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ISRAELI LEADERS HAIL U.S. AIR STRIKE ON LIBYA; MOST WEST EUROPEAN LEADERS EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO THE ACTION
By Gil Sedan (Jerusalem), Hugh Orgel (Tel Aviv) Edwin Eytan (Paris) and Maurice Samuelson (London)

April 15 (JTA) -- Israel's leaders hailed America's punitive air raids on Libya as an act of self-defense against international terrorism but stressed repeatedly Tuesday that Israel was in no way involved and had no advance knowledge of U.S. plans.

Premier Shimon Peres, questioned by reporters while visiting Nazareth, said he does not know yet what results the American action might have but "I know the reasons for it. Libya was undoubtedly behind the bombing of American soldiers at the discotheque in (West) Berlin and it doesn't surprise me that the United States takes steps in its own self defense," Peres said.

'A Determined And Daring Action'

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters after an appearance at the Hebrew University that the U.S. action in Libya was "a determined and daring action against a country which took the lead in the encouragement, finance and support of international terrorism."

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said in an Israel Radio interview that the American action was an act of defense of the U.S. and the free world against international terrorism.

"It is clear to everybody that terrorism can succeed only when it has the support of countries like Libya, Syria and others, and if we want to put an end to terrorism we have to punish these countries and to convince them to change their way of action in this regard," the Likud leader said.

But except for Britain, Israel was alone among America's allies in expressing unqualified support for the U.S. air strike. It was deplored even by the moderate Arab states, including Egypt which has long considered Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi a foe.

Peres said he "reserved judgement" when asked if he thought the U.S. action went far enough toward eliminating terrorist acts such as the discotheque bombing, the bombing of a TWA airliner over Greece, and the machinegun and grenade attacks on the Rome and Vienna airports last December, all of which the Reagan Administration claims were masterminded by Qaddafi.

Responding to a condemnation of the air strike by Nazareth's Communist Mayor Tewfik Zayyad, Peres asked what else did he expect the Americans to do when they had proof that Qaddafi was planning to kill more Americans, "sit back and praise the Lord?" Asked to comment on the Soviet charge of State-sponsored terrorism by the U.S., Peres remarked, "The USSR has a language of its own."

With respect to Israel, he said, "We were not invited (to participate in the air strike) and we played no role in it." He warned, however, that Libyan and Palestinian terrorism would not solve anything. "The Palestinians are not our enemies

and Israel is interested in solving the Palestinian problem through negotiations," he said.

Rabin, too, stressed that the strike at Libya "was an American action. Israel was not involved and was not notified about it." But, he added, "It is an attempt to deal with the sources of terrorism, not only with those who carry it out."

"Therefore, as a matter of principle, I believe that every country that believes that something has to be done against international terrorism, in coordination with the democratic free world, should come and say that it is a justified action," Rabin said. He dismissed concern that a world war could evolve from the American action.

Reactions In Europe

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministers of the 12 member states of the European Economic Community (EEC) will meet in Paris Thursday to evaluate the consequences of the American air strike. According to Western diplomats, a majority of the twelve -- with the notable exception of Britain -- are opposed to the raid and hope to convince the Americans to abstain from further military actions against Libya.

The EEC Foreign Ministers, meeting at The Hague Monday before the U.S. launched its bombers against Libya, made clear that they favored diplomatic and political measures before resorting to force. After the raid, the Foreign Ministries of the EEC states were either critical or non-committal.

Only British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe maintained, in a BBC address, that the U.S. "has exercised its right of self-defense." Britain allowed a part of the American strike force -- F-111 long-range bombers -- to use NATO bases on British soil.

But British opposition parties, especially Labor, condemned the raids. Labor Party leader Neil Kinnock said he was "horrified" by the American action and maintained that there were "other and more effective ways to fight terrorism."

Denis Healy, Labor's foreign policy spokesman, accused Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of "groveling subservience" to President Reagan and warned that Britain would now become more of a target of Libyan terrorism than it was. According to opposition spokesmen, Qaddafi now has more friends than he had before the action.

The French Foreign Ministry refused permission for the American bombers to overfly French territory on the way to Libya and expressed regrets over the raid, which it said would "escalate" terrorism.

The raid was also condemned by West Germany's Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Another member of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Cabinet, Economics Minister Martin Bangemann, called the raid "inappropriate and incomprehensible." The Dutch and Italian governments were also highly critical.

In the United States, Jewish organizations expressed full support for the air strike against Libya.

In a telegram to President Reagan Tuesday, Kenneth Bialkin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, hailed the action against Libya.

"We support your policies in defense of freedom and in rejection of intimidation," the telegram said. "Only when international terrorists are made to realize that they must pay for lawless conduct and are accountable for the consequences of their acts will there be a return to the rule of law. Until then, your efforts should be appreciated by all of us who understand the dangers of appeasement."

