

IVORY COAST TO RE-ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

GENEVA, Dec. 18 (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres announced here today that Ivory Coast will re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel, broken off 12 years ago during the Yom Kippur War.

Peres, who arrived here this morning, made the announcement after a four-hour meeting with President Felix Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast.

The two leaders issued a joint statement saying, "We have decided to recommend to our governments to re-establish diplomatic relations." Peres told a press conference later, "I imagine that our government will follow our recommendations."

Israel has been working strenuously for years to restore relations with the Black African nations that abruptly broke them off in 1973, apparently under Arab pressure. So far it has succeeded with two, Liberia and Zaïre, which re-established their ties with Israel last year.

The Israel Premier made his unannounced flight here today especially to meet with Houphouët-Boigny. He was accompanied by David Kimche, Director General of the Foreign Ministry. They will return to Israel tonight.

Secret Trip Turns Public

Uri Savid, a spokesman for the Prime Minister, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Peres intended to make his meeting with Houphouët-Boigny public only if the outcome was positive. That was the reason for the secrecy surrounding his one-day trip to Geneva.

The 80-year-old African leader announced last October that he planned to reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel before his retirement next year. Ivory Coast is one of the richest African states and politically one of the most stable. It now becomes the third of those that broke with Israel to renew ties.

Diplomatic sources here said two others may soon follow suit, Gabon and Cameroon.

Israel presently has diplomatic relations with seven nations on the African continent. These are Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, South Africa, Liberia, Zaïre, Lesotho, Malawi and Swaziland. The latter three, controlled by South Africa, never broke with Israel.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION CALLS FOR RELEASE OF ALL HOSTAGES WHEREVER AND BY WHOMEVER HELD

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 18 (JTA) — The United Nations Security Council called today for the release of all hostages wherever and by whomsoever they are held. The resolution, adopted unanimously by the 15-member body which includes the Soviet Union, condemned all acts of hostage-taking and kidnapping without referring to any specific instance.

The landmark resolution was believed prompted by a series of such acts in the Middle East and Latin America. It followed by a week the General

Assembly's unanimous condemnation of all forms of terrorism as "criminal." In October, the Security Council unanimously condemned terrorism "in all its forms," and, specifically, the hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro.

Today's resolution, adopted without debate, was moved at the initiative of the United States in consultation with the Soviet Union and other Security Council members. It was sponsored by the U.S., Britain, France, Denmark, Australia, Egypt, Peru and Trinidad-Tobago.

The draft urges the further development of international cooperation to find measures to prevent, prosecute and punish all acts of hostage-taking abduction and other manifestations of international terrorism.

Statement By U.S. Ambassador

Vernon Walters, U.S. Ambassador to the UN, observed that "only by concerted worldwide action can we hope to put an end to the repugnant practice of hostage-taking. It is clear from the resolution that no 'cause', no 'excuses' can justify such threats to human rights and human lives."

He added that the resolution today, combined with the General Assembly's earlier action, puts the UN "firmly on record against all terrorist crimes." He said that while the "lunatic fringe" cannot be expected to desist, "all law-abiding states" are expected "to take all practicable measures to prevent terrorism and to prosecute and punish all terrorists wherever they are."

THREE FEDERATIONS DIVEST HOLDINGS IN SOUTH AFRICA-BASED U.S. FIRMS UNCOMMITTED TO ANTI-APARTHEID MOVES By Aviva Cantor

NEW YORK, Dec. 18 (JTA) — Three Jewish Federations — Boston, New York and Rhode Island — have decided to divest themselves of holdings in American companies operating in South Africa which are not committed in principle and practice to the equality of non-white workers with their white employees.

Equal treatment for non-white employees in South Africa is the basis of the Sullivan Principles, a voluntary code of conduct formulated in 1977 by Philadelphia Minister Leon Sullivan. The Principles call for equal pay for non-whites, desegregation of the workplace and the improvement of the quality of life for non-whites outside it. American companies which are signatories to the Principles are evaluated annually for compliance with them, and for progress toward their goals, by the Arthur D. Little Company.

The Jewish Advocate of Boston, in a front-page story by Lawrence Harmon, reported that the Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) of Greater Boston — together with Beth Israel Hospital and Temple Israel — voted November 26 to divest themselves within a year of securities in American companies which are non-signatories of the Sullivan Principles or which received low scores from the independent evaluation by the Little Company. The decision also directed the three institutions to make future investments in accordance with these guidelines.

The combined total of the investment portfolio of the three Boston institutions is \$75 million, of which approximately \$3 million — about four percent for

each — is invested in six companies which received inadequate ratings for compliance with the Sullivan Principles. The institutions declined to make known the names of the companies. Although each institution maintains independent investment portfolios, a joint board of managers oversees investment practices for all three, according to the Advocate article.

The CJP share of the total amount invested is \$37 million, of which about \$1,480,000 is affected by the divestiture decision, Harmon reported. The size of Beth Israel's portfolio is "roughly in line" with that of the CJP, according to information received by the weekly newspaper, although the hospital officially acknowledged only a portfolio of \$17 million. Temple Israel's investments total \$2 million.

The "key driving force for divestment" in the Greater Boston area, according to Harmon, is Justin Wyner, chairman of the Board of Managers of Temple Israel. "Many Jewish leaders have talked about how terrible things are in South Africa but never looked at their own investments," Wyner told the Advocate. He hoped, he said, that "all Jewish institutions will follow" the example of the three Boston institutions adding that "it's time for South Africa to listen."

Announcement By New York Federation

The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies (FJP) of New York announced on Monday the decision by its Board of Trustees to have the FJP divest itself of holdings in American companies which do not subscribe to the Sullivan Principles and to refrain from future investments in such companies.

The New York Federation has investments totalling \$11 million in approximately 30 American companies operating in South Africa out of a total portfolio of approximately \$60 million. William Kahn, its executive vice president, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Kahn declined to make available the names of the companies involved other than to say that some were "blue-chip" corporations.

He said that the securities to be divested are currently valued at \$1 million. The divestiture procedure will be carried out within a month's time. In addition, Kahn said that the FJP has \$5 million in companies which subscribe to the Sullivan Principles but which haven't made "significant movement" toward implementing its guidelines.

These companies will be carefully monitored by the Federation over the next year and decisions on divestment will be made on a company-by-company basis. An additional \$5 million is invested in companies which are signatories to the Principles and are "working actively to improve the quality of life for all people" in South Africa, Kahn said.

The divestment decision, announced by Federation president Daniel Shapiro, was reached by the Federation Committee on Government Relations and the Finance Committee, said Kahn. Both committees shared a "concern in terms of Federation representing certain Jewish values" which made it "inappropriate for Federation to hold securities — be part of the ownership — of companies in South Africa which are not working toward the democratic ideal of people having the right to live a full and complete life," Kahn said.

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island adopted a resolution June 6 endorsing the concept of divestment

from holdings in companies which do not "adhere to anti-apartheid standards such as the Sullivan Principles." The Federation has since that time divested itself of "a few stocks," said executive vice president Elliot Cohan.

These holdings are in companies which either did not respond to the Federation's inquiries as to whether they were signatories to the Sullivan Principles, or who informed the Federation they did not sign the Principles and which the Federation felt did not give "ample reason" for this, or which showed "no evidence of participating in any constructive efforts for Black workers."

The Rhode Island Jewish Federation declined to reveal the amount of money invested in South African companies, the names of the companies, or the value of the divested stock or of its total investment portfolio.

ORTHODOX RABBI URGES REFORM MOVEMENT TO DROP PATRILINEAL DESCENT DECISION Calls For Methods Of Conversion Acceptable By All The Jewish People, Including Orthodox Jews

NEW YORK, Dec. 18 (JTA) — Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, spiritual leader of Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun, inducted today into the presidency of the New York Board of Rabbis, called upon the Reform movement to "retreat" from its "patrilineal descent" decision according to which children of intermarried Jewish men are regarded as Jews if brought up Jewishly and connected to the temple. The official statement of this decision three years ago "has driven a wedge between the left and the right that fosters polarization, anger, resentment, bitterness and divisiveness," the Orthodox rabbi said.

