

**JUNE 3 IS THE DAY**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 22 (JTA) -- The suspense over whether President Reagan can go ahead with his proposed sale of missiles to Saudi Arabia will last until at least June 3, when Congress returns from its Memorial Day hiatus.

Reagan vetoed Wednesday afternoon the Congressional resolution rejecting the arms sale and sent the veto message immediately over to the Senate.

The President, who had earlier been busy calling Senators in an effort to get the 34 votes needed to sustain the veto in the Senate, apparently believed he had been successful.

But when Majority Leader Robert Dole (R. Kans.) sought to schedule a vote before the Senate adjourned, the Democrats threatened a filibuster and Dole had no choice but to postpone the vote until next month.

Senate Minority Leader Robert Byrd (D. W.Va.) said the Democrats were only repaying the Republicans in kind. "We all know that the Administration delayed until they felt confident they had the votes," he said. Both sides expressed confidence that the delay would help them. The White House said it would continue "to work" on Senators.

A Series Of Maneuvers

The Senate had rejected the Saudi sale by a 73-22 vote and the House by a 356-62 vote, the first time that Congress had blocked a Presidential arms sale.

Both votes were well above the two-thirds needed to override a veto. But since both Houses must override the veto to block the sale again, the Administration concentrated on the Republican-controlled Senate rather than the Democratic-controlled House.

The Administration's position was helped on Tuesday when Saudi Arabia withdrew its request for 800 Stinger shoulder-fired ground-to-air missiles. This had been the most controversial part of the \$354 million arms package since many in Congress expressed the fear that the portable weapon could fall into the hands of terrorists.

Reagan's veto message was accompanied by a letter to Dole confirming that the Stinger would be eliminated from the sale. The Saudis would still receive 1,666 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles and 100 Harpoon air-to-sea missiles at a cost of about \$267 million.

Injection Of Jewish Issue Criticized

Meanwhile, Sen. Alan Cranston (D. Cal.), who led the opposition to the sale, criticized the Administration for seeking to make the opposition to the sale a Jewish issue. He said the opposition was based on the national interest of the United States.

The government of Israel and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), while voicing opposition to the sale, did not campaign against it. Some Jewish groups, however, such as the Zionist Organization of America and Americans for a Safe Israel, did campaign against it.

Sen. Richard Lugar (D. Ind.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, suggested to Reagan last week that he seek the active support of the sale from Jewish leaders.

The Administration did appear to be taking this advice, but then after the death last Saturday of Yehuda Hellman -- executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations -- caused the cancellation of a meeting with the Presidents Conference scheduled for Monday, White House spokesman Larry Speakes denied the Administration was seeking Jewish support.

Speakes said the Administration was only trying to explain its Mideast policy to the Jewish leaders as it does periodically. The arms sale was explained and Jewish support was not specifically asked for when the President met with about 14 Jewish representatives on Tuesday, according to participants.

Prelude To A More Important Battle

The fight over the arms sale is only a prelude to what may be a more important battle which will come when the Administration presents to Congress the certification required to begin delivery of the AWACS sold to the Saudis in 1981.

Reagan at the time promised that he would certify that the Saudis were helpful in the peace process. But one of the major arguments by Congressional opponents of the arms sale was that the Saudis have hindered the U.S. peace efforts in the Middle East.

Opponents also expressed anger that the Saudis bankroll the Palestine Liberation Organization and Syria and criticized the U.S. raid on Libya.

Reagan, in his veto message, said rejecting the missile sale "would send the worst possible message as to America's dependability and courage." He argued that the Saudis had worked behind the scenes "to combat terrorism, which is as much, if not more, of a threat to them as it is to us."

JUSTICE MINISTRY SAYS IT HAS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO IMPLICATE WALDHEIM IN NAZI ATROCITIES

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 22 (JTA) -- The Justice Ministry said Thursday it had ample evidence to implicate Kurt Waldheim in Nazi atrocities in the Balkans during World War II. It is contained in an interim report submitted Wednesday to Justice Minister Yitzhak Modai by a special committee investigating charges against the Austrian Presidential candidate.

