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GREECE IS MOVING TOWARD UPGRADING ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, July 17 (JTA) — The Greek government is inching toward the upgrading of diplomatic relations with Israel and may have sent up a trial balloon to test Arab reaction to the possible eventual establishment of full diplomatic relations with the Jewish State.

Such developments were indicated this week in the remarks of government spokesman Militiades Papaioannou who was questioned by reporters Wednesday about a story in the daily, *Acropolis*, that Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu is seriously considering the issue of full diplomatic relations with Israel.

The spokesman, replying, used the word "upgrading" with respect to Greek-Israel relations. Hitherto, government spokesmen would speak only of "improving" relations. Greek-Israel ties are presently at the consular level.

Another government official, who asked not to be identified, said of the item in *Acropolis*, "Most probably the story was put there at governmental request to test the Arab, and why not, the Israel reactions."

Certain Conditions Cited

Papaioannou noted that "The Greek government has established certain conditions for complete restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel, such as the withdrawal of Israel forces from the occupied territories and the opening of a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization."

He added: "Our positions have not changed, but that does not mean we cannot proceed with other kinds of procedure for improving relations with Israel which could be characterized as an upgrading in relations." He gave as examples of "upgrading" the recent visit to Greece by Israel's Minister of Tourism, Avraham Sharir and the pending reciprocal visit to Israel by the Deputy Minister of National Economy, Takis Roumeliotis.

Israeli diplomatic sources in Greece observed that the story in *Acropolis* "came out of the blue" and has raised many questions with respect to its timing and purpose. The sources said that although relations are being improved, Israel could hardly accept the conditions demanded by Greece.

"Those conditions remind us of Bangladesh, Pakistan and other Moslem countries. From a non-Moslem country we would expect a different position," the Israeli sources said.

1,000 PEOPLE HOLD HUMAN RIGHTS RALLY TO COUNTER MEETING OF HATE GROUP

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, July 17 (JTA) — A crowd of nearly 1,000 persons staged a massive, five-and-a-half hour human rights rally last weekend to "celebrate the ethnic, racial and religious diversity of the Pacific northwest" in the Idaho resort town of Coeur d'Alene.

The rally, attended by state representatives of Washington, Idaho, Montana, and area clergy and

Jewish representatives was staged to counter the two-day Aryan Nations conference at Hayden Lake, some 15 miles south of Coeur d'Alene, which drew some 165 Nazi sympathizers, white supremacists, anti-Semites and Ku Klux Klan members and their families.

The rally was an effort, according to Marshall Mend, a real estate developer in Coeur d'Alene and a member of the task force which sponsored the demonstration, to "dilute national attention of the Hayden Lake conference." He said local residents in the resort community "basically find (the Aryan Nations) disgusting."

'People Here Find It Disgusting'

"When I say people, I'm talking about 99 percent of the people here find it disgusting and would rather have them go somewhere else," Mend, who is Jewish, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview.

Mend's view is shared by others contacted by the JTA in the aftermath of the conference of the Aryan Nations, the first such gathering of the right wing racist group since last year's conviction in Seattle of 10 members of The Order, an extremist group whose leader died in a 1984 fire that began in a gun battle with police.

The Aryan Nations, according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, is an Idaho-based group that disseminates racist and anti-Semitic propaganda and which seeks to establish a "nationalist racist state." In fact, the conference in Hayden Lake last weekend issued a call for a white, male-dominated homeland in the Pacific northwest, according to media accounts of the conference. A spokesman for the Aryan Nations told the media that his group was seeking a homeland that would exclude Jews, Catholics and Blacks.

Despite widespread media reports about the racist gathering, a Jewish community leader in Seattle who has monitored the activities of extremist groups in the Pacific northwest region told the JTA that "from our point of view, they were few in number."

Termed A Last Hurrah

Rabbi Anson Laytner, director of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle and director of the Washington Association of Jewish Communities, said in a telephone interview that with the arrest of members of the extremist group of The Order last year, the Aryan Nations conference "is seen as a last hurrah rather than a prelude to bigger and better" times for the racists in the region. "People feel secure," he said, "because law enforcement agencies have done their job."

