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SHAMIR REMAINS MUM ON REPORTS THAT ISRAEL WAS A 'CONDUIT' FOR THE SHIPMENT OF AMERICAN ARMS TO IRAN

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 20 (JTA)-- Premier Yitzhak Shamir refused Thursday to confirm or deny widespread reports that Israel served as a "conduit" for the shipment of American arms to Iran. It "has never been," and is still not, Israel's policy to disclose anything about arms sales to other countries," he said in reply to questions at a Foreign Press Association luncheon at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem.

He said President Reagan, in a nationally televised press conference Wednesday night had not mentioned Israel as the "conduit" and he did not want to "contradict anything that President Reagan said."

But Reagan contradicted himself after the press conference. Asked by a reporter to "explain" a reported "Israeli role" in a 1985 arms shipment to Iran and reports that Israel had suggested his Administration make contact with the Teheran regime, the President replied, "(We, as I say, have nothing to do with other countries or their shipments."

Shortly after the press conference, White House aides issued an amending statement in the President's name that, in fact "there was a third country involved in our secret project with Iran." The country was not named.

But both John Poindexter, the President's National Security Adviser, and Donald Regan, White House Chief of Staff, conceded last week that the U.S. had approved at least one secret shipment of arms from Israel to facilitate the release of American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Situation Of Jews In Iran

Queried about reports of a worsening situation for Jews in Iran, Shamir said Israel was concerned and would do everything to help. At the same time, he said, Israel Radio was "correct" in playing down alarmist reports, and foreign press reports of the plight of Iranian Jews were exaggerated.

Shamir may have been referring to, among others, a New York Times report from Vienna last week that "persecution of Jews in Iran has reached such intensity that hundreds of them have joined a much larger exodus of Moslem Iranians fleeing the country." The Times attributed its information to refugees from Iran arriving in Vienna and officials of organizations there assisting them.

According to Shamir, the situation of Jews in Iran is no worse than that of other religious minorities and it has not deteriorated. Asked who he would like to see win the Iran-Iraq war, he said he had no sympathy for either side.

The Vanunu Case

Shamir also stood firm on his insistence that Israel violated no British laws in the case of Mordechai Vanunu, the former nuclear technician now in custody in Israel who was allegedly kidnapped in London by Israeli agents last month.

"Vanunu left (Britain) on his own accord," Shamir said.

"We are not obliged to give any promises to any country. I cannot say we have promised something to Britain but we have only stated the fact that we have not violated any British law. And this person (Vanunu) left Britain of his own free will. That's all."

But reports from London Thursday said the British government is not satisfied with Israel's explanation of Vanunu's disappearance from London October 1. David Waddington, Minister of State in the Home Office, said in the House of Commons Tuesday, that while there is no evidence Vanunu was kidnapped, "I certainly regard it as unsatisfactory that the Israeli authorities have declined to give any explanation, or even the date of his arrival in Israel."

Vanunu is awaiting formal charges here for either espionage or treason for giving a British newspaper information about Israel's alleged nuclear weapons capabilities.

RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS SEVERELY BEAT MK ON HIS WAY TO PAY CONDOLENCE CALL ON FAMILY OF SLAIN YESHIVA STUDENT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 20 (JTA) -- Knesset member Ran Cohen of the Civil Rights Movement (CRM) was severely beaten and stoned by religious zealots Thursday on his way to pay a condolence call on the family of Eliahu Amdit, the yeshiva student fatally stabbed by Arabs in the Moslem quarter of the Old City last Saturday.

The attack on Cohen and continuing anti-Arab violence by Jews were denounced Thursday by Mayor Teddy Kollek, Knesset speaker Shlomo Hillel and others.

Cohen, a colonel in the reserves, was treated at Hadassah Hospital for head injuries caused by a rock. "I fought through all of Israel's war and was never injured. Now I was hit by a Jew," Cohen said. He stressed that his attackers came from outside the Shmuel Hanavi neighborhood in West Jerusalem where Amdit's family is observing shiva, the seven-day mourning period.

This was confirmed by local residents. Rage in the neighborhood was directed mainly at the press and toward leftists, such as Cohen. It was orchestrated by religious extremists who were identified as "outsiders."

Anti-Arab Violence Continues

A memorial service for Amdit was held Thursday under the watchful eyes of some 400 policemen sent to keep order. But the police have been unable to curb violence against Arabs in Shmuel Hanavi or in the Moslem quarter where Amdit was a student at the Shuvu Banim yeshiva, run by the Breslav Hasidim.

Arabs living near the yeshiva have left their homes for fear of reprisals by students. They have been subjected to harassment nightly since the murder of Amdit. Several homes were burned and Arabs have been stoned in the streets. Arabs have also engaged in stoning. A pregnant woman resident of the Old City's Jewish quarter was grazed by a rock Thursday afternoon.

The leader of the Shmuel Hanavi neighborhood committee said Thursday that the violence was likely to continue until the end of the shiva period. Kollek said that after the mourning period, "one should deal with the phenomenon of the yeshiva which consistently provokes the Arab population."

Kollek spoke to reporters during a visit to the scene of Saturday's murder on Khaldiye Street. He said the hotheads who have been harassing Arabs all week are serving the ends of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Knesset Speaker Hillel said on a radio interview Thursday that the police must do their utmost to prevent further hooliganism because that is exactly what the terrorist organizations want to provoke.

Meanwhile, Baruch Mazel, secretary of the Knesset faction of the extremist Kach Party, was released on bail Thursday. He had been jailed for 24 hours on suspicion of organizing riots in the Shmuel Hanavi neighborhood.

ISRAEL JOINS U.S., OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES TO VOTE AGAINST UN MEASURE CONDEMNING U.S. RAID ON LIBYA

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 20 (JTA). -- The General Assembly condemned Thursday the United States for its aerial raid on Libya last April. Israel joined the U.S. and other Western countries in voting against the anti-American resolution. The vote was 79-28 with 32 abstentions.

Ambassador Yohanan Bein of the Israel UN Mission, justified the American attack on Libya as a war against international terrorism. "The free world will not surrender to intimidation and terrorism," Bein told the General Assembly. He vowed that Israel will continue to fight international terrorism and will respond mainly against the "planners and organizers" of world terror, such as Libya.

The Israeli diplomat disclosed that in February 1986, about a dozen terrorist groups from around the world met in Tripoli, Libya, for a special "congress" on international terrorism. The "congress," