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JORDAN'S CLOSURE OF EL FATAH'S ORGANIZATIONAL CENTERS IN AMMAN SEEN AS MAJOR BLOW TO PLO CHIEF

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) — Israeli analysts said Tuesday that Jordan's closure of El Fatah's operational centers in Amman was a major blow to Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat. They described the centers as a vital link between the PLO leadership and residents of the administered territories. El Fatah is the terrorist arm of the PLO loyal to Arafat.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin called the Jordanian action "a development in the right direction." Addressing the Yeshiva University convention here, he said the closures would restrict PLO activities in the territories and reduce terrorism there.

The official communique issued in Amman Monday said the PLO offices shut down were the ones that were reopened over a year ago following the rapprochement between Jordan's King Hussein and Arafat. They were closed, the communique said, in response to PLO attacks on Jordan.

The Hussein-Arafat relationship disintegrated early this year after prolonged efforts by Hussein to convince Arafat to bring the PLO into the Middle East peace process leading to negotiations with Israel. Hussein announced in February that he was abandoning those efforts because the PLO leadership was "unreliable."

The centers shut down by the Jordanian authorities include the office of Abu Jihad, Arafat's deputy in charge of Fatah's terrorist activities, and the office of "Force 17," Fatah's elite corps which was used to protect Arafat and other PLO leaders and engage in terrorist activities.

The Jordanian communique affirmed the legitimacy of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. The moves against the Fatah centers were intended to weaken the Fatah leadership rather than the organization itself according to Israeli analysts.

The PLO's initial reaction was to attack Jordanian Premier Zeid A-Rifai for trying to create an alternative leadership to the PLO. Some East Jerusalem Arabic newspapers condemned the move. Hanna Seniora, the influential editor of Al Fajr said Jordan's action would end whatever Jordanian influence remained in the territories.

WALDHEIM SWORN IN AS AUSTRIA'S PRESIDENT; ENVOYS FROM U.S. AND SOME OTHER COUNTRIES BOYCOTT EVENT

VIENNA, July 8 (JTA) — Kurt Waldheim was sworn in Tuesday as Austria's sixth President in a ceremony at the Parliament Building boycotted by at least six foreign Ambassadors, including the United States envoy, because of Waldheim's controversial war-time record as a Wehrmacht officer.

There were no visible protestors near the Parliament building, but in a nearby square, a group of four persons led by Rabbi Avi Weiss of New York and Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld held candles in a

silent demonstration against Waldheim's election and Austria's reluctance to recall its past. They had been holding their silent vigil for the past 24 hours. A few blocks away, at Vienna's main square, a wooden "Trojan horse" wearing a swastika and the brown cap of the Nazi era's dreaded Brownshirts, was unveiled by a group calling itself "New Austria," which included several prominent artists and intellectuals.

The 67-year-old Waldheim, a former United Nations Secretary General, won a landslide victory last June 8 against his Socialist opponent, Kurt Steyrer, despite repeated revelations, mainly by the New York-based World Jewish Congress, concerning Waldheim's war-time record as a Wehrmacht intelligence officer and of having concealed his past.

On Monday, the WJC Congress, released in Jerusalem a newly-discovered secret German war-time document which allegedly connected for the first time the new Austrian President directly to the deportation of Greek Jews to the Auschwitz death camp in 1944.

Repudiates Anti-Semitism

Waldheim looked pale and tired as he walked down Parliament's Assembly Hall and pronounced the oath of office. "I swear that I will observe the laws of the Republic and do my duty according to the best of my knowledge and my conscience — so help me God."

He then referred at length to Austria's pre-war anti-Semitism. "The never again that we Austrians swore on the wounds of the Second World War refers not only to the horrors of the Holocaust but also to the monstrous spirit which made such horrors possible — namely the spirit of anti-Semitism," Waldheim said.

He added that "it must be our daily and ever renewed resolution to watch out that each citizen in our country, whatever his race, religion or belief, is treated as a brother or a sister." He concluded, "As President of Austria, I don't ask to be anything more than the first servant of the state."

