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PERES EXTENDS VISIT TO MOROCCO; HOLDING FURTHER TALKS WITH HASSAN

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, July 23 (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres will stay in Morocco an additional day for a further talk with King Hassan, Moroccan sources said Wednesday. The Israeli leader who has been Hassan's guest at his summer palace in Efrana since Monday night, had been scheduled to return to Israel Wednesday evening.

According to the Moroccan sources, he has delayed his departure until noon Thursday local time. Hassan was to go on television Wednesday night to explain why he invited Peres and the results of their talks. Moroccan officials could not say whether he will deliver his address as planned or postpone it for 24 hours.

Reports from Morocco said Peres had a two-hour meeting with Hassan Wednesday morning and in the afternoon conferred with the King's special counselor, Reda Ghedira, and with the Foreign Minister and Minister of Information. Earlier in the day he toured the countryside around Efrana, 160 miles southeast of the capital, Rabat.

Meetings Shrouded in Secrecy

Media coverage of the visit has been scant. The overall impression is one of lavish hospitality for the Israeli Premier and his entourage, banquets and sightseeing tours, interspersed with lengthy working sessions with Hassan.

A report from Israel Wednesday spoke of difficulties over the wording of a joint communique. It is not known whether the Peres-Hassan meetings will wind up with a joint communique or separate media statements.

Given the tight secrecy surrounding the meetings, the atmosphere has been rife with speculation over what is being discussed. Radio Monte Carlo, citing an unnamed Arab source, said the Peres-Hassan talks focussed on Palestinian representation at a future Middle East peace conference. Well placed Israeli sources were said to share that assessment.

King Said To Be Pushing Fez Declaration

According to Moroccan officials, Hassan was urging the Israeli leader to seek a compromise with the Palestinians and the Arab states to resolve the Middle East conflict. The officials said Hassan sought to explain to Peres the "essence" of the statement adopted by the Arab League at its summit conference in Fez, Morocco in September 1982, at which Hassan, as host, presided.

Moderate Arab leaders have described the Fez resolutions as conciliatory toward Israel. But its key points are unacceptable to Israel. They include Israel's total withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the dismantling of Jewish settlements in those territories; reaffirmation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization; and the creation of a Palestinian state.

The Fez summit was held three months after Israel's invasion of Lebanon and PLO chief Yasir

Arafat got a hero's welcome in Fez, including a 21-gun salute. Some Moroccan officials quoted by the French press Wednesday said Hassan informed Arafat of his intention to invite Peres when they met secretly in Rabat five months ago.

Sparse Coverage In Morocco

The Peres-Hassan meeting is the only public face-to-face contact between an Israeli Premier and an Arab chief of state other than Egyptian President Anwar Sadat who went to Jerusalem in November 1977. The Moroccan media has given the historic occasion sparse coverage.

Moroccan newspapers reported Peres' arrival only on Wednesday. Some ran the story on their front pages, others on inside pages. The State-controlled radio and television reported briefly on the visit. They are expected to withhold comment until after Hassan makes his television address.

Peres was accompanied to Morocco by a team of Israeli television and radio reporters. According to reports from Jerusalem Wednesday, they have sent back no footage.

CRACOW ARCHBISHOP REPORTEDLY AGREES TO SUSPEND CONSTRUCTION OF CONVENT AT AUSCHWITZ CAMP SITE

PARIS, July 23 (JTA) — Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, the Archbishop of Cracow, has reportedly agreed to suspend construction of the Carmelite convent being built on the site of the Auschwitz death camp in Poland.

The Cardinal gave this pledge at a meeting Tuesday in Geneva attended by high-ranking Catholic leaders and French, Belgian and Italian Jews.

While in Israel last week, Macharski visited Yad Vashem. He said his voluntary decision to freeze the construction work "would show the temporary nature of the convent."

Some Jewish organizations have responded with anger to the establishment of the convent on the site where millions of Jews and non-Jews were exterminated. They claim the convent is an insult to their memory.

Western European Jews were irked by the Polish Catholic Church's fund-raising campaign for the construction in Belgium, France and Italy.