Andy Friedman, the ADL's assistant regional director of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, based in Seattle, told the JTA that he was at the Hayden Lake compound where the conference took place. Although he did not enter — he said credentials were carefully scrutinized — Friedman reported that a sign at the entrance to the property said, "Whites Only; welcome Aryan warriors."

Friedman said young men wearing fatigues and carrying weapons walked around the perimeter of the 20-acre property, which is owned by the Rev. Richard Butler, a leader of the Aryan Nations movement. Butler is also a leader of the Aryan Nations' religious arm, the

Church of Jesus Christ Christian. The Aryan Nations and Butler's Church in Hayden Lake follow the ideology of the Identity Movement, described recently as a "loose-knit association of Churches and sects that teaches that the Caucasian races are the true 'chosen people' of God and that the Jews are imposters who are the offspring of Satan through the line of Cain."

According to Friedman, the task force which organized the demonstration and which has been active for a number of years in Coeur d'Alene "is doing a lot to offset the propaganda of the Aryan Nations and the impact on that part of the state. They are very worried that the Aryan Nations will affect the tourism economy in the area."

"They have really been the ones, the residents of northern Idaho ... that have been speaking out the loudest and the strongest," Friedman said. "The most significant development last weekend (was) that the loudest voice heard was that of tolerance and democracy."

A TEMPEST IN THE KNESSET

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 17 (JTA) -- The Aguda Israel party has stirred a tempest in the Knesset and is threatening to quit the unity coalition government for what it claims is lack of consideration for the concerns of Orthodox Jews on the part of Labor and Likud.

Menachem Porush, one of the Aguda's two Knesset members, said Thursday that his party had suffered "the last straw." Israel Radio reported that Aguda has been ordered to leave the coalition by two of its most venerable sages, the Hasidic Rabbi of Gur and Rabbi Eliezer Schach. They also ordered the party's other MK, Avraham Shapiro, to resign his post as chairman of the Knesset's Finance Committee.

There was no official confirmation of these reports and Porush did not specify his party's grievances. But they are believed to stem in part from disciplinary action taken against him for abusive remarks from the Knesset floor against Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel. Porush was suspended from five consecutive plenary sessions after he refused to apologize to the Speaker.

Anger Over A Tehiya Motion

Aguda's ire was also raised by a motion introduced in the Knesset last week by Geula Cohen of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya Party urging the government to abolish deferral of military service for yeshiva students. Cohen also demanded that all women be required to do military service or some form of national service. Tehiya is an opposition party.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, replying for the government, cited the long-standing status quo that relieves yeshiva students from military duties and exempts Orthodox women from service. But Rabin obviously agrees in principle with Cohen on this matter and did not conceal it in his remarks, further arousing the Aguda's anger.

The contretemps with Porush stemmed from a recent debate over religious-secular tensions in Israel. The Aguda MK was offended by remarks by Hillel critical of religious zealots who have been vandalizing bus shelters because they object to what they consider "lewd" advertising posters.

Porush accused the Speaker of "incitement against ultra-Orthodox Jews" and used what other

MKs described as "unbridled and slanderous language." It was deleted from the Knesset record but later published in the press. Aguda is a minor party and the only coalition party which, owing to its religious doctrine, does not sit in the Cabinet. Nevertheless, given the delicate political balance in the coalition, its defection could be troublesome.

FBI OFFICIAL BLAMES JEWISH EXTREMISTS FOR ANTI-ARAB VIOLENCE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 17 (JTA) -- An official of the FBI said Wednesday that the FBI had "suspects in the case" of Alex Odeh, the West Coast regional director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), who was killed by a bomb trip-wired to the front of his office in Santa Ana, California last October 11.

But Oliver Revell, assistant executive director of the FBI, told the House Judiciary subcommittee on Criminal Justice, that there was not enough evidence yet to indict anyone.

