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PERES IS CAMEROON-BOUND

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Premier Shimon Peres will be in Cameroon Monday and Tuesday for a "friendship and working" visit, it was officially announced last Friday here and in Yaounde, the capital of Cameroon. Peres was invited by President Paul Biya.

During the visit, Biya is scheduled to announce the resumption of full diplomatic relations between the two countries. Cameroon served its relations with Israel in 1973, following the Yom Kippur War and threats by Arab countries.

Cameroon will be the fourth Black African country to resume diplomatic relations with Israel in the past three years, preceded by Liberia (1983), Zaire (1984), and Ivory Coast, which announced resumption of relations last January. Ivory Coast, however, has yet to send its Ambassador to Israel.

Israel presently maintains embassies in Malawi, Swaziland and Lesotho -- the three which did not sever contacts with Israel. In addition, Israeli diplomatic representatives have been attached to Embassies of other states in Kenya, Guinea, Ghana, Gabon, Togo, and Cameroon.

Purpose Of Peres' Visit

The purpose of Peres' visit to Cameroon was described by political sources in Jerusalem as an attempt to warm up the ties between Israel and Black Africa. Many African countries have recently expressed their readiness to strengthen ties with Israel.

The turnaround followed the return of the Sinai by Israel to Egypt, a member of the Organization of African States, in 1982. One problem which casts a shadow over those ties is the close relationship between Israel and South Africa.

Accompanying Peres will be the Directors-General of the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office, David Kimche and Avraham Tamir. Kimche has been especially active in recent years in efforts to improve relations with Africa.

Also in the Israeli delegation will be a number of industrialists and business representatives, among them Arnon Tiberg, Director-General of the Chambers of Commerce Association, and the Directors-General of the Israeli companies Solel Boneh and Koor-Africa.

Their inclusion in the Yaounde meetings reflects the large degree of Israeli economic involvement in Cameroon, and Israel's interest in expanding that activity.

Cameroon is considered an economic success story. Oil profits have been used for investments in industry and agriculture, and the country has a high rating with the International Monetary Fund for its economic performance.

SUMMIT DATE STILL PENDING

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- The date for the anticipated summit meeting between Premier Shimon Peres and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak isn't finalized, Egypt's Charge d'Affaires, Mohammad Basyouni, told Israel Radio last Friday. He said the setting of the date was the prerogative of the host country, Egypt.

Basyouni said the expected summit would deal with two major issues: a renewed momentum for the peace process, and finding a solution for the Palestinian problem.

Even if Peres and Mubarak take only one step toward a comprehensive settlement of the Mideast crisis, said Basyouni, the Palestinians and the overall peace process will gain. He stressed that a "basic solution" to the problems can be reached only through "an international convention participated (in) by all the parties concerned."

Although there was no official word on the summit, Israeli sources continued talking about it as an established fact. Last week, Peres said it would take place by mid-September. Sources at the Prime Minister's Office said the summit would produce a plan for preparatory talks with Jordan and the Palestinians that would eventually lead to direct negotiations.

The sources said that Israel and Egypt would launch an effort to persuade King Hussein of Jordan to participate in "proximity talks" with Israel. Those comments came amidst reports from the United States that the Reagan Administration was stepping up efforts to renew the peace process, and that Secretary of State George Shultz might come to the Mideast and join the summit.

FRENCH AND PLO OFFICIALS HOLD MEETINGS

PARIS, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond has been meeting with PLO representatives here to assure them that France wishes to see the PLO "associated with an overall settlement" of the Middle East situation that would allow for "the Palestinian people to exercise its right of self-determination."

Raimond conveyed this view last week at a meeting with PLO representative Ibrahim Souss. Souss requested the meeting after Prime Minister Jacques Chirac reportedly told an Israeli journalist that he opposed the creation of a Palestinian state. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Raimond repeated France's principle behind a Mideast peace settlement, based mainly on the right to security and justice for all states in the region.

Souss told French television afterwards that he was "not worried" about France's Mideast position and said that he, in turn, wishes to see Paris play a "full role" in any bid to achieve a settlement.