There was only polite applause at the Assembly Hall. Several Socialist deputies wore black ties in sign of mourning but the ceremony took place without incident. After the swearing in, several thousand people lined the Hofburg Courtyards and again politely applauded as Waldheim walked on foot to the Presidential Palace. On Tuesday night, Waldheim will preside at a major state banquet which will mark the official start of his six year term.

Ronald Lauder, the U.S. Ambassador to Austria, had what the State Department in Washington described as "long-standing plans to be out of Austria for personal reasons" at the time of the inauguration. The State Department indicated the U.S. would be represented by the Embassy Charge d'Affairs.

With continued documentation being uncovered at various sources about Waldheim's Nazi past, it remains likely that the Reagan Administration will continue to be under pressure to make a decision on whether to bar the Austrian President from the United States by having his name placed on the Immigration and Naturalization Service's so called "watch list."

This list bars persons accused of Nazi war crimes from the U.S. The Justice Department has met with lawyers representing Waldheim on the matter. Numer-

ous Congressmen have urged Attorney General Edwin Meese to soon render a decision on Waldheim's status in the U.S. In Israel, meanwhile, as Waldheim was sworn in as the new President of Austria, the extraordinary nine-and-a-half hour documentary "Shoah," which retraces the story of the Holocaust, was symbolically shown inside the Knesset building in Jerusalem. The screening of the documentary by Claude Lanzmann was initiated by the Knesset's Education Committee, chaired by Laborite Naham Raz.

In Tel Aviv, some 200 persons, among them Holocaust survivors, demonstrated outside the Austrian Embassy at the time of the inauguration ceremony in Vienna.

SHAMIR SAYS THERE WAS NO STANDING ORDER TO KILL TERRORISTS AFTER THEY HAD BEEN CAPTURED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir acknowledged that he had a "conversation" with Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom about killing terrorists captured alive but insisted there was never a standing order to do so while he was Prime Minister.

Shamir made the statement in an interview published Tuesday in the weekly magazine *Monitin*. It was his second published commentary on the Shin Bet affair since the Supreme Court gave the government two weeks to show cause why it should not launch an investigation into allegations that Shalom ordered the killing of two Palestinian bus hijackers after their capture by the Israel Defense Force in April, 1984 and subsequently engaged in an elaborate cover-up of the case. Shamir was Prime Minister at the time.

With respect to killing terrorists taken prisoner, *Monitin* quoted Shamir as saying, "This was not an instruction. This was in the nature of a conversation between (himself) and Shin Bet chief Avraham Shalom and that does not mean you were supposed to kill someone who had survived an incident or escaped alive. It means you were supposed to try as hard as possible during combat. That does not mean killing in any circumstances."

In an interview published in *Yediot Achronot* last Thursday, Shamir denied that he had any knowledge of alleged irregularities in dealing with the bus hijackers until eight months ago. He was responding to intimations that he must have known of the events because the head of Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, is responsible solely to the Prime Minister.

Contradictory Statements

His remarks to *Yediot Achronot* and to *Monitin* contradict the statement by Shalom when he applied for a Presidential pardon last month, that he acted with "authority and permission" in every aspect of the case.

Shamir, who is also Deputy Premier and the leader of Likud, told *Monitin* that he was aware that there had been "a lynch" and that IDF personnel, police, Shin Bet personnel and "ordinary people" participated in it. He refused to tell the Tel Aviv-based weekly precisely what he had been told and when.

But according to the *Yediot Achronot* interview, Shamir said he first learned of the alleged irregularities last October 29, from Reuven Hazak,

former deputy chief of Shin Bet, one of three senior operatives who brought complaints against Shalom to former Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir.

Shamir is currently consulting with Attorney General Yosef Harish and other legal counsel on the affidavit he will be required to submit to the Supreme Court shortly explaining why the government prefers to close the Shin Bet affair without further inquiry.