While not naming names, Revell said "Jewish extremists" were responsible for Odeh's death and possibly a bomb that exploded outside the ADC's Boston office. But he stressed that "no particular group" was involved. Revell told reporters later that "we are dealing with a very few individuals who have come together on an ad hoc basis." He was testifying before the subcommittee's hearing on an increase in violence against Arab Americans.

"We are deeply concerned that the federal investigation of Odeh's death and the Boston bombing have not produced a single indictment," Rep. John Conyers (D. Mich.) said. But Revell said the Odeh case has the "highest priority" and "I truly believe we will solve it."

Claim Anti-Arab Hysteria

Two Arab-American members of Congress, Reps. Nick Joe Rohall (D. W. Va.) and Mary Rose Oakar (D. Ohio), charged that stereotyping by the Administration, some members of Congress and especially the media have created an "anti-Arab hysteria."

James Abourezk, ADC's chairman, charged that when President Reagan "demagogues for three weeks about the murder of Leon Klinghoffer," who was killed by Palestinian terrorists aboard the hijacked Achille Lauro, "and is absolutely silent about the murder of Alex Odeh" this "is a signal that it is alright to do this kind of physical violence" to Arab Americans.

Response By Jewish Organizations

David Gordis, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, stressed that his organization had condemned Odeh's murder and has urged the FBI to find those responsible.

He said that after Odeh's death there were threats to Jewish organizations and synagogues in Orange County where Santa Ana is located. "The American Jewish Committee and other Jewish organizations have attempted to repair the damage done by the bombing to relations between Arab Americans and Jewish Americans," he said.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith distributed a statement in the hearing room in which its national director, Nathan Perlmuter, "deplored ethnically or racially motivated violence, harassment or defamation directed against any group of Americans." Gordis noted that the AJ Committee has long worked "to

counter ethnic stereotyping of any and all ethnic groups, including Arab Americans." But he stressed that it is not ethnic stereotyping when any organization disagrees "with the merits of domestic and foreign policy questions of Arab-Americans." Gordis warned that any campaign against stereotyping must not be used to defame another group or country.

"It is well-documented that one of the important policy goals of a number of Arab-American organizations has been to weaken American cooperation with and assistance to Israel," he said. "In carrying out this campaign, these organizations have improperly sought to limit legitimate statements of positions by casting doubt on bona fides of Americans, both Jewish and non-Jewish, who support Israel."

David Sadd, executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans, charged that Arab Americans have been prevented from getting their message to the public because of threats from Jews which forced newspapers and radio stations to reject their advertisements.

Conyer expressed satisfaction at the appearance of Abourezk, Sadd and Gordis together before the subcommittee.

Need To Sit Down And Talk

Hyman Bookbinder, the retiring Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, pointed out that he and other Jewish leaders and the Arab Americans have frequently appeared together and discussed their differences.

"I would like to see that habit also established by Arab leaders in the Middle East to sit down with Israelis and talk about their differences," Bookbinder said. Abourezk interjected that "I would hope that his desire for a dialogue between Arab leaders and Israeli leaders would include the PLO."

Gordis has asserted in his statement earlier that "It is also our strongly held conviction that those who support the PLO, without condemning its terrorist nature, encourage terrorism." Perlmutter, in his statement, urged "Arab American groups to follow the lead of the major American Jewish organizations which have been quick to condemn violence and terrorism -- no matter the source."

ADMINISTRATION CASTIGATED FOR CONTINUING ARMS SALE TO SAUDIS
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 17 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration, which has begun delivery of five AWACS sold to Saudi Arabia in 1981, was castigated by a member of the House for apparently giving no consideration to the overwhelming opposition in Congress to the sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia.

Rep. Mel Levine (D. Cal.), who led the recent fight in the House against the sale of sophisticated missiles to the Saudis, reminded two Administration officials that the House rejected the sale by a 356-62 vote and the Senate by a 73-22 vote. He added that the sale went through when the Senate failed to override President Reagan's veto of the rejection by one vote.

Levine engaged in an angry exchange Monday with Richard Murphy, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, and Richard Armitage, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, at a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East hearing on President Reagan's certification that the Saudis are eligible to receive the AWACS surveillance planes.