Souss also indicated that Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department, would meet with Raimond this week. Government sources said the meeting would take place on Tuesday. Kaddoumi previously met with the Foreign Minister last May.

The head of the Arab League Mission here, Hamadi Essid, also met with Raimond last week to express the "Arab world's disquiet following the remarks attributed to Chirac." The Prime Minister's comments, applauded by Israel, have created controversy here because they differ from the position adopted by President Francois Mitterrand. The President called for the establishment of a Palestinian state as part of a Mideast settlement during an address he made to Israel's Knesset in 1982.

SEVEN MORE SHIN BET MEMBERS PARDONED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog Sunday pardoned another seven members of the General Security Services (Shin Bet), for involvement

in the beating deaths of two Palestinian bus hijackers and in the coverup which followed. The decision followed the granting of immunity by Herzog to Avraham Shalom, who recently resigned as head of the Shin Bet, and three of Shalom's aides for crimes connected with the 1984 killing of the two Palestinians, after the hijacked bus had been re-taken. None of those pardoned had been charged with any crimes.

The President, in a statement explaining his action, said he had not consulted with either the Prime Minister or the Cabinet, as he had done in the case of Shalom and his senior aides. He said that instead he had acted at the recommendation of the Justice Minister, on the basis of the precedent he had set in granting the earlier pardons.

Herzog said he had pardoned the seven for reasons of state security and the public good, and on the basis of the earlier pardon for the four most senior Shin Bet officials. "It would not be right to differentiate between ranks and echelons," he said. The names of the seven pardoned Sunday have not been disclosed.

Reactions To The New Pardons

The new pardons were in general welcomed by politicians, government leaders and the public. Many said the move was possibly regrettable but inevitable in view of the earlier amnesties.

But Moshe Shahal said the President's move only underlined the demand for a public inquiry into what has become known as the "Shin Bet affair" — in addition to the ongoing police investigation.

Civil Rights Movement MK Shulamit Aloni objected to the new pardons, saying the President's action had made worthless any public or police inquiry into illegal and irregular actions of the Shin Bet in connection with the hijacked bus, the killing of the captured terrorists and the subsequent cover-up.

Tehiya MK Geula Cohen welcomed the amnesty and said the President should now pardon the members of the Jewish underground imprisoned for anti-Arab terrorist activities.

HIGH COURT OVERRULES APPEAL AGAINST CLOSURE OF TWO EAST JERUSALEM PAPERS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) — The High Court of Justice last Friday overruled the appeal by two East Jerusalem newspapers of the order to close them down. The daily Al-Mithak and the periodical Al-Ahd had petitioned the court to rescind the closure order by the Interior Ministry which claimed that the publications were promoting anti-Israel views. This was denied by the owners of the two publications.

However, the court was convinced by classified information supplied by the Shin Bet that the papers were "financed and directed" by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a terrorist group headed by Dr. George Habash. Therefore, the court ruled, the security of the state necessitated closing the papers.

The court rejected the argument by Elias Khouri, the lawyer representing the papers, that even if the publications served the Palestinian organizations, they should be judged by their content, not by their ownership.

The judges ruled that it was unacceptable for a state to allow terrorist organizations which aim to destroy it to run "legitimate business" in its territory, just as it is unacceptable that a sovereign state would allow a criminal organization to run a "legitimate business."

The last edition of Al Mithak came out last Friday. The printing plant will continue to function as usual.

KACH MEMBER EXTRADITED TO ISRAEL By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA) — Craig Leitner, a 25-year-old former American citizen and member of Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach Party in Israel who escaped from custody in Israel over a year ago, was returned here on Friday, on extradition from the U.S.

He had been charged in Israel with six attacks on Arab vehicles and homes in Ramallah, Hebron and Jerusalem, and was also suspected of participating in a bomb attack on the Al-Fajr Arabic newspaper offices in East Jerusalem.

Leitner had agreed to serve as state's witness against four other accused Jewish underground members. His testimony helped convict three other Kach members.