The report coincided with publication of an interview with Waldheim in Yedioth Achronot which quoted him as saying he would like to visit Israel and talk to its people. Waldheim also told the Israeli newspaper, "If I am elected President I hereby pledge to do everything I can for our Jewish citizens so that they can live in security, equality and tranquility. We will not permit anti-Semitism."

Waldheim went on to say, "The truth is that Austria is no more anti-Semitic than other countries. I have met thousands of people during my (election) campaign and have not come across any manifestations of anti-Semitism."

The report to Justice Minister Modai said Israel has evidence supporting allegations that Waldheim was fully aware of atrocities against Yugoslav partisans and the mass deportation of Greek Jews when he served as an intelligence officer in the Wehrmacht, and that the intelligence he passed on to his superiors helped advance those atrocities.

Waldheim Was At Least An 'Accessory'

Modai commented on Voice of Israel Radio Thursday that the evidence indicates Waldheim was at least an "accessory" if not personally involved. The committee, continuing its investigations, has traced several witnesses but has yet to question them. It is searching for evidence that in some instances Waldheim may have been personally involved in war crimes.

In the Yediot Achronot interview, Waldheim suggested that the campaign against him, led by the World Jewish Congress, stemmed from the fact that he was perceived as hostile to Israel and Zionism when he served as United Nations Secretary General from 1972-81.

"I have visited Israel several times and if I am elected I would be glad to visit again in order to contribute to improving relations between the two countries and the two peoples. I have quite a few friends in Israel," Waldheim told the newspaper.

As candidate of the conservative People's Party, Waldheim won 49.66 percent of the vote in the May 4 Presidential elections in Austria. He faces his Socialist rival, Kurt Steyrer, in a runoff election on June 8. He is currently running six points ahead of Steyrer in public opinion polls.

WEIZMAN FAILS TO GET COMMITMENT FOR RENEWED HIGH-LEVEL U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS
By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, May 22 (JTA) -- Israeli Minister-Without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman ended a trip to Washington Thursday after failing to win a commitment for renewed high-level U.S. involvement in the Middle East peace process.

Weizman, who has long sought improved relations with Egypt, had been sent here by Prime Minister Shimon Peres in an effort to persuade the U.S. to reassert itself in the peace effort and in the still unresolved dispute between Egypt and Israel over Taba.

Taba is the small strip of territory on Israel's southern border which both countries claim and whose status was left unresolved with Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai in 1982.

Weizman met twice this week with Secretary of State George Shultz, but failed to persuade him to undertake a new visit to the region.

"The Secretary is always looking for an opportunity to be helpful, if the United States can be, in connection with the Middle East peace process," State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said Thursday. But he added that Shultz had no plans to go to the Middle East at this time.

State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer is currently in the region in an effort to mediate the Taba dispute. Negotiations over Taba

have foundered over the wording of the terms of reference for binding arbitration.

The pursuit by Peres of a heightened American involvement in the peace process and in resolving the lingering tensions surrounding Taba and other aspects of Israel-Egyptian ties, have taken on a certain urgency as the scheduled rotation of the Premiership to Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir approaches. Under the national unity government agreement, Peres and Shamir are to switch places in October.

IDF SOLDIER WOUNDED, TWO TERRORISTS KILLED IN SKIRMISH IN SOUTH LEBANON

TEL AVIV, May 22 (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was wounded and two terrorists were killed in a skirmish north of the south Lebanon security zone Wednesday, a military spokesman announced.

The spokesman said an Israel Defense Force unit encountered the terrorists during the continuing search for the persons responsible for firing Katyusha rockets into Upper Galilee on May 14, Israel Independence Day. The terrorists fired on an Israeli vehicle and attempted to escape in three vehicles which were destroyed by IDF return fire, he said. A large quantity of combat material was found near the bodies.