A small group of Carmelite nuns established the convent in 1984 when they began living in an unused theater just outside the camp fence. The theater was once used during the Holocaust to store gas cylinders used to exterminate the inmates and possessions taken from the prisoners.

The convent sought money to renovate the structure in a fund-raising campaign launched last year in Europe. Macharski received permission from the local authorities to turn the theater into a convent.

The Geneva meeting was held behind closed doors and no official communique was issued.

A REPLACEMENT FOR MODAI IS PONDERED By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 23 (JTA) — The Likud leadership is considering whether to appoint a new Minister to replace Yitzhak Modai who resigned as Minister of

Justice Monday, just hours before Premier Shimon Peres planned to fire him. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir made clear that Likud would not leave the key portfolio untended, meaning in the temporary care of the Prime Minister. There are differences within Likud over whether to name a new minister or assign the vacant post to Shamir.

Labor Party circles have protested against the notion that Shamir hold the Justice portfolio at a time when he may be subject to police interrogation in connection with the investigation of the Shin Bet affair. If Likud decides to appoint a new minister, the likely candidates are Sarah Doron and Pessach Grupper, both Likud Liberals who served in the last Likud government.

Likud insists that Modai will be reinstalled as Justice Minister as soon as Shamir takes over as Prime Minister under the Labor-Likud rotation of power agreement next October. But Laborites say Modai's resignation is effective for the full term of the national unity government. They say they will not support a Shamir administration if Modai is part of it.

ISRAELIS DENY U.S. SEEKS TECHNICAL INFORMATION ABOUT LAVI JET PLANS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 23 (JTA) — The Defense Ministry flatly denied Wednesday that any request has been received from the U.S. for technical information about the Lavi, Israel's second generation jet fighter plane.

The Ministry reacted to a report by Israel Radio's Washington correspondent, Shimon Shiffer, that a senior Pentagon official had expressed hope that Israel would cooperate fully with the Reagan Administration to produce an American-built substitute for the Lavi that would incorporate the sophisticated equipment designed by Israeli engineers. Such a request would be "cheek," the Ministry statement said.

Although the Lavi is largely financed by the U.S. and about half of its components are American-made, the Pentagon has recently urged Israel to abandon the project on grounds of excessive costs. A prototype of the Lavi was officially unveiled at Ben Gurion Airport Monday night. Another prototype is scheduled for its first test flight late in September.

Defense Ministry officials told Israel Radio that no requests for information on any Israeli innovations have been received from Washington. Sources at Israel Aircraft Industries, manufacturer of the Lavi, disclosed meanwhile that they have tightened security around the plane, its construction facilities and its design team to prevent industrial espionage.

THE END OF AN ORDEAL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 23 (JTA) — Meir Zoreah, aged three, returned home to Israel Monday fully recovered from a liver transplant operation performed at a hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa. nearly a year ago. It was a long and terrible ordeal for the child and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Yitzhak Zoreah of Migdal HaEmek, who thought their son would surely die.

Liver transplants were not performed in Israel when Meir became ill. His journey to the U.S. was made possible by public contributions. They poured in after Michael Zoreah appeared on television to tell the country his son was "dying before our eyes" for lack of funds to send him abroad.

The youngster, accompanied by his father and a physician left for the U.S. last year in a plane equipped as an intensive care unit. During the flight he developed complications and was bleeding internally. On the advice of the doctor, the plane landed in London where Meir was hospitalized for several weeks.

When he finally arrived in Pittsburgh, the donor whose liver was to be transplanted was no longer available. Surgery was postponed for several weeks. When finally performed, the operation lasted seven hours. While Meir was recovering, his father and mother took turns being with him. They were helped by the Pittsburgh Jewish community and by friends in Israel who looked after their three other children.

Father and son returned to Israel. Meir was hugged by his mother at the airport. "He is a new boy," she explained. "At last we are all together again."

JTA PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES THE ELECTION OF 10 NEW BOARD MEMBERS

NEW YORK, June 23 (JTA) — William Frost, president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, announced the election of 10 new directors to the JTA Board.

They are: Charles Buerger (Baltimore), Dorothy Goren (Los Angeles), Milton Gralla (Fort Lee, NJ), Irving Halperin (Montreal), Lawrence Jackier (Detroit), Dov Judkowski (Tel Aviv), Nita Levy (Kansas City, Mo.), Phyllis Margolius (Washington), Phillip Ritzenberg (New York), and Phyllis Sutker (Chicago).

The announcement by Frost came at the annual meeting of the Board of JTA.

Buerger, a graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University, is publisher of The Baltimore Jewish Times and The Jewish News of Detroit. He is a member of the Boards of HIAS and the JNF and is chairman of the media division and the campaign cabinet of the Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Fund of Greater Baltimore.

Goren is a vice president of the Jewish Federation Council and trustee of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Los Angeles. She is a member of the Boards of HIAS, Council of Jewish Federations and the United Jewish Appeal.

Gralla is executive vice president of Gralla Publications, which publishes 19 national business magazines. He serves on the boards of the United Jewish Appeal and the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of Greater New York, The New York Jewish Week, and The Bergen Jewish News.

Halperin, a graduate of Dalhousie University and the McGill University Law School, is a Justice of the Superior Court of the Province of Quebec. He is a vice president of the Council of Jewish Federations, a delegate to the National Budgeting Conference of Canadian Jewry and a past president of Allied Jewish Community Services of Montreal.

Jackier, a graduate of the University of Michigan and the Yale Law School, is a partner in the law firm of Schlusel, Lifton, Simon, Rands, Kaufman, Galvin and Jackier of Southfield, Mich. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit, vice president of the Detroit Jewish Community Center, a trustee of the United Jewish Appeal, and a member of the Executive Committees of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Holocaust Memorial Center.

Judkowski, a journalist, is editor-in-chief of Yedioth Achronoth, the largest circulation daily newspaper in Israel. Born in Warsaw, he emigrated to Israel in 1945 and studied philosophy, French culture and international relations at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Levy, a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and Rockhurst College, is vice president of marketing for Eagle Lithography of Kansas City. She is chairwoman of the Kansas City Jewish Federation Women's Division Campaign and Vice President of the Federation. A past chairwoman of UJA Young Women's Leadership Cabinet, Levy is currently a member of UJA's Region 6 Cabinet, a member of the Board of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and is active in numerous local community activities.

Margolius, a graduate of the American University in psychology, is vice president for budget and planning of UJA-Federation of Greater Washington. She is a member of the steering committee of the Council of Jewish Federations, a delegate to the Large City Budgeting Conference, a member of the executive committee of AIPAC and is active in numerous Washington area civic and community groups.

Ritzenberg is publisher and editor of The New York Jewish Week. He was a Fulbright scholar in graphic arts and journalism at the Free University of Berlin following his graduation from Western Reserve University. A veteran of more than 30 years of daily newspaper journalism, he was assistant managing editor of The New York Daily News, assistant city editor at The New York World Telegram & Sun and features editor at The World Journal Tribune.

Sutker holds a Master's Degree in Social Service Administration from the University of Chicago. She is the immediate past national president of Na'amat USA (formerly Pioneer Women/Na'amat), a member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency, and the Executive of the World Zionist Organization-American Section. She serves on the Boards of Directors of UJA, UIA, JNF, AIPAC, AZF and the National Committee for Labor Israel.

JACKSON PRAISES PERES-HASSAN TALKS

WASHINGTON, July 23 (JTA) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson praised the meetings in Morocco between Israeli Premier Shimon Peres and King Hassan II as well as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's support for the talks.

This occurred Wednesday during a celebration of the 34th anniversary of the Egyptian revolution at the Egyptian Embassy, according to Hyman Bookbinder of the American Jewish Committee. He was one of six Jewish representatives among the 140 persons attending the ceremony.

When Ambassador Abdel Raouf Reedy asked Jackson to speak, the Black civil rights leader praised the talks going on in Morocco. Jackson congratulated the Ambassador for Mubarak's support of the talks. He said Mubarak had demonstrated the "same courage" shown by the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Bookbinder said it was "very gratifying" to hear these words from "a man like Jackson." Bookbinder also expressed privately to the Ambassador his praise for Mubarak's position. (By David Friedman)

EGYPTIAN, ISRAELIS AND U.S. MEET TO DISCUSS RESEARCH

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 23 (JTA) — Israeli, Egyptian and American agronomists met in Rehovot last week to discuss the suppression of plant diseases and pests, improved milk production and increased grain and vegetable yields in the framework of a trination-al project aimed at improving agricultural development in Israel and Egypt.

