

REAGAN VETOES CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION REJECTING THE ARMS SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 21 (JTA) -- President Reagan and Administration officials were working frantically Wednesday to line up enough Senators to save the Administration's proposed missile sale to Saudi Arabia.

The Administration was hoping that Saudi Arabia's agreement Tuesday to drop the stinger shoulder-fired ground-to-air missiles from the arms package would give it the 34 votes needed in the Senate to sustain Reagan's veto of the Congressional resolution rejecting the sale to Saudi Arabia.

The President Wednesday vetoed the resolution of disapproval which had passed in the Senate by a 73-22 vote and in the House by a 356-62 vote. The Senate could act on the veto before it adjourns Wednesday night for the Memorial Day holiday.

May Have Convinced Enough Senators

The announcement of the President's veto indicated that he may have convinced enough Senators originally opposed to the sale to change their votes and sustain the veto. White House spokesman Larry Speakes indicated earlier that if the President was unable to get the required number of Senators to go along, he would hold off the veto until after the Senate adjourned so that it would come up only when Congress returns on June 3.

The decision to withdraw the request for the portable stingers was announced at the White House personally Tuesday by Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi Ambassador, after a meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz. The inclusion of the 800 Stinger missiles and 200 launchers was the most controversial part of the \$354 million arms package for Saudi Arabia.

Members of the House and Senate voiced fears that the portable weapon could fall into the hands of terrorists. The package still contains 1,666 air-to-air Sidewinder missiles and 100 air-to-sea Harpoon missiles, at a total cost of about \$250 million.

Reagan Meets With Jewish Leaders

Shortly after Bandar made his announcement, Reagan met with 14 Jewish leaders to press the case for the sale. Neither the President nor others who spoke, including Shultz and National Security Advisor John Poindexter, asked the Jewish leaders to support the sale, according to some of the participants. Reagan stressed that the sale was not an anti-Israel measure and noted that he would never do anything that would harm the Jewish State. The President and other spokesmen repeated the Administration's argument that the sale is needed to strengthen the security of the Persian Gulf, according to participants.

The President also argued that his "credibility was on the line" and his standing would be hurt abroad if his veto was overridden.

The participants said two of the Jews present voiced support for the sale but the rest said they were opposed. However, they said they appreciated the remarks of the President and his willingness to answer questions.

The Israeli government and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), while voicing opposition to the sale, had not lobbied against it in Congress. However, individual Jews and such groups as the Zionist Organization of America and Americans for a Safe Israel (AFSI) actively campaigned against the sale.

Peter Goldman, AFSI's director, said Wednesday that he was still trying to convince Senators to vote against the sale.

Charges Of Jewish Pressure

Since the Congressional rejection of the weapons package there have been charges that Congress was giving in to Jewish pressure. But the large vote in both House and Senate went far beyond just support for Israel, although the potential danger of the weapons to Israel was mentioned.

However, Senators and Representatives frequently voiced anger that the Saudis have not supported U.S. peace efforts in the Middle East and have bankrolled the Palestine Liberation Organization and Syria. The large vote may also have been due to Saudi criticism of the U.S. air strike against Libya April 14, despite the Administration's contention that the Saudis did the least they could do as an Arab nation.

It takes a two-thirds vote of the Senate and House to override a veto. The Administration is concentrating its efforts in the Republican-controlled Senate where it needs to change fewer votes and because it expects the Democratic-controlled House to override the veto anyway.

The meeting with Jewish leaders Tuesday was set before Reagan's meeting with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, scheduled for Monday, was cancelled because of the death of Yehuda Hellman, the Conference's executive vice president.

Among those who met with the President Tuesday were Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York; Hart Hasten and Seth Eisenberg, president and executive director, respectively, of the Herut Zionists of America; and Goldman of the AFSI.

ADL SAYS A LAWSUIT AGAINST IT BY LAROUCHE GROUP WILL NOT DETER IT FROM EXPOSING THE ORGANIZATION

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said Wednesday that a complaint of election law violation filed against it by the Presidential campaign committee of Lyndon LaRouche will not bring a halt to the ADL's efforts to alert the public to the activities of the LaRouche organization.

In fact the ADL supported its assertion at a news conference at its headquarters across from the United Nations by releasing a new, compre-

ensive 54-page report on the political organization headed by LaRouche. In the report, the third by the ADL on the LaRouche movement since 1979, the ADL charges LaRouche and his organization with "a secretive strategy of deception ... in virtually all of its operations."

Titled "The LaRouche Political Cult: Packaging Extremism," the report traces the organization's activities through three decades from its left-wing origins to its current form of extremism which the ADL said "defies categorizing."