But he escaped from a holding cell in October 1984, before he could testify in court against another member, who was subsequently acquitted for lack of evidence. Leitner was arrested by U.S. marshals last January, on the basis of an Interpol request initiated by Israel.

The actual extradition was delayed by repeated appeals by his attorneys, who claimed the activities in which he was being charged in Israel did not occur within Israel proper (within the "Green Line") but in the West Bank, where Israeli law did not apply.

DETENTION OF DEMJANJUK CONTINUES

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) — The Supreme Court extended last Friday the detention of John Demjanjuk, the Ukrainian-born American autoworker accused of operating the gas chambers at the Treblinka death camp, until October 1.

Demjanjuk, who claims he isn't the alleged war criminal "Ivan the Terrible," is being held at Ramla prison, where last week's hearing took place.

In again granting an extension, Justice Yaacov Meltz expressed the hope that Israeli Justice Ministry officials would present an indictment by October 1, because the court "will find it difficult to extend the remand further."

A prosecutor replied that he hoped to, but refrained from making a commitment. In the request to extend the remand, Attorney General Yosef Harish claimed that the investigation was "long and complicated" and that the prosecution has been unable to gather all the necessary material. "A Treblinka identity card of 'Ivan the Terrible' is said to be in Soviet hands."

Demjanjuk has been in jail since Feb. 28, the day he was extradited to Israel.

EMIGRE GROUP CALLS FOR AN END TO NAZI HUNT IN THE U.S.

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) — A New Jersey-based organization of Americans of Eastern European descent has explicitly called for the immediate termination of U.S. government efforts to investigate and prosecute suspected Nazi war criminals, the World Jewish Congress revealed Friday.

The New Jersey chapter of the Washington, D.C.-based National Confederation of American Ethnic

groups is currently distributing a booklet, a copy of which was obtained by the WJC, in which Americans of Eastern European heritage are urged "to challenge the very existence of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations" (OSI), adding that "common sense and logic dictates that the OSI has no basis for existence."

According to the booklet, entitled "Victory Without Fear," the OSI is actually barred from taking any legal action whatsoever against Nazi war criminals in the United States, because federal legislation enacted in 1957 granted a blanket amnesty to Eastern European immigrants who lied on their U.S. immigration applications in order to avoid repatriation to the Soviet Union.

A WJC spokesperson, however, dismissed this proposition as "ludicrous," and noted that it has been uniformly rejected by U.S. courts.

Accusations In The Booklet

The booklet accuses the OSI of "spawning prejudice and violence" and declares that the special Justice Department unit poses a "grave danger to Eastern Europeans in America" and to "our positions among the honored nations."

The booklet defends various accused Nazi war criminals as "victims" of U.S. government "persecution," and asserts that persons who served the Nazis as anti-Semitic propagandists are actually protected by "Constitutional guarantees of free speech and expression."

In what WJC vice president Kalman Sultanik characterized as "a sinister incitement to obstruction of justice," the booklet suggests that the OSI could be effectively incapacitated if enough people write to the tiny Justice Department unit, asking for information. "Now, can you imagine 35 million Americans of European heritage sending the OSI such a letter?" the publication asks.

The vigorous campaign by various emigre organizations to cripple the OSI was first exposed by the World Jewish Congress in April 1985. According to Sultanik, who is also a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, this campaign "continues to grow at an alarming rate."

AN ARRAY OF ISRAELI CULTURAL EVENTS TO TAKE PLACE IN NEW YORK NEXT MONTH By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) — An unprecedented number of Israeli cultural events will take place in New York City in September, Moshe Yegar, Israel's Consul General here, announced.

Speaking with Israeli reporters, Yegar said that his government is seeking to present the "other side" of Israel to the American public, underscoring the fact that despite its security problems the arts are flourishing in Israel.

"It is important for Israel to create a new balance between day-to-day news on the situation in the Mideast and news on cultural events, and by that, creating a new image for the country in the mind of the American public," Yegar said.