Amal, the Shiite Moslem militia, said in a statement in Beirut that three of its members were killed when IDF forces shelled and then searched three villages north of the security zone.

RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY SETS UP UNIT TO RESCUE REMAINING JEWS IN ETHIOPIA

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., May 22 (JTA)-- The Rabbinical Assembly, the organization of Conservative rabbis, announced here Thursday that it set up a new committee to rescue the estimated 10,000 Jews remaining in Ethiopia from what they said was religious intolerance, famine, disease, forced resettlement and separation from their families in Ethiopia.

The 1,200 members of the RA, attending their 86th annual convention, said they will seek aid from the U.S. and Israeli governments and other countries to develop a new "Operation Moses and Sheba" to bring Jews out of Ethiopia. They urged the 850 Conservative congregations with 1.5 million members in the U.S. and Canada to participate in the project.

About 10,000 Ethiopian Jews were brought to Israel in the winter of 1984-85 in a secret airlift from Sudan dubbed "Operation Moses." It was abandoned when the secrecy was breached.

Will Continue Action For Soviet Jews

The RA members also pledged they would continue to face arrest if necessary when they protest outside Soviet diplomatic missions in an effort to free Soviet Jews. They called for continuing demonstrations until the 400,000 Jews who wish to leave the USSR are permitted to do so, and until the remaining "Prisoners of Conscience" are freed and the teaching of Hebrew and other Jewish cultural activities are permitted by the Soviet authorities.

To date, more than 400 rabbis representing all branches of Judaism in the U.S. have faced arrest for protesting outside Soviet missions in Washington, New York and San Francisco.

In a resolution on Soviet Jews, the RA convention warned President Reagan not to rely solely on quiet diplomacy in such cases as that of Natan (Anatoly) Shcharansky, but "to understand that this pressure succeeded only because the public outcry made this case embarrassing for the Soviet authorities."

REAGAN APPOINTS KRIEGER AS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, May 22 (JTA) -- The United States Holocaust Memorial Council has a new executive director, with President Reagan's appointment of Richard Krieger, a former director of Jewish affairs in the Republican National Committee and, most recently, a State Department official responsible for refugee programs.

Krieger, who has also served as executive director of Jewish Federations in the U.S., wrote the original proposal for the creation of the Council, which was established by Congress in 1980 under the chairmanship of writer and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel.

The Council was created to coordinate "a campaign to remember," raising funds for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, which is expected to be completed in December 1988.

To date the Council has raised some \$25 million -- enough for construction of the building which members expect to get underway sometime soon. Although they estimate about another \$75 million as the cost for completing the museum, staff members say they are confident that the needed funds can be obtained.

The Council also sponsors the commemoration of Days of Remembrance -- a Holocaust memorial observance held annually at the Capitol on Yom Hashoa, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Other Goals Of The Council

But Krieger said the Council would be pursuing other goals as well, such as expanding its outreach and cooperative program with Holocaust centers and institutions throughout the world, and with civic, educational and religious institutions in the United States. Ultimately, he said, the Council's aim is to serve as the national center for information and programs on the Holocaust.

The Council also plans to create a Committee on Conscience that would receive information on genocide or potential genocide anywhere in the world and for dissemination to the U.S. government.

"The issues raised by the Holocaust and by the other Nazi genocides are not just an issue for Jewish Americans but for all Americans," Krieger said. "This museum is of concern not only to Americans. The issues reflected here affect peoples throughout the world."

Krieger will be succeeding Rabbi Seymour Siegel, Professor of Theology and Ethics at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

SOVIET STUDENT'S JAIL TERM IS SUSPENDED ON APPEAL

NEW YORK, May 22 (JTA) -- The one-year prison sentence imposed on Betzael Shalolashvili for "draft evasion" was suspended by the Soviet authorities Wednesday on appeal. The 22-year-old student from Soviet Georgia was placed on three years' probation instead, the Student Struggle

for Soviet Jewry reported here Thursday. According to the SSSJ, this was "an unusual move, very possibly a response to Western pressure." Shalolashvili was arrested last March and put on trial in April.