Reagan sent Congress on June 18 the certification that Saudi Arabia had met the conditions he promised Congress in 1981 were necessary for the planes to be sent to the Saudis. The first AWACS plane was delivered on July 2, according to Armitage. He said the other planes are scheduled to be delivered on August 31, October 31, December 31 and March 31, 1987.

Levine demanded to know if the strong opposition in Congress to the sale of the missiles had meant anything to the Administration. "It wasn't fun," Murphy replied. He said the Administration had not made its case to Congress.

Levine said the overwhelming Congressional vote against the missiles came in the "absence of outside advocacy" against the sale and because of what members of the Senate and House believe was in the national security interest. "Does that mean anything to this Administration in the context of its relationship with Saudi Arabia?" Levine asked.

Murphy replied that the United States has a security interest in ensuring the "stability" of Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf, preventing Soviet inroads in the area and protecting the free flow of oil from the Gulf.

The Price Is Too High

Levine said Congress wants U.S. friendship with the Saudis but "the price we are being asked to pay is very high." "We are not being asked to pay a price," Murphy replied. "They are paying hard cash for every piece of equipment they get from us." Armitage said the Administration did rethink its position after the Congressional action, but "came to the same conclusion" it had earlier.

The five AWACS delivered to the Saudis will replace four U.S.-manned AWACS that have been in Saudi Arabia since 1980 because of the Iran-Iraq war. Armitage revealed that while the Saudis pay for fuel and housing of the U.S. personnel, the U.S. pays about \$100 million of the remaining annual cost.

One of the major points required in Reagan's certification for release of the AWACS was that the Saudis had contributed to peace. This has been a major point of difference between the Administration and Congress.

"Significant progress toward the peaceful resolution of disputes in the region has been accomplished with the substantial assistance of Saudi Arabia," the President asserted in his certification.

Murphy stressed this in his remarks before the subcommittee on Monday. He particularly noted the 1981 Fahd peace plan which became the Arab Feh Communique. He said this changed the Arab consensus against recognition and negotiations with Israel and permitted King Hussein to propose his peace initiative.

Rep. Tom Lantos (D. Cal.) said that to claim the Saudis have helped the peace effort has an "Alice-in-Wonderland" quality. He said the Saudis have opposed Camp David, broke relations with Egypt after the peace treaty with Israel and have bankrolled the Palestine Liberation Organization and "pro-Soviet Syria."

Noting that Murphy said the Saudis have tried to help end the Iran-Iraq war, Lantos said that is because "they would like to see a united Arab front against Israel."

In his testimony, Armitage stressed that the AWACS do not pose a threat to Israel. He noted it would be "fool-hearty" for the Saudis to leave the oilfields unprotected to go to another area. In addition, Armitage maintained that the Saudis could not use the AWACS with combat aircraft from other Arab countries without compatible data links and extensive joint training, both of which are controlled by the U.S.

UNDETERRED BY TERRORIST THREATS, 267 UJA DELEGATES ATTENDED RECENT JEWISH AGENCY ASSEMBLY IN JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, July 17 (JTA) -- Undeterred by threats of terrorism, some 267 leaders of American Jewry, representing 46 Jewish Federations and various Zionist organizations throughout the U.S., attended the recently-held Jewish Agency Assembly in Jerusalem as members of the United Israel Appeal delegation.

As active participants in the Assembly's deliberations, UJA delegates were responsible for the passage of more resolutions than have ever before been passed in Jewish Agency Assembly history, according to Henry Taub, UJA's chairman.

Taub said that, as opposed to the 11 resolutions brought to the floor during last year's Jewish Agency Assembly, 36 were received by the Assembly Resolutions Committee this year, and 21 were passed. He said that the "future of UJA's involvement in the Jewish Agency could be measured by the vigorous resolutions activity of UJA delegates" and he praised the "interest and staying power" of members of the UJA delegation.

Taub said the resolution which received "the most attention" was the one which called for a cessation of assistance, directly or indirectly, to anti-Zionist, anti-Israel organizations. It was passed.