Nathan Perlmutter, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, sent a telegram to Reagan Tuesday saying, "We applaud and fully support your decision to attack Libya." He added: "There is no simple, short-term way to deal with terrorists. Rather, it requires hard decisions, risk-taking over a period of time. We stand behind you in this difficult but necessary effort."

Sidney Kwetel president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, also sent a telegram to the White House in which he said his organization "applauds the courageous action taken by the U.S. in its effort to combat Libyan-inspired and sponsored terrorism. We fully support the Administration in its world-wide war to end the scourge of terrorism."

UN Leader Urged To Take Action

The leaders of the Herut Zionists of America, the Betar Zionist Youth Movement and the Tagar Student Zionist Activist Organization, jointly sent a letter to United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Tuesday urging him to mobilize the "nations of the world in a united effort to punish the sponsors of international terrorism."

The letter stated, in part: "The United States yesterday (Monday) took a courageous and important step in the campaign to eliminate the cancer of international terrorism. Through military action against Libya, President Reagan reaffirmed America's role as the leader of the free world and boldly demonstrated that barbaric acts of terrorism -- such as the brutal murders sponsored by Libya's Muammar Qaddafi, the PLO's Yasir Arafat, and Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini -- will not be allowed to continue unpunished."

The letter urged the Secretary General to "take immediate steps to expel Libya, Iran and the PLO terrorist group from the United Nations and all of its affiliated agencies ... ensure formal international cooperation in the effort to fully prosecute and punish those states, organizations and individuals which participate in global terrorism" and "implement a program which will effectively isolate and limit the global capabilities of nations which fail to participate in the campaign against international terrorism."

Harold Jacobs, president of the National Council of Young Israel, strongly endorsed the U.S. reprisal attack on Libya and stated: "We must be prepared to confront not only Libya, but all other international terrorist havens, from the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in Lebanon, to Teheran, to the terrorist training centers behind the Iron Curtain."

He added, "It is imperative that other governments of the free world abandon their policy of appeasement and join the United States in the

war against international, State-sponsored terrorism."

Rabbi William Berkowitz, president of the American Jewish Heritage Committee, sent a telegram to Reagan extolling the strike against Libya as an "historic and courageous action that strikes at the very center of the terror kingdom. The United States has demonstrated by this direct action its resolve to stand firm against the evils of terrorism," Berkowitz said.

UN CHARTER PROVIDED BASIS FOR U.S. ACTION AGAINST LIBYA; ALSO USED BY ISRAEL FOR SELF-DEFENSE ACTIONS By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA) -- The right of a nation to defend itself under provisions contained in the United Nations Charter, invoked by President Reagan as a basis for the United States air attack on Libya Monday, has also been used by the State of Israel to defend its actions in recent years.

Whenever a nation speaks in an international forum on self-defense, said Eyal Arad of the Israeli Mission to the UN, "this is based on Article 51 of the UN Charter." While he added that invoking Article 51 may merely be a "rhetorical action," it nonetheless remains one of many international provisions which can be used to explain defensive actions, such as the Libyan raid.

Article 51 states: "Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security.

"Measures taken by members in the exercise of this right of self-defense shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security."

While prohibiting international aggression, the UN Charter recognizes the right of self-defense, including at times, allowing for a pre-emptive strike when there is overwhelming evidence of a planned attack by a hostile force. In 1967, for example, the UN Security Council did not condemn Israel for its Six-Day-War attack on Egypt.

GOLDSTEIN BROTHERS RELEASED

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewish refuseniks Isai and Grigory Goldstein, arrested Monday at a farewell party in Moscow, were released after being briefly detained by Soviet authorities, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) reported here.

They are expected to leave with their families on Thursday for Israel, bringing to a close a more than 14-year struggle for the right to emigrate.

Also released after being briefly detained was Isai's wife, Elizaveta, who, like the two brothers, is also a physicist.

The party in Moscow for the Goldsteins, of Tbilisi, was given by fellow emigration activists. According to the SSSJ, the three were arrested for not having permission to be in Moscow.

POLISH PRIMATE HINTS AT COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO AUSCHWITZ CONVENT

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 15 (JTA) -- Cardinal Josef Glemp, the Catholic Primate of Poland, hinted Monday at a possible compromise solution to the plans to build a Carmelite convent at the site of the former Auschwitz death camp. The plans have come under fire from Jewish and some Catholic groups in Western Europe and the United States.

Glemp told a press conference here that while he did not know the exact details of the plans to build the convent, he indicated that other religions, presumably the Jews, are free to build appropriate structures on that site. "As far as I can see the situation, members of other religions can also participate in humanity's expiation of our past sins," Glemp said.