Calls The Organization 'A Cult'

The ADL, according to its national chairman, Kenneth Bialkin, labelled the LaRouche organization "a cult" because, he said, "we don't know how otherwise to describe a person or organization that has no identifiable, philosophical thread tying itself together that one can characterize."

"It is not a movement, it is not a philosophy. It can't be said to be left, it can't be said to be right, except at particular moments or on a particular issue," Bialkin told reporters. The ties that bind its members together, he added, are difficult to explain.

Bialkin said the suit filed against the ADL by the LaRouche Presidential Committee is one of several such suits against the ADL by the LaRouche organization in recent years. He described it as "consistent with past patterns" of actions by the LaRouche organization which "seek to impose burdens" against "those who disagree with it."

The Complaint Against The ADL

The complaint against the ADL by the LaRouche Democratic Campaign in Washington was filed April 2, 1986 with the Federal Election Commission. It is against the ADL, and the American Jewish Committee, and claims that the Jewish organizations failed "to register and report to Federal Election Commission (FEC) as political committees" as provided under federal election regulations.

The two-page letter to the FEC was provided by the ADL to reporters here. It also alleges that the ADL, the AJC and various officials of the organizations "have publicly stated that they are actively engaged in opposing the candidacy of Lyndon H. LaRouche, running for the Democratic Party nomination for President." LaRouche has run for President in 1976, 1980, and 1984. The letter said he is "the only officially declared candidate for the 1988 Presidential elections."

In response to the complaint by the LaRouche organization, the ADL, in a May 14 letter to FEC General Counsel Charles Steele, asserted: "While the ADL has and will continue to expose patently anti-Semitic and extremist activities of organizations and individuals, including those of Lyndon LaRouche and his various affiliated organizations, ADL does not participate in the electoral process and espouses no position regarding voting choices."

ADL Rebutts Charges

The ADL said the "complaint is meritless, replete with baseless allegations, misinterpretations and flawed legal conclusions." It asserts that the LaRouche complaint "does not provide the FEC with even a scintilla of evidence; that the ADL is making contributions or expenditures under the purview of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971..."

The ADL, as a non-profit corporation, is restricted from taking steps regarding candidates and being involved in political campaigns," the four-page letter to the FEC said. It stated that the ADL "takes great precautions to ensure that it does not engage in partisan political activity."

The ADL, in its letter, also rebutted the charges outlined against it by the LaRouche organization. In one instance, it said there was no evidence to suggest that Irwin Suall, ADL director of fact finding, participated in "electioneering" when he contacted a staff member of the CBS News program, "60-Minutes," on doing a report on the LaRouche organization.

"His contacting CBS was the result of an ongoing concern of ADL's to expose the LaRouche organization's anti-Semitic and extremist activities and had nothing to do with influencing an election," the ADL letter to the FEC said. It was signed by William Oldaker and Stuart Gerson, Counsels for the ADL.

In reaction to the ADL news conference, Dana Scanlon, a press spokesperson for LaRouche, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "the latest ADL statements concerning Mr. LaRouche are a combination of wild distortions and lies." She repeated previous LaRouche accusations against the ADL, charging that the Jewish organization is involved in drug trafficking and organized crime.

PERES CONCERNED BUT NOT ALARMED OVER SYRIA GETTING ARMS FROM USSR By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 21 (JTA) -- Premier Shimon Peres expressed concern, but not alarm Tuesday over reports that Syria will soon receive the most advanced models of the long-range SA-23 ground-to-ground missiles and the latest MIG-29 combat aircraft from the Soviet Union.

"Naturally, every type of weapon poses a technical problem to which I believe a solution will be found," Peres told reporters. But, he noted, "apart from the (weapons) system itself, the question is one of policy. Weapons do not fire if no command to open fire is given" and "at this stage the central problem is one of policy," Peres said.

He added, "We, of course, have no interest in adopting a belligerent or aggressive policy. Israel is making every effort to reduce the tension (with Syria) and I hope we succeed."

Peres observed, however, that "new and advanced weaponry is always coming into the region and every type of weapon is analyzed by the Israel Defense Force and we try to find counter-measures."

With respect to the proposed American sale of 2,600 missiles of all types to Saudi Arabia, Peres said Israel had made it clear to the Reagan Administration that it is opposed to arms sales to any country technically in a state of war with Israel. But he denied vehemently that Israel had "briefed" American Jewish leaders who were invited to the White House to hear the President's views on the sale.

"American Jewry does not receive orders from Israel and Israel gives neither orders nor briefings," Peres said. "It would be a gross mistake to create the false impression that the State of Israel supposedly issues orders to American Jewry. The decisions of American Jewry and its leaders are their own, not ours," he said.

