from all parts of the United States have been arrested for such demonstrations since May. Lawyers for the defendants contended that U.S. Attorney for Washington Joseph diGenova has prosecuted demonstrators at the Soviet Embassy but dropped similar charges against demonstrators at the South African Embassy.

A second trial, of 25 rabbis arrested May 1, is set for December 11.

The demonstrations have been arranged by the Washington Board of Rabbis and the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis. The most recent arrests took place on November 17.