Two Soviet Jewry activists, Isai and Grigory Goldstein, currently on a speaking tour of the U.S., said the prison sentence was intended "to frighten other Georgian Jews from applying to emigrate to Israel and to scapegoat Shalolashvili because of the public activism of his older brother, Yitzhak." The Goldstein brothers, also natives of Georgia, immigrated to Israel last month.

BANKRUPTCY FORCES 40 FAMILIES TO ABANDON A JORDAN VALLEY SETTLEMENT By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 22 (JTA) -- Vered Yericho (Rose of Jericho), a hilltop settlement overlooking the Jordan Valley, has been abandoned by the 40 families whose home it was for the past six years. The reason: bankruptcy.

Financial woes piled one atop the other until the moshav was unable to function. "It is the end of Zionism," one settler said. "We have been broken by petty-minded clerks," declared moshav secretary Arik Shaal. Another member wept openly as he lowered the Israeli flag for the last time.

The moshav blames an unfeeling bureaucracy for its demise and lashed out at the "settlement institutions." But Matityahu Drobliss, chairman of the World Zionist Organization's Settlement Department, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in Jerusalem Wednesday that the moshav brought its problems on itself.

Ten months ago it received a \$1 million mortgage to build permanent homes. The money was immediately deposited with a thrift institution which paid high interest. It was supposed to do the purchasing for the moshav. But a few months later the institution collapsed because of its own financial difficulties and took the moshav's money with it.

The settlers also lost the \$150,000 they had deposited to pay the water bills. The bills were never paid and the Mekorot water company cut off the water which was used to irrigate the moshav's vineyards.

According to Drobliss, he warned the settlers not to deposit their money with the failing financial institution but they didn't heed his advice. Nevertheless, he said, the WZO continued to assist the settlement even though it was not entitled to assistance. "One could not ignore their troubles," he said.

The assistance was too little and too late. This week the settlers turned in their personal weapons to the local military authorities. The 40 families got into their cars and drove in a long motorcade to Jerusalem. It was like a funeral procession, one observer said. They spent Wednesday night at a hostel and were to demonstrate Thursday outside the Prime Minister's Office. They will not end their campaign for help, the settlers said. Vered Yericho is not the only moshav in trouble. Moshav Kochav Michael in the Lachish region also closed its gates Wednesday because of a financial crisis.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES A NIGHTMARE CONTINUES IN ARGENTINA

By Aviva Cantor

(Part Three Of A Three-Part Series)

NEW YORK, May 22 (JTA) -- Renee Epelbaum, one of the leaders of the "Madres" -- the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo of Argentina who have been demanding since 1976 an accounting from the government on the fate of their "disappeared" children -- has charged that the DAIA (the representative body of Argentine Jewry) opposed and thus prevented Jewish organizations abroad, especially World Jewish Congress affiliates, from expressing concern about the human rights atrocities in her country during the junta's reign of terror 1976-1983.

Epelbaum told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that when she was visiting the U.S. in late 1978, early 1979, she asked leaders involved with the World Jewish Congress to express concern about the violations of human rights in Argentina. She said she was told that they could not do so because of WJC policy that if the affiliate in a particular country opposed it, others elsewhere "couldn't say a word." She was told the same thing in Canada, and later, in France, she said.

The effect of the DAIA's opposition to statements of concern by American Jews about human rights abuses in Argentina, she said, was pernicious. Such statements, she said, "could have saved lives."