The Cardinal reminded the press conference that not only Jews had died in Auschwitz during World War II. "The destiny of the Polish people, the destiny of the Jews ... the two destinies are parallel. It is not possible to create antagonism between them." In this regard, Glemp denied that there was any anti-Semitism in Poland. He said "such accusations are a myth invented by Poland's enemies abroad."

The Cardinal, who is also the Archbishop of Warsaw and the highest ranking member of the Catholic Church in Poland, later met with a Jewish delegation which asked him to reconsider the building of the Carmelite convent. French Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat and Alliance Israelite Universelle president Ady Steg told Glemp that Jews all over the world felt "deep-anguish" about a convent being built on the site of the infamous death camp.

Glemp, who carefully avoided making a clear statement on this subject during his press conference, assured the Jewish leaders of his and the Catholic Church's sympathy and friendship but refused to make any commitment on the issue of the convent. But he did say that he will inform "the appropriate Catholic authorities" of their protest and misgivings.

PROPOSAL FOR BRITISH ACTORS TO BOYCOTT ISRAEL IS DEFEATED

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, April 15 (JTA) -- A call by actress Vanessa Redgrave and a group of 38 supporters for a cultural boycott of Israel was defeated at the annual meeting of the British actors union, Equity, which broke up in chaos in a London theater Monday.

The motion was read to the some 300 union members by Redgrave's brother, Colin. The proposal demanded a ban on performing in Israel and an end to sales there of television and film material involving Equity members. It referred to Israel as "occupied Palestine" and to its law as "fundamentally racist."

But Colin Redgrave's reading of the proposal was greeted with a barrage of shouts of "anti-Semite" and "Hitler" from angry opponents. The motion was subsequently overwhelmingly defeated by a show of hands of those in attendance.

Pamela Manson, a Jewish actress, described the motion as "Marxist and racist" and said that the union would be "disgraced forever" if it supported it. "This creed of anti-Zionism not being anti-Semitism is a ploy," she said. "It is as

hard to separate them as to separate the book of Exodus from the Bible."

TEHIYA CALLS FOR TRANSFER OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES FROM ISRAELI TERRITORIES TO ARAB COUNTRIES

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA) -- The right-wing opposition Tehiya Party called Sunday for the transfer of 500,000 Palestinian refugees from Israel-held territories to Arab countries as a precondition for peace negotiations.

According to Tehiya leader Yuval Neeman, this would be a "humane solution." He spoke at the opening of the party's convention here. The convention moved Monday to Kiryat Arba, the Orthodox township adjacent to Hebron in the West Bank, long a scene of tension between Jews and Arabs.

The convention opening was attended by President Chaim Herzog, who urged the delegates to "stand as a spearhead in the fight against such phenomena as racism and hatred which might sabotage the purity of the legitimate struggle for a greater Eretz Israel." His reference to a greater Israel drew applause from the delegates.

ISRAELI EXPERT IS HELPING CHILE TO DEAL WITH ITS NORTHERN ARID REGIONS

By Hugh Ortel

TEL AVIV, April 15 (JTA) -- A Weizmann Institute of Science expert who developed techniques to discover water resources in the Arava desert area in Israel, is presently in Chile applying his methods to tap ground water in that country's arid northern regions.

Prof. Mordechai Magaritz was sent to Chile by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency. He is working with a Chilean team headed by Humbert Pena, an engineer, to demonstrate the feasibility of drilling for water as an alternative to piping it from the high Andes, which would pose difficult technological problems and great expense.

The drilling is going on in the Pampa Del Tamarugal lowlands which contain low saline subterranean waters sufficient to support a large population.

Several years ago, another team of Weizmann Institute experts, headed by Prof. Joel Gat, advised the Brazilian government how to solve the water problems in arid northeastern Brazil.

ISRAELI ENERGY MINISTER IN U.S. TO DISCUSS OIL PROSPECTING IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA) -- Energy Minister Moshe Shahal left on a week-long visit to the U.S. Monday during which he will dedicate the second solar energy plant built in southern California by an Israeli firm for a local electric utility. He is also scheduled to discuss American oil prospecting in Israel with U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington and with Armand Hammer, head of Continental Petroleum.

The solar station Shahal will visit was built by Luz, an Israeli firm. It cost \$90 million and 50 percent of the material that went into its construction was imported from Israel. Shahal will take part in negotiations to export an even larger Israel-made solar energy plant, to cost about \$120 million, to a South American country.

U.S. JEWISH GROUPS HAIL THE POPE'S VISIT TO ROME'S SYNAGOGUE

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA) -- The visit by Pope John Paul II to the main synagogue in Rome Sunday was hailed by American Jewish groups as a major step in the process of reconciliation between the Catholic and Jewish faiths. They also expressed hope that it would lead soon to Vatican recognition of the State of Israel.