ISRAEL STARTS DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN TO FORESTALL MEETING BETWEEN DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER AND ARAFAT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA) -- Israel has launched a strong diplomatic campaign to forestall a possible meeting between Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek, currently chairman of the European Economic Community's (EEC) Council of Ministers, and Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat, when Van Den Broek visits Tunisia next week.

The envoys of the 12 EEC member nations were summoned to the Foreign Ministry Wednesday where they were briefed by Yeshayahu Anug, Deputy Director General of the Ministry, who warned of the dangers of such a meeting. Van Den Broek said in Amsterdam Tuesday that he would not invite Arafat to meet with him but would not refuse a meeting if it is asked for.

Anug pointed out that the PLO has consistently torpedoed every move toward peace negotiations in the region and, more than any other organization, is engaged in world-wide terrorism.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir delivered the same message Tuesday to the visiting President of West Germany's Bundestag, Philipp Jenninger. He warned that a meeting between Arafat and the EEC's chairman would deal a serious blow to King Hussein of Jordan, who only last winter abandoned efforts to reach an understanding with the PLO leader, and to all moderate Arab states. Shamir urged West Germany to exercise its influence within the EEC to prevent such a meeting.

KNESSET UNIT PLANS TO ASK GREECE AND YUGOSLAVIA FOR MATERIAL RELATING TO WALDHEIM'S WAR-TIME ACTIVITIES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA) -- The Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee plans to ask the parliaments of Greece and Yugoslavia for any material they may have relating to the war-time activities of Austrian Presidential candidate Kurt Waldheim. The committee also has appealed to parliaments everywhere to speak out against the election of Waldheim, who is favored to win the June 8 run-off elections in Austria.

Waldheim, who served as United Nations Secretary General from 1972-1981, has been accused of participation in atrocities against Yugoslav partisans and the deportation of Greek Jews when he served as a Wehrmacht intelligence officer in the Balkans during World War II.

Documentation from many sources appear to uphold the charges -- vehemently denied by Waldheim -- but Israel believes the key to exposing his alleged Nazi past can be found in the countries where the specific war crimes occurred. Israel's policy therefore has been to seek evidence while withholding final judgement.

Jewish organizations, led by the World Jewish Congress, have unearthed documents indicating that Waldheim lied about his war-time activities. Some Jewish leaders have stated flatly that he is a war criminal. This has infuriated the Austrians, who accuse Jews of trying to interfere in their electoral process. Micha Harish, chairman of the Foreign Affairs subcommittee investigating the Waldheim affair, said that in the case of war crimes, the principle of non-intervention in another country's internal affairs should not apply.

BETHLEHEM AND ATHENS TWINNED

ATHENS, May 21 (JTA) -- Two cities with roots deep in ancient history were officially "twinning" here last week when Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem and Mayor Dimitris Beis of Athens signed the protocol of sisterhood at a solemn ceremony at the Athens Cathedral.

Beis remarked that the "cradle of Christendom and the birthplace of the ancient spirit have finally become sister cities, to join their forces in the struggle for a better world of peace and love." Freij, who is a Palestinian Christian, said "the linking of the two cities expresses the true brotherhood between the Greek and Palestinian people."

The ceremonies were held in the presence of leaders of the Greek Orthodox Church and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

ITALY'S FOREIGN MINISTER IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Julio Andreotti of Italy told Premier Shimon Peres at a meeting here Monday that Peres' proposal for a Middle East "Marshall Plan" to stem the region's economic deterioration had been raised at the Western economic summit meeting in Tokyo earlier this month. It was attended by the U.S. and the major industrialized nations of Europe, with the Japanese serving as hosts.

Andreotti, who arrived Sunday for a three-day official visit, also met with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir. His talks here focussed on the problem of international terrorism.

In that connection, Andreotti reportedly agreed with Shamir that the 1980 Venice Declaration by the European Economic Community (EEC) Ministers that the Palestine Liberation Organization should be "associated" with Mideast peace talks no longer has any practical validity.

Andreotti came to Israel shortly after a former chief of the Italian secret service disclosed an alleged deal between the Italian Foreign Minister and Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi in the 1970s to improve Italian trade with Libya in return for Italy's immunity from terrorist attacks.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The government Wednesday reversed an earlier decision to impose an education tax and to tax retirement pensions. The turn-about came after strong public pressure against both levies. Another controversial tax -- a heavy levy on cars -- is also under public attack. It was imposed originally as a "temporary" measure to balance the national budget but remains in effect to the anger of car owners.