A number of Cabinet ministers are urging the government to establish a judicial commission of inquiry which would automatically end the Supreme Court's intervention in the case. But Premier Shimon Peres is not reconciled to that course and the Likud ministers are firmly behind Shamir in opposing any probe of Shin Bet on grounds of State security.

Shamir Approves Of Presidential Pardon

Shamir told *Monitin* that the pardons President Chaim Herzog granted to Shalom and three of his senior aides last month were "an excellent way of ending" the affair. He maintained it would be unwise to press Shalom and other Shin Bet men by judicial means because they would react "like anyone else."

He seemed to imply by this that they would fudge the facts to protect themselves. Shamir has flatly denied Shalom's assertion that he acted with full "authority" in the case. He told *Monitin*, "It is not important what I myself did or did not know."

The Presidential pardons have been challenged before the high court. The court asked the government to submit, within a week, detailed information about the pardons. The justices made clear that they were not questioning the President's exercise of his constitutional right. But their intervention signified that the court might look into the validity of the pardons at a future date.

Justice Minister Yitzhak Modai submitted a brief affidavit to the court Monday outlining the circumstances surrounding the pardons. He explained that President Herzog asked the Inner Cabinet, advised by Attorney General Harish, to recommend the pardons and the ministers complied.

But Modai did not address the question that apparently bothers the court — whether Shalom and his three aides had in fact admitted guilt and could therefore be regarded as "offenders" within the framework of the Presidential Pardons Law. That law empowers the President to pardon "offenders."

ADMIRAL HYMAN RICKOVER DEAD AT 86

By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, July 8 (JTA) — Admiral Hyman Rickover, father of the nuclear Navy and developer of the first nuclear power plant in the world, died Tuesday at the age of 86 at his home in Arlington, Va. from complications due to strokes suffered over the past year.

Rickover, the first Jewish Admiral in the U.S. Navy, was the longest-serving officer in the U.S. Navy and led a career marked by controversy and contradictions.

As head of nuclear propulsion for the Navy between 1949 and 1982, Rickover worked diligently to build a fleet of missile-carrying nuclear submarines, each capable of destroying every major city in the Soviet Union.

Yet, upon his retirement in early 1982, by the request of the Reagan Administration, he told Congress he was not proud of his role in the arms race and warned that nuclear war was likely.

He was known for his strong personality which caused him to have both many friends and many

enemies. But Rickover was always admired by powerful supporters in Congress. The Admiral also had a reputation as a tireless and selfless public servant who denounced military contractors for wasting tax money. However, the Navy Department last year censured him for accepting gifts from defense contractors valued at \$68,703 in the years before his retirement. Rickover denied any wrongdoing.

Born in Poland on January 27, 1900, Rickover was brought to Chicago by his parents at the age of six. He recalled his early years in Poland at a gala for his 83rd birthday in Washington.

Recalled His Early Years

"I was born in Poland, then a part of Russia, and was not allowed to attend public schools because of my Jewish faith," he told the nearly 500 people at the dinner, including former Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

"However, starting at age four, I attended a religious school where the only learning was from the Old Testament, in Hebrew. School hours were from sunrise to sunset, six days a week.

"My father emigrated to the U.S. shortly before 1900, and saved enough money from his work to send tickets for my mother, my sister and me. My mother packed as much of our possessions as she could carry in a sheet, including bedding and ten days' supply of kosher food."

In America, he began working as an errand boy for Western Union and was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1919. He graduated in 1922 and was commissioned an ensign that year. After sea duty and study of electrical engineering at Annapolis and Columbia University, he served aboard submarines for three years.

Overcame Hurdles

The small-framed, gaunt Admiral overcame hurdles as a Jew and held increasingly important staff and command positions in the U.S. Navy. Rickover also served with the Atomic Energy Commission at Oakridge.

Against considerable opposition, Rickover persuaded the U.S. Navy in 1947 to begin construction of nuclear powered submarines and was placed in charge of the project which launched the first one, Nautilus.

Later on, Rickover created the U.S. nuclear submarine fleet which helped revolutionize atomic era defense. He received two Congressional Gold Medals for his outstanding service to the U.S.