The junta, Epelbaum said, was concerned about its economic and political relations with the U.S. "They had enough (trouble) with the charges that they were criminals and kidnapers. They did not want to be charged with being anti-Semitic." She continued:

"The junta believed that the Jewish community had influence in the U.S. and Canada, and the world in general, so they tried to be supported by the DAIA so that nobody, particularly in the U.S. -- the 'Jewish lobby' -- would say anything against them."

Rabbi Marshall Meyer, who was the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth-El, a Conservative synagogue in Buenos Aires, during the reign of terror and a member of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, confirmed the DAIA's opposition to human rights protests from Jewish communities outside Argentina. "This was a fatal error," he said. "Every pressure should have been placed on every major power of state to stop the carnage."

He told the JTA that he had been present at a meeting in New York in 1980 or 1981 of DAIA leaders with those of American Jewish organizations. The DAIA leaders, he said, told the participants in the meeting that they did not want anyone "interfering" in Argentine affairs and told them "not to get involved" with the human rights violations there in general or those against Jews in particular.

Alan Rose, executive director of the Canadian Jewish Congress, told JTA in a telephone interview that DAIA leaders had cautioned that any "representations to the Argentine government about the concern of Canadians over human rights violations should be made quietly." The impression conveyed, he said, was that if such statements were made publicly, more people would be kidnapped, and that "every time such a statement is made publicly, another person is murdered."

The CJC, he continued, realizing it should "not be heroes in someone else's back yard, was careful not to embarrass the Jewish community in Argentina (out of) fear that there would be consequences." Rose refused to go into details as to what the CJC did on behalf of Jewish desaparecidos and prisoners, indicating the issue is still a sensitive one.

Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, director of the Latin American Affairs Department of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and of its Argentine Prisoner Project during the reign of terror, told the JTA he did not accept the concept that the Jewish community of Argentina, or the prisoners or desaparecidos, were endangered by pressures from abroad. On the contrary, he said, "outside pressures were very helpful" and were instrumental in getting some prisoners, including publisher Jacobo Timerman, released.

Israel Singer, secretary general of the World Jewish Congress, said that the cautioning by some, "not all," of the DAIA's leaders against speaking out "did not put a damper on us." He said WJC president Edgar Bronfman spoke out very forcefully against the junta at the 1981 meeting of the Latin American Jewish Congress in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and in interviews with Argentine newspapers. Singer did acknowledge, however, that Jewish communities outside Argentina "might have been more vociferous if they (the DAIA) had encouraged us." Another Jewish communal leader told JTA that, with the exception of the ADL, which campaigned actively on behalf of the desaparecidos and prisoners, the American Jewish community "bought the DAIA's view that Argentine Jewry was hostage to their silence."

Fearful About the Fate Of Jewish Community

Jewish observers familiar with Argentina have expressed the view that the DAIA may have been motivated by fear for the fate of the entire community in that country, which has a long history of anti-Semitism. The reference the DAIA made to the issue of intervention from abroad in its 1984 document on Jewish desaparecidos and prisoners was this:

"On June 5, 1978, the DAIA received a note sent by the Interior Minister in which he made some complaints about the campaign waged abroad including Israel against Argentine authorities" while actually "Argentine Jewry was specially careful in criticizing anything even of little importance that affected the Jews in Argentina."

Epelbaum told the JTA that the attitude of the organized Jewish community in Argentina was "very upsetting to me, painful, very sad." It was not only the Jewish community that did not take strong action on behalf of the junta's victims-- "almost everybody was like them" -- but, she said, "as a Jew, (in the light of) the Jewish tradition, we expected a different attitude."

The Madres, Epelbaum among them, are still marching in the Plaza de Mayo because "we still haven't gotten the answer as to what happened to most of the children" and because all the criminals have not been punished. "We can't close our eyes and (act) as if nothing happened. For me, the main factor is memory. As a Jew you must remember the Holocaust. You must remind people what happened so it will not be repeated. (Here, too) we need justice to prevent this from recurring. And memory must be kept so we will never have this kind of nightmare again."