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BEHIND THE HEADLINES A NIGHTMARE CONTINUES IN ARGENTINA By Aviva Cantor

(Part Two Of A Three-Part Series)

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA) -- One of the leaders of the "Madres" -- the Mothers of Argentina's Plaza de Mayo who have demanded the government account for the thousands of "desaparecidos," persons who disappeared without a trace during the junta's reign of terror -- charged that the country's Jewish community "wasn't energetic" on this issue at the time.

Renee Epelbaum, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency during her recent visit to New York, amplified on this statement, which she made in the new film, "Las Madres," about the DAIA, the representative body of Argentine Jewry.

"When the disappearances began in 1976, the DAIA did nothing -- I don't know if they were fearful or simply didn't think it was convenient," she told JTA. Having learned of a change in policy, she met with DAIA leaders and was told they had presented the Minister of Interior and General Roberto Videla with a list of 90 names of kidnapped young Jews. The generals had promised to respond to the DAIA and when they did, she was told, the DAIA would submit another list.

She charged that shortly after Marcos, the son of then-DAIA president Nehemias Resnizky, was kidnapped in July 1977, and released after three days, "the DAIA stopped their commitment to this problem." Many people, she said, believed both acts were related.

Charge Is Vehemently Denied

Resnizky has vehemently denied the charge, insisting, most recently in a JTA interview in February 1984, that the DAIA continued to present lists of disappeared Jews to the government throughout the junta's rule.

The DAIA, in an official document dated January 1984 (long after Resnizky's term of office was over), stated that it had "assumed without hesitations the defense of the Jews" whose disappearances were brought to its attention. The DAIA "was the only group that regularly with insistence and energy asked from the public powers an explanation of the situation of its members detainees and disappeared," said the DAIA's official English translation of the document.

The document stated that the DAIA intervened on behalf of Jewish desaparecidos (disappeared persons) from the beginning, sometimes delivering lists on a weekly basis. The community understood Marcos' kidnapping as "a real and direct aggression against (Argentine) Jewry and its leaders." Resnizky, seeing it as "an intimidatory pressure for him," sent Marcos and his two other children to Israel.

The document mentions various interventions, the continued lack of response by the authorities -- but success in the case of only one desaparecido, Marcos, and six prisoners.

Assessments Of DAIA's Role

Rabbi Marshall Meyer, who served as a rabbi in Buenos Aires during the reign of terror and actively struggled on behalf of disappeared persons and prisoners, acknowledged that the DAIA did intervene in specific cases "but not in general." The DAIA, he said, "should have spoken out

in terms of human rights, because human rights are a basic authentic concern of Judaism; this is not a political concern. They did not condemn human rights violations. They said life is going on normally, Zionist activities are permitted, the schools are open.

"It would have been better had they said, 'This is the darkest period of Argentine history. Murders are being committed every day -- of our Christian brothers, our Jewish brothers, of atheists, of human beings. Human beings are being murdered daily; I didn't hear that statement from them.'"

The DAIA's 1984 document states that in May 1983 -- when most of the kidnappings had stopped and people were beginning to protest openly against the junta -- the DAIA made public a declaration reaffirming its condemnation of violence as a threat to the Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The DAIA states in the document that it adhered to the principle of "the defense of the ... dignity of the Jews and its permanent fight against anti-Semitism in all its forms ... During the agitated period of violence and repression, the development of the institutional life in the country was assured without restrictions or conditions."

Epelbaum condemned the statements the DAIA made that Jewish communal life was continuing normally, adding, "They tried to make the junta look like good people. The junta showed (the statements) as proof of their honesty, that if the DAIA said they were good people the protests (against them) were false."

Intervention By The CJC

Epelbaum's Canadian cousin, Charles Zaionz, chairman of the Canadian Jewish Congress' International Affairs Committee, was actively involved in work on behalf of Argentine Jews during the reign of terror. He told JTA in a telephone interview from Toronto that following Epelbaum's visit to North America in 1978 to rally support for the Madres, CJC officials requested a meeting with the Argentine Ambassador.

After being kept waiting for over a month, he said, they were shown a government-made film in which Resnizky and two of his colleagues -- a rabbi and a banker whose names Zaionz did not recall -- stated that Jewish life in Argentina was normal. Alan Rose, executive director of the CJC, confirmed the contents of the film in a telephone interview with JTA.

Meyer voiced the opinion that the DAIA was motivated partly by fear and partly by the belief that "if they didn't make waves the disappeared people would possibly come back." But, he said, this "complicity of silence is precisely what (benefits) a fascist dictatorship."

(Tomorrow: Part Three)

BONN (JTA) -- A federal court in West Berlin has confirmed a government ban on two neo-Nazi organizations believed to be led by Michael Kuehnen, who is serving a prison sentence for the dissemination of anti-Semitic propaganda and other offenses.