Lookstein, who serves, too, as the principal of Ramaz (day) school in Manhattan, also called for the exploration by rabbis of all branches of American Judaism of methods of conversion "which will be acceptable by the Jewish people as a whole, including Orthodox Jews," and an agreement among all branches that a Jewish religious divorce (get) be given when a marriage ends in civil divorce, a practice Reform Judaism does not require.

At the same time, Lookstein, who described himself in his acceptance address as "part of centrist Orthodox Judaism," voiced strong criticism of those Orthodox rabbis "who want no part of dialogue" with their Reform and Conservative counterparts "when it comes to religious matters" and who "are not ready to relate" to them "except on broad communal issues." He continued:

"Are we really afraid that participating together in joint ventures means giving endorsement to those with whom we may disagree? Nobody has asked us for our endorsement nor is anyone interested in it. Individual communities give legitimacy to their own religious leaders. We of the Orthodox movement have no monopoly on granting or withholding legitimacy. No one has given us the right to judge the qualifications of others."

Lookstein urged Orthodox rabbis "to extend a hand of friendship and love" to Conservative and Reform rabbis and "not to be afraid to sit down with them in order to find acceptable solutions to our problems." Conservative and Reform rabbis, he stressed unequivocally, "are the recognized leaders of those groups and they must be approached with respect and regard."

These suggestions, addressed to what Lookstein called the "left" and the "right" in rabbinical circles, came in the context of his call to rabbis of all branches of Judaism to head off while there was still time the

"growing polarization that exists in the religious communities" in the U.S. and Israel. Criticizing severely the unwillingness of many rabbis of different branches "to speak to each other civilly" and the way "religious rightists and leftists throw epithets at each other," Lookstein commented, "there is a lot of hatred out there in the Jewish world. It almost rivals in intensity the hatred of vicious anti-Semites"

The result of rabbis of different branches not talking to each other and the actions of some American religious leaders, he said, could be "a coming cataclysm in the form of an expected schism between half the Jewish people in America and the other half which will preclude social relationships and intra-marriage between one group and another." The lack of a get in terminated Reform marriages, he said, will make children born to second marriages contracted by former spouses "ineligible for marriage with the more traditional segments of Jewish society."

The induction of Lookstein into the presidency of the New York Board of Rabbis, the world's largest inter-denominational rabbinical organization, represents the first time in the Board's 105-year history that a son of a past president — in this case, the late Rabbi Joseph Lookstein — will serve in the same capacity. Lookstein also serves as chairman of the National Rabbinic Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal and is vice chairman of the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews.

U.S. SAYS IT WILL ASK IRAQ TO EXTRADITE ACHILLE LAURO HIJACK MASTERMIND IF HE IS IN THAT COUNTRY
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (JTA) — The State Department said today that it will ask Iraq to extradite Mohammed Abbas if the high-ranking Palestine Liberation Organization official, believed to have masterminded the hijacking of the Italian liner Achille Lauro, is in the Arab country.

But State Department deputy spokesman Charles Redman said the United States has no "confirmation" that Abbas was in Iraq after the hijacking, except for press reports, and doesn't know where he is now.

In addition, Redman said that the Iraqis "have indicated publicly that they don't believe Abbas is subject to extradition under the U.S.-Iraq extradition treaty."

Secretary of State George Shultz on his way to Yugoslavia yesterday reportedly accused Iraq of appearing to give safe haven to Abbas, but rejected a suggestion that Iraq would be again listed by the U.S. as a country that supports terrorism.

"People like Abbas move from one country to another," Redman quoted Shultz as saying. "We're not going to put every country he goes to on the terrorist list."

Redman said that "we have put the Iraqis formally on notice that we will formally request Abbas' extradition if we obtain confirmation that Abbas is in Iraq."