Erella Hadar, Israel's Consul for Cultural Affairs, told the Israeli reporters that "A rainbow of Israeli cultural activities will come to New York City in September. Israel will present here its best in dance, music, photography, art, drama, film and literature." She said that many of the shows will travel to other parts of the United States and the world.

The highlights of the Israeli cultural activities, Hadar said, will include the following: concerts by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center; a major archaeological exhibition, "Treasures of the Holy Land: Ancient Art from the Israel Museum," at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; an exhibition of modern Israeli art at the Jewish Museum, the Abraham Goodman House and scores of galleries around the city; the Inbal dance company at the Joyce Theatre; and the Cameri Theater of Tel Aviv performing at the 92nd St. Y.

In addition, Hadar said, the cultural events will extend to the following months, with an Israeli Film Festival to begin November 22. Celebrated Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai will lecture at the 92nd St. Y on Oct. 27 and Nov. 12, while renowned Israeli writer Amos Oz will lecture at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on November 25.

Noting that "Israel supports a fine array of troupes, theaters, galleries, orchestras and museums that is disproportionate to its population," Hadar said that some of Israel's cultural institutions have gained international acclaim. But, she added, "never before has such a large concentration of events come together in a city outside of Israel."

FORMER CALIFORNIA LAWMAKER APOLOGIZES TO JEWS, WOMEN AND HOMOSEXUALS AS PART OF SETTLEMENT IN DEFAMATION SUIT

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 24 (JTA) — A former California legislator has issued an apology to Jews, women and homosexuals as part of a \$20,000 settlement in a defamation suit against him here.

According to the World Jewish Congress Unit on the Documentation of International Anti-Semitism, the apology by former State Sen. John Schmitz was read in open court last Friday in settlement of a \$10 million defamation suit arising from a press release issued by Schmitz's office in 1981.

Schmitz, a former member of the ultra-conservative John Birch Society, had issued the news release after a feminist attorney had handed him a chastity belt to protest his views during legislative hearings on a proposed anti-abortion measure.

The release denounced witnesses opposing the measure as "imported lesbians from anti-male and pro-abortion queer groups in San Francisco." The audience at the hearing was described as "a sea of hard, Jewish and (arguably) female faces."

Fueling further outrage is the disclosure that the settlement, as well as Schmitz's \$30 thousand in legal bills, will be paid from California state funds. Although the State Senate had previously censured Schmitz, its Rules Committee had voted in executive session to pay for the settlement.

Gloria Allred, the successful complainant, who had been described in Schmitz's release as "a slick butch lawyeress," said the Senate's assumption of the settlement's cost was "an insult to the taxpayers," adding that she would donate the \$20 thousand to groups named in the dispute.

NEW LOCATION FOR JTA WASHINGTON OFFICE

The Washington bureau of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has moved to a new location. Its address is: 733 15th Street, N.W., Suite 517, Washington, D. C. 20005. The phone number is: (202) 737-0935.

There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated September 1, Labor Day, a postal holiday.

20 Years Since Nostra Aetate: STUDY SHOWS THERE IS GREATER APPRECIATION OF JEWS AND JUDAISM IN CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) — Faculty and students at Roman Catholic educational institutions have developed "a deep appreciation of Jews and Judaism" in the 20 years since the Second Vatican Council's Nostra Aetate declaration, according to a study published here.

Entitled "Jews, Judaism & Catholic Education," it is based on a survey of several hundred Catholic educational institutions in the United States conducted by Sister Rose Thering of the Department of Education at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. It was published by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Committee, and Seton Hall.

Sister Thering also found broad awareness of the "teaching of contempt" that was partially responsible for the Holocaust. She attributed this awareness to the fact that Catholic educational institutions are teaching about Jews and Judaism in a positive way, reflecting recognition that Christianity is rooted in Judaism.

The survey further disclosed that Holocaust studies have become required in most high schools, some elementary schools and almost all Catholic colleges and universities and that many Catholic institutions observe Yom Hashoah — Holocaust Remembrance Day — with special services to recall the genocide committed against the Jews during World War II.