According to a close friend of Rickover, Dr. Mordecai Hacohen, first vice president of the Bank Leumi Trust Company of New York, when the Admiral visited Israel in 1981 and met with then Prime Minister Menachem Begin, "he came out of the meeting a reborn Jew and his whole past came back to him."

He then established the Rickover Science Institute which every summer arranged for four or five Israeli top science students to join 50 top students from the U.S., one from each state, in meeting with U.S. scientists and to study advanced programs in electronics and computer science. A few months ago he had resigned as head of the Institute. While Rickover did not follow in the Orthodox tradition of his parents, Hacohen described him as "a good Jew at heart."

NO MIDEAST TRIP FOR SHULTZ

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, July 8 (JTA) — Secretary of State George Shultz has decided not to travel to the Middle East this summer, the State Department announced Tuesday.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres had reportedly been pushing for a visit by the Secretary to help resolve the dispute over Taba, the small strip of territory on Israel's southern border, and possibly to make some progress in the peace process before the scheduled turnover of the Premiership to Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir in October.

State Department legal advisor Abraham Sofaer is currently on his second visit to the region in a month, in an effort to resolve differences between Egypt and Israel over how arbitration over Taba should be conducted. "At this point the Secretary does not feel the need for a trip," State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb told reporters.

The White House had said in May that a trip to the region by the Secretary was "in the planning stage." But Shultz has repeatedly said he would only go if he thought something could be accomplished. There had been speculation that he would go if sufficient progress had been made by Sofaer on the Taba issue.

But a State Department official maintained that Shultz' decision did not reflect pessimism about the prospects for success in resolving the conflict over Taba. "If Sofaer should succeed in mediating an agreement, there would be no reason for Shultz to go," the official told the JTA.

Vice President George Bush will be visiting Israel, Egypt and Jordan at the end of July.

Asked whether the decision by Jordan's King Hussein to close all of PLO chief Yasir Arafat's Fatah offices in Amman provided a new opportunity for a breakthrough in the peace process, Kalb would say only that "the relationship between the PLO and Jordan is something for the parties to work out among themselves." (Related story P.1.)

NO DECISION ON MORMON CENTER

JERUSALEM, July 8 (JTA) — A Cabinet committee formed last December to consider the Mormon-sponsored Brigham Young University center under construction next to the Hebrew University campus on Mt. Scopus, convened Monday for what was to have been its final meeting. But the meeting adjourned without decision.

The committee deferred its vote for another week to allow Justice Minister Yitzhak Moda'i more time to consider the legality of the building license and the activities planned for the six acre campus.

The project was authorized several years ago, during the Likud administration headed by Premier Menachem Begin. All permits and licenses were approved by the government and the Jerusalem municipality. But the Orthodox religious establishment adamantly opposed the Mormon center on grounds that it would be used for missionary activities.

Moda'i sought to appease the opponents by proposing a law that would forbid any form of missionary activity. Proselytizing as such is not illegal in Israel but offering financial or other inducements to conversion is banned.

U.S. URGED TO INCORPORATE ISRAEL AS NATO'S 'STRATEGIC ANCHOR' IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND MIDEAST By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 8 (JTA) -- The United States should work toward incorporating Israel as NATO's "strategic anchor" in the eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East, the Heritage Foundation said in a policy paper published Monday.

"Washington should integrate Israel discreetly into the global anti-Soviet defense system to strengthen deterrence of the Soviet Union in the strategic area between NATO's southern flank and the Persian Gulf," it was suggested in the paper written by James Phillips, a senior policy analyst for the Washington-based conservative think tank.

"Joint contingency plans should be drawn secretly to keep Moscow and its regional allies guessing about the extent to which Israel is willing to commit itself to containing Soviet aggression in a crisis."

Phillips does not call for a formal defense treaty, since he notes that both countries prefer low key strategic cooperation such as is now in place. But he proposes specific steps which should be taken. Noting that Israel's location makes it an "unsinkable aircraft carrier," Phillips urged the U.S. to "seek access to Israeli air bases on a contingency basis."