The meeting, at the Hebrew University's Faculty of Agriculture in Rehovot, was the fourth gathering of the project's coordinating committee. It sits twice a year, alternately in Egypt and Israel. The project is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. Economists and administrators from the three countries also attended.

The group is doing research into the solar heating of soil to suppress plant diseases and pests. It is also investigating improved milk yields by reducing heat stress on cows. A new, low cost method for early weaning of dairy calves was discussed. The Egyptian and American visitors toured various field sites in Israel to see first hand the progress made to date on experiments in several agricultural technologies.

REAGAN ADMINISTRATION IS DOWN-PLAYING BUSH'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST

By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, July 23 (JTA) — Against the background of the surprise visit to Morocco by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres this week, the Reagan Administration is playing down the significance of a previously-planned trip to the region by Vice President George Bush.

Bush, who will visit Israel, Jordan and Egypt beginning next week, will be the first senior U.S. official to travel to those countries since Secretary of State George Shultz visited there last year. But a senior Administration official cautioned Tuesday against expectations of "dramatic initiatives."

"I think we're emphasizing here the depth of the continuity of American interests in the region," the official said at a briefing. He stressed that while extensive discussions were expected on the outcome of the talks between Peres and Moroccan King Hassan II, the Administration was viewing the first public visit by an Israeli leader to an Arab country other than Egypt as significant less for its likely results than for "the fact that it took place."

Having asserted a high profile in past Middle East peace efforts that ended in impasse or failure, the Administration appears to be distancing itself from most recent development, as it waits to assess the outcome. White House and State Department officials, while praising the Peres-Hassan talks, have maintained that the initiative had come entirely from the two leaders themselves. The Administration official on Tuesday said the U.S. was informed of the meeting just "a few days" before it took place.

Focus Of Bush's Talks

The official said, in response to a question, that the Vice President's visit in Israel — the first leg of his week-long Middle East tour beginning July 27 — will also include discussion of allegations about Israeli spying in this country and the current investigation into alleged illegal acquisition by Israel of American technology for the production of cluster bombs.

He indicated there was also a possibility that Bush's visit would coincide with the initialing of a compromise between Egypt and Israel on the procedure for arbitration of the boundary dispute over Tabá, the small strip of territory whose status was left unresolved when Israel withdrew from the Sinai in April 1982. State Department Legal Adviser Abraham Sofaer is currently in Israel, where he is attempting to mediate an agreement on the terms of reference for arbitration.

Talks in all three countries, the official said, would also focus on the problem of international terrorism and on economic issues.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA THE HASSAN-ISRAELI CONNECTION

By Harry Milkman

(Editor's note: Harry Milkman is the Middle East research analyst in the international relations department of the American Jewish Committee.)

NEW YORK, July 23 (JTA) -- King Hassan II of Morocco ascended the throne on March 3, 1961, following the death of his father during routine surgery. He had been educated in France, received a law degree in Bordeaux, and is considered thoroughly Westernized, although, like his fellow Moroccans, he desires to assert an authentic Arab identity.

Like his predecessors of the Alawi dynasty, he has always accorded his nation's Jewish minority the fullest measure of tolerance and equality. In 1985, Jo Ohanna, a Jew from Meknes, a city that has no Jewish community, was elected to the Moroccan parliament. Shimon Levy of Casablanca has been repeatedly reelected as a member of the city council. And David Amar, president of the Moroccan Jewish community since 1956, is a close confidant of the King.

Upon assuming power, Hassan legalized the emigration of Moroccan Jews to Israel. The organizational requirements of Jewish emigration created a framework of contacts between Moroccan and Israeli authorities, as well as a climate of trust conducive to cooperation in other fields of central importance to Morocco.