The American Jewish Congress and the World Jewish Congress declared in a joint statement that the Pope's visit "and the content of his eloquent remarks constitute an important and hopeful new chapter in the history of Catholicism's relations with Judaism.

"The Pope's formulation of that relationship bespeaks an unusual warmth and friendship that embrace and confirm the considerable progress that has occurred in the past 20 years since Vatican II. More important, it holds the promise of further progress in that relationship," the AJC and WJC said.

The statement, released in the name of Henry Siegman, executive director of the AJC and newly named chairman of the WJC's Commission on Interreligious Affairs, hoped "that the Pope's warm words of friendship will find expression before too long in the normalization of relations between the Vatican and the State of Israel."

A Significant And Symbolic Act

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the congregational arm of Reform Judaism in America, declared that the Pope "has given flesh and blood to the pronouncements of Vatican Council II and, in so doing, has given heart to Catholics and Jews alike who seek to deepen their understanding of each other."

Schindler added, however, that "this does not mean overlooking or ignoring the differences between us that still obtain. Jews can disagree with the Vatican on abortion and on diplomatic recognition of Israel and still work with Catholics on racial equality, economic justice, world hunger and nuclear disarmament," Schindler said.

Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation and spiritual leader of the Park East Synagogue in New York, called the Pope's visit "a significant and symbolic act that will serve as the basis for broadening and deepening the relationship of Catholics and Jews, including eventual recognition of the State of Israel by the Vatican."

Schneier also expressed confidence that the Pope's condemnation of anti-Semitism in all of its forms and from any source "will have a profound effect on the attitude of Catholics to Jews and Jews to Catholics for generations to come."

Revolution In Catholic-Jewish Relations

Dr. Ronald Sobel, chairman of the Intergroup Relations Committee of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said in a statement that the Pope's visit was "both a symbol and reality testifying to the revolution that has taken place in Catholic-Jewish relations during the last quarter of a century."

Sobel, who is senior rabbi of Temple Emanu-El in New York, added, "The Pope's recognition and reaffirmation of the irrevocable call to the Jewish people by God also stands as an eloquent

witness to the growing sensitivity that permeates the dialogue process between Catholics and Jews."

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, said, "This short journey from the throne of St. Peter to the central synagogue of Rome assures Pope John Paul II a special place of honor in Jewish history. Had such a journey been made by Pious XII, it is unlikely that Hitler's 'Final Solution' would have reached its demonic proportions."

Hier added, "Having ascended the steps of reconciliation with the Jewish people and vigorously condemned anti-Semitism, John Paul II should now ascend the final step by establishing full diplomatic relations with the State of Israel."

LEADER OF CONSERVATIVE JEWRY ACCUSES ISRAEL'S CHIEF RABBI OF 'DIVISIVE POLITICAL ACTION'

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA) -- The head of the congregational branch of Conservative Jewry accused Israel's two Chief Rabbis of "divisive political action" and said they used their visit to the U.S. to interject "political views and concepts into a religious discussion."

Franklin Kreutzer, president of the two million-member United Synagogue of America which represents 850 Conservative congregations in the U.S. and Canada, spoke in response to charges made by Rabbi Avraham Shapira and Mordechai Eliahu, the Ashkenazic and Sephardic Chief Rabbis of Israel, respectively, that the Reform and Conservative movements "are creating a new Torah that can divide the Jewish people."

The Chief Rabbis made their comments in a special interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here last Wednesday. They claimed that Reform and Conservative rabbis do not conform to halacha (religious law) and demanded that they "stop converting to Judaism according to their new laws."

"The issue is not whether the Conservative movement observes halacha, as we do, but the refusal of the Orthodox establishment to accept Conservative rabbis performing religious conversions according to halacha," Kreutzer said. "The issue is not whether Conservative rabbis observe halacha, as they do in conversions and all other religious observances, but where the rabbi obtained ordination. If the ordination is Orthodox, the procedure is accepted; however, if a rabbi with Conservative ordination follows strictly, to the very letter of the law, halachic principles, the conversion is not accepted."

"Why? The answer is obvious--politics," Kreutzer declared. "This divisive political action on the part of the two Chief Rabbis of Israel is consistent with the Orthodox attempt to amend the Law of Return in the Knesset, which has been repeatedly rebuffed and rejected. It is 'chutzpadik' for the Chief Rabbis to come to America and state that 'We ask of you, don't divide the Jewish people' when it is they and their Orthodox communities that are sowing the seeds of distrust and divisiveness."

"We ask only that the Chief Rabbis cease in their determination to foist Israel's internal politics and problems upon the Jewish religion in the diaspora. If halacha is observed, then the Orthodox establishment must accept the legitimate actions of diaspora Jewry and its rabbis," Kreutzer said.