The Sixth Fleet should reduce its dependence "on problematic Greek bases" by increasing its use of Israeli ports and naval repair facilities, Phillips argues. He calls for regular U.S.-Israeli naval and air exercises.

Outlines Role For Israel

In addition, Phillips urges that "U.S. medicine, fuel, ammunition and weapons should be secretly prepositioned in Israel to facilitate rapid movement to the Persian Gulf or NATO's southern flank if needed." He calls for increased military intelligence, liaison and technical cooperation.

However, he stressed that "an active Israeli role in Persian Gulf contingencies should be minimized to ease Arab anxieties about Israeli involvement and Israeli anxieties about being drawn into conflicts in areas outside the bounds of its vital interests."

At the same time, Phillips argues that "active Israeli support of U.S. efforts to help freedom fighters in Central America and Africa would be a powerful demonstration to the American public of Israel's status as a special ally."

Phillips rejects the argument that if the U.S. follows this course it would hurt its relations with the Arab countries. "Arab states have refrained from close cooperation with Washington even when the U.S. has held Israel at arms length," he notes.

At the same time, he points out that "Washington's ties to Israel have been an incentive for Arab leaders to improve relations with the U.S." He also argues that close U.S.-Israeli cooperation will encourage "Arab states to opt for a negotiated settlement rather than military action in the Arab-Israeli conflict."

CCAR CALLS ON U.S. TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT

SNOWMASS, Colo., July 8 (JTA) -- The Central Conference of American Rabbis has called

on the Reagan Administration to "normalize relations" with the Sandinista government in Nicaragua and urged a halt to U.S. funding for the military activities of the Contra rebel forces fighting the government in Managua.

At the same time, the nearly 400 delegates attending the CCAR's 97th annual convention here voted to support a resolution condemning the Nicaraguan government for its treatment of Jews, its ties with terrorist groups, and its denial of freedoms, its persecutions of Mesquito Indians and what the CCAR called "the betrayal of its own revolution."

The resolutions were part of a series of such actions on a variety of issues taken at the conclusion of the CCAR convention. Other resolutions adopted by the delegates included a call for discouraging CCAR members from gambling -- a recent report indicated that 25 percent of America's compulsive gamblers are Jews -- while another resolution called on the government to protect people who have tested positively, or who have developed symptoms of AIDS under the same laws that protect the rights of the handicapped.

Another resolution condemned the political system of racial separation in South Africa and directed the CCAR's Executive Board to divest all investments in corporations doing business in South Africa. Additionally, the resolution directed the Board to boycott firms doing business in South Africa who have not accepted the so-called Sullivan Principles, an employment code for American businesses in South Africa.

Catholic-Jewish Relations

In addition, three separate resolutions were passed on Catholic-Jewish relations, which acknowledged increased dialogue and shared social actions between Jews and Roman Catholics and called for the establishment of a variety of ways to further understanding between the two religions.

At the same time, the second resolution passed by the CCAR calls for the Vatican to grant immediate diplomatic recognition to the State of Israel. Finally, the last of three resolutions on Roman-Catholic/Jewish Relations objected to the establishment of a Carmelite convent at the site of the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland. The resolution urged its relocation to neutral ground.

Appeal By Chavez

In another development at the CCAR convention, Cesar Chavez, head of the United Farm Workers Association, thanked the Reform Rabbis for their support over the years and made a plea for contributions and continued help with the farm workers' boycott of table grapes.

Chavez also urged religious leaders to consider the plight of the farm workers, "one of the most oppressed societies in America." Chavez said the table grape boycott is the result of a refusal by officials in California to limit pesticide use on farms.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Leonid Zeliger, a 37-year-old Leningrad refusenik, has written a Hebrew textbook which was recently published in Israel. The original manuscript was brought to Israel from the Soviet Union, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. The 671-page book in Russian and Hebrew is considered by scholars to be "an excellent and fundamental textbook," one which has been lacking in the Russian language.