The King has periodically called for a fusion of "Jewish genius and Arab might" in order to accelerate the development of North Africa. In addition, since 1975 Morocco has received unpublicized Israeli aid in fighting the Algerian-supported Polisario guerrillas in the western Sahara.

Two Assassination Attempts

Libyan-backed terrorists attempted to assassinate Hassan in July 1971 and again in August 1972. In the summer of 1977, Israeli intelligence services discovered a Libyan plot to assassinate Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. King Hassan arranged a meeting in Casablanca between the Israeli and Egyptian intelligence chiefs in which the plot by Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi was revealed.

Sadat's reaction was two-fold: he launched a retaliatory strike against Libya, and he agreed to send his Deputy Prime Minister, Hassan Tohamey, to Rabat to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. The Tohamey-Dayan talks became the first step in the road that led to Camp David and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty of 1979.

Hassan's View Of The Palestinian Problem

In "Breakthrough: A Personal Account of the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Negotiations," the then Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan recounted that King Hassan told him in 1977 that he believed the Palestinian problem to be basically an Arab problem, and should therefore be considered and solved by the Arab countries, and not by Israel or the United States.

He believed that "the Arab states should assume collective responsibility over the Palestinians, maintain supervision over them, and devise security measures which would satisfy Israel." (A Jordanian-Palestinian federation would constitute a threat to Jordan, according to Hassan.)

The King acknowledged that the territories occupied by Israel were its ultimate guarantee of security, and the relinquishment of that guarantee would necessitate its replacement by mutual security agreements between Israel and the Arab states. He believed that even Syrian President Hafez Assad would ultimately be persuaded to join the pursuit of peace in exchange for his lost territories.

(This belief also provided the justification for Hassan's deployment of a Moroccan brigade to fight alongside the Syrians in the Golan Heights in 1973.)

'A Mixed Bag'

Moroccan-Israeli relations have been characterized by veteran Israeli diplomat Gideon Raphael as "a mixed bag of discreet assistance and public hostility, of open participation in the war against Israel and undercover support of its peace efforts."

By geographic necessity -- it is further west than all of Europe -- Morocco is less directly involved in Middle East affairs than the eastern Arab states. Although he belongs to the Arab League -- King Hassan, in fact, is its chairman -- Morocco's foreign policy is based primarily on regional (North African) considerations rather than on Arab nationalist ideology.

Hassan interprets the 1982 Fez Arab summit resolutions as an implicit recognition of Israel. He reluctantly accepted the chairmanship of the Jerusalem Committee of the Islamic Conference on the grounds that he is a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed and de jure head of Islam in Morocco rather than out of any compelling personal conviction.

Hassan is obviously more concerned with Algerian and Libyan-sponsored insurgency against Morocco and Tunisia than he is with the lack of a formal peace treaty between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Nevertheless, the King genuinely desires peace between the Arab states and Israel, and is apparently willing, as Sadat was, to risk his stature in the Arab world for what he considers to be a greater good.

UAHC URGES REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TO PROTEST THE STRIP-SEARCH OF AN AMERICAN NUN BY AUSTRIAN OFFICIALS

NEW YORK, July 23 (JTA) -- Responding to a news report in the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's July 21 Daily News Bulletin, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) has called on President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz to protest the "degrading treatment" by Austrian police of Sister Rose Thering, an American nun who was strip-searched at the Vienna airport after taking part in a demonstration protesting the inauguration of Kurt Waldheim as President of Austria July 8.

Albert Vorspan, senior vice president of the UAHC, said the organization had also called on Waldheim "to repudiate this action, lest your election be regarded as a signal for the resurgence of Nazi-like brutality." In his message to the White House and State Department, Vorspan wrote:

"We are shocked at reports that Sister Rose Thering, a distinguished American nun who has dedicated her life to securing human rights for the oppressed, should be dehumanized and humiliated by Austrian authorities who forced her to submit to a strip-search before leaving the country.

"Such harassment is reminiscent of the Nazi past that Sister Rose came to Austria to protest. Singling her out for such degrading treatment raises again the question of whether the election of a former Nazi officer, Kurt Waldheim, to the Presidency of Austria" was a defiance by the Austrian people against the Allies.