'Promising and Encouraging' Findings

In a preface to the study, Rabbi Leon Klenicki, director of ADL's Interfaith Affairs Department, and Rabbi A. James Rudin, AJC's National Interreligious Affairs director, called the findings "both promising and encouraging."

They added, however, that while "Jews and Judaism are no longer esoteric studies in Catholic schools, and there is growing interest in Judaism on the part of both students and faculty, much still remains to be done. Crucial issues remain."

Noting that "these issues are being faced and addressed by a growing number of Catholic educators and institutions," they commended Thering "and others who have committed themselves to building a new and constructive relationship between Catholics and Jews — a relationship of mutual respect and understanding."

The survey expands on Thering's 1970 study which sought to determine how Catholic institutions had implemented the Vatican Council II Statement on the Jews and Judaism made five years earlier.

The current study surveys implementation of not only the 1965 Statement but also includes the 1974 Roman Catholic Guidelines and Suggestions for implementation of the Vatican II document and the 1975 National Catholic Conference of Bishops' statement on Catholic-Jewish relations.

Among the findings of the new study, based on answers by respondents, were:

- * 51% of the Catholic colleges and universities offer courses in Judaism, either separate or part of other comparative religion courses.
- * 27% offer a special course on the Holocaust.
- * 6% offer a separate course on the State of Israel, 38% offer courses on the Middle East;

* 10% of the seminaries have a special course on the Holocaust with others covering it as part of other courses;

* 33% of the seminaries have courses in Judaism;

* 25% of the seminaries offer a course in Jewish history after the emergence of Christianity;

* 53% of the Archdiocesan/Diocesan ecumenical commissions said they direct attention to Catholic-Jewish concerns;

* 62% of the high schools have courses on the Holocaust and its lessons;

* 30% of high schools have a course on the State of Israel and its meaning.

Significant Improvement Found

Sister Thering said the survey found significant improvement within Roman Catholic educational institutions but also indicated a need for improvement in such areas as presentation of the Pharisaic movement, an aspect of the Judaism of Jesus' time, which the 1975 Vatican Guidelines specifically cited as requiring correction in Christian teaching and preaching.

"Popular preaching and teaching including Passion Plays have often used Catholic devotion to Christ crucified as an occasion for anti-Jewish statements," Thering said, despite "the Conciliar Statement on the Jews that this is clearly not in harmony with either the truth or the spirit of the Gospel."

Thering also recommended that in accordance with the 1974 Guidelines and Suggestions for carrying out the Vatican II Council statement, Christians "must come to an understanding of Torah, People, and Land, three very important components of Judaism." ("Land" refers to the Land of Israel.)

Of the 209 questionnaires sent to Catholic colleges and universities, 128 or 61.2 percent responded. Of the 123 questionnaires sent to seminaries, there were 40 responses or 32.5 percent. Of 300 high schools which received the instrument, 114 or 38 percent responded.

Of 180 questionnaires sent to offices of superintendents, 43 or 23.9 percent responded. Of 213 questionnaires sent to Archdiocesan/Diocesan ecumenical commissions, 75 responded or 35.2 percent.

"Jews, Judaism & Catholic Education" is available from the publications departments of both the Anti-Defamation League, 823 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, and the American Jewish Committee, 165 E. 56th Street, New York, NY 10022, at \$5 per copy.

SHCHARANSKY TO VISIT HOLLAND

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 24 (JTA) — Natan Shcharansky will visit Holland on September 29 and 30 at the invitation of the Dutch Solidarity Committee with Soviet Jewry and the Dutch Jewish community, it was announced by the chairman of the Solidarity Committee, Rabbi Avraham Soetendorp of The Hague.

Shcharansky is visiting Holland to express his gratitude to all those who were instrumental in securing his release from prison in the Soviet Union earlier this year, Soetendorp said. He said that Shcharansky would also discuss new ideas he has for launching an initiative to help Jews emigrate from the Soviet Union. While here, the former Prisoner of Conscience will meet with Dutch parliamentarians, and will address the annual Solidarity with Soviet Jewry meeting in Amsterdam.