Some Key Resolutions

Taub stated that some of the other key resolutions of the 1986 Jewish Agency Assembly passed were:

- * A resolution accepting the \$414 million Jewish Agency budget for the current fiscal year. In addition, the Assembly approved \$48 million for Project Renewal, dependent on cash flow in that amount.

- * A resolution encouraging the Jewish Agency Settlement Department to move swiftly to save Israeli agricultural units in serious difficulty and to make the necessary expenditures to assure their economic independence.

- * A resolution mandating that the term "non-Zionist" no longer be used in reference to any member of the Jewish Agency Assembly.

- * A resolution that the Agency "develop equitable guidelines for appropriate, maximum involvement with all branches (of Judaism)." UJA delegates were insistent that Agency departments carry out their mandates to assist individuals in need of support and not organizations, per se.

- * A resolution which insisted that programs and schools receiving Jewish Agency aid admit all olim, including Ethiopians.

- * A resolution urging the Project Renewal Department to complete its work on behalf of currently twinned neighborhoods and to assure fulfillment of responsibilities to those neighborhoods already within the program.

- * A resolution calling for the extension of appropriate absorption services to the Ethiopian Jews rescued by "Operation Moses."

- * A resolution responding to Prime Minister Shimon Peres' call for solving the problems of the Neg-
ev.

- * Several resolutions calling for "excellence" in Jewish Agency services.

* A resolution urging that "all members (of the Assembly) should contribute to their community campaigns and be encouraged to become members of the Zionist organizations of their choice."

SPECIAL TO THE JTA JUDAICA PRESERVED IN JAPAN

WOODBIDGE, Conn., July 17 (JTA) -- The largest assortment of Judaica in the Far East has been established amid the Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples in the old Japanese capital of Kyoto by a world-famous calligrapher, Kampe Harada.

Ronald and Phyllis Shaw of Woodbridge visited Harada in Kyoto while on a recent business trip for the Pilot Pen Corporation of America, which is headquartered in Trumbull, Conn. Shaw is the president of Pilot Pen, which is the U.S. subsidiary of The Pilot Pen Company, Ltd., Japan's oldest and largest manufacturer of writing instruments.

The 75-year-old Harada has assembled the Judaica collection at the Kampe Kaikan Museum to encourage cultural exchange and to express his personal interest in Judaism and Israel. Born in Japan in 1911, Harada began the study of calligraphy and ancient Chinese literature in his youth.

Harada gave the Shaws a warm welcome and a personal tour of the museum. He also created stunning works of calligraphy while his visitors watched and then presented one to the Shaws as a memento of their visit.

Basis For Harada's Interest In Judaism

"Mr. Harada, who is believed of Jewish ancestry, is the driving force behind this expression of intercultural interest in Japan," Shaw commented. "The museum is in a serene garden and holds 300,000 documents, including 3,000 volumes of Hebrew literature and Judaica and a dozen Torah scrolls housed in a small ark. Famed 17th and 18th century Eastern European Talmuds and artifacts from everyday Jewish life are dispersed among the intercultural exhibit."

"Mr. Harada's interest in Judaism stems in part from his belief that his ancestors were Jewish and may be part of the ten lost tribes of Israel. He sensed the Jewish people's deep respect for the Torah and education, and he believes there are similarities between Shinto and Jewish religious rituals," Shaw related.

After World War II, Harada feared the growing secularism in his country and the decline of traditional crafts and customs, Shaw said. "So he founded the Nippon Shuji Educational Federation to teach orthodox calligraphy and the traditional spiritual nature of brush writing. The private schools now have 800,000 students in 18,000 branches."

During the Chinese cultural revolution in the late 1960's, thousands of ancient manuscripts were rescued from China and brought to Japan, Shaw said. "These manuscripts formed the core of the World Study Library, a multilingual treasury of world culture open to the public," Shaw noted. Visitors are free to browse through books in the collection on Judaism, Israel and Jews in the Far East.

CORRECTION

Leon Reanati was misidentified in a July 15 Bulletin story about the resignation of Raphael Reanati from the Israel Discount Bank. Leon is his nephew, not one of his sons.