Redman referred to Shultz's statement at a press conference in Belgrade yesterday in which the Secretary pounded a table in anger after Yugoslav Foreign Minister Raif Dizdarevic said that in speaking of terrorism "one must also view the causes that lead to it." Shultz had earlier expressed "my disappointment" that Abbas had been allowed to go through Yugoslavia.

"I'd like to add a point, if I may, on the question of causes," Shultz said, interrupting the Foreign Minister. "Hijacking the Italian ship, murdering an American, torturing and holding a whole bunch of other Americans, is not justified by any cause that I know of. There is no connection with any cause. It's wrong."

Shultz then pounded on the table twice and added, "and the international community must step up to this problem and deal with it unequivocally, firmly, definitively. There must be no place to hide for people who do that kind of thing."

Meanwhile, Redman said that both the State Department and Justice Department still had "under review" demands by private groups for the Justice Department to indict PLO leader Yasir Arafat for the murder in 1973 of Cleo Noel, U.S. Ambassador to the Sudan, and his Charge d'Affairs, George Moore. There are reports that the U.S. has tapes and other information that the terrorists did not murder the two diplomats in Khartoum until they received a coded message from the PLO headquarters in Beirut where Arafat was at the time.

The effort was begun by Charles Lichenstein, a former Deputy U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, who is now a senior fellow at the Washington-based conservative think tank, the Heritage Foundation. He raised the issue with Attorney General Edwin Meese.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee has been distributing information about the issue. Noting Arafat's role in worldwide terrorism, an AIPAC spokesman said, "You can't have a serious anti-terror policy without dealing with the top figures."

The latest to join the effort is the National Jewish Coalition whose chairman, Richard Fox, urged the Justice Department this week "to act promptly." Fox noted that Sen. William Armstrong (R. Colo.), chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, has written Meese urging "a high priority to the resolution of this case."

It is believed that if the U.S. does indict Arafat it would impede his ability to travel to Western Europe and to other countries friendly to the U.S.

ZOA OPPOSES AZF MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

HOLLYWOOD, Fla., Dec. 18 (JTA) — The Zionist Organization of America called on the American Zionist Federation to drop any plans for a membership campaign of its own, warning that such a drive "would jeopardize the role of the AZF as an umbrella body that functions solely on the basis of a consensus of its constituents."

A spokesperson for the AZF told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the AZF constitution contains a clause allowing for membership-at-large registration. The spokesperson also pointed out that, while there has been a suggestion by some people that the AZF undertake an independent membership campaign, "there is no plan before us at this time to do so, no organized position," and no formal discussion.

The action came yesterday in a resolution adopted by the ZOA's National Executive Committee which is meeting here in conjunction with the Pan-American convention of the World Union of General Zionists. A spokesman for the ZOA said he understood that the AZF is considering a membership drive and would permit individuals to enroll directly as members of the AZF rather than as members of AZF constituent organizations.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA A KIBBUTZ CALLED YOTVATA

By Kevin Freeman

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18 (JTA) — A guide showing an inquisitive group of Americans around the Arava kibbutz of Yotvata was asked what were the "qualifications" for an individual to become a member of the kibbutz. Without blinking an eyelash, the guide, Dan Whale, shot back: "I would say you should be a mensch."

It was not that membership was of primary concern for the 50 American visitors, participants in the uniquely informative Presidents Mission of the United Jewish Appeal. But for some, it was their first visit to Yotvata; for others, it was their first visit ever to a kibbutz.

Deep in the Arava, some 25 miles north of Eilat, Yotvata was founded in 1957 and today is an oasis amid the dry, hot and rugged terrain of Israel's southern region. It was here that 50 of the more than 250 participants in the Presidents Mission chose to spend an afternoon.

About 600 persons live in Yotvata — a membership which includes about 250 youths under the age of 18. Fifty residents were born on the kibbutz, from where one can clearly see the imposing and picturesque Jordanian Hills in the not too far off distance.

Security is an issue, but not an overriding preoccupation. "We hardly had any problems along the border," said Whale, a lean, bearded 42-year-old. "We feel quite safe." Nonetheless, with the border just a few miles to the east, there are routine night watch patrols.

Kibbutz Is Based On a Milk Economy

Yotvata is based on a milk economy, and is probably best known for its yogurt. It supplies about 15 percent of all the flavored yogurt in Israel, while it makes about 80 percent of its total income from milk products, according to Whale. Yotvata provides milk products to the population of the Negev from Eilat to Beersheba.

There are about 50 cows on the kibbutz and they don't leave the cowshed, Whale said in response to a question. He explained that walking about drains the energy of the animals and "we want them to put all their energies toward producing milk." They are milked three times a day.

While most kibbutzim and moshavim in Israel have cows, they sell their milk to dairies in the urban centers near Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. But on Yotvata, the milk is processed on the kibbutz within 24 hours, nearly a third of the time it takes for the milk from another area to be transported and processed. "The is important to milk quality," Whale said.

The kibbutzim in the area send their children — about 150 all total — to the regional school of Yotvata. There, they are joined by the some 180 students from the kibbutz itself. The crunch of students had led to the construction of a new regional school on the kibbutz. It was nearing completion during the UJA delegation visit.

Most of the members of Yotvata are Israelis, though about 10 percent are emigrants from various countries such as the United States, South Africa, Canada and Denmark. One of those who came to Yotvata from another country was Martin Weinberg, a native of Cape Town, South Africa. He and his wife

Rina and their four children have been at Yotvata for 17 years. The Weinbergs opened their home to this reporter and Larry Zusman of Dayton, Ohio, for an afternoon visit of tea, cake and conversation. Rina was born in Haifa and Martin came via London, where he was studying anthropology.

They enjoy the lifestyle of the kibbutz, the work and the hardships. Martin works as a gardener, maintaining the plush lawns and healthy shrubs on the kibbutz. They described themselves as supporters of Premier Shimon Peres, and said about 90 percent of the kibbutz voted in the last elections for the Labor Alignment.

The Weinbergs said they feel the educational system on the kibbutz for their children is very good. Rina, meanwhile, is enrolled in a new experimental program — An Institute of Learning — which has classes on the kibbutz for seven months, meeting every Sunday from early morning through late afternoon.

Before leaving the kibbutz for the bus ride to the airport in Eilat where the UJA delegation boarded military transport planes for a brief flight back to Tel Aviv, Whale explained what the "true qualifications" were for an individual to become a member of the kibbutz.

"I would say that if you are a person who really wants to join, to be part of the community, to work as everyone else works, to be active in social activities, to raise your children the way they are raised on a kibbutz, then you can be accepted," he said.

LANDMARK DECISION BY GERMAN COURT NIXED

BONN, Dec. 18 (JTA) — A landmark decision by a Frankfurt court allowing the municipal authorities to refuse to rent public halls to the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD), has been reversed by the administrative (higher) court in Kassel.

The reversal represents a victory for the NPD which had a long-standing conflict with the Frankfurt authorities over the rental of publicly owned premises for conventions and other events. It may serve as a precedent in similar conflicts involving neo-Nazi groups.

The Kassel court overturned the lower court's ruling on grounds that it was based on a law promulgated by the Allied occupation forces after World War II which is no longer valid in the Federal Republic though it still applies in Berlin.

ARAB BIRTH RATE IN TERRITORIES AND ISRAEL EXCEEDING THAT OF JEWS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18 (JTA) — The Arab birth rate in Israel and the administered territories exceeds that of Jews, according to the latest figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. Last year there were 78,600 births among the Arab population compared to 74,500 Jewish births.

About 24,000 of the Arabs were born in Israel proper and 30,400 in the West Bank. The balance of Arab births was in the Gaza Strip. Demographic experts expect this trend to continue in the coming years. Last year 3,472,000 Jews lived in Israel and the territories compared to two million Arabs under Israeli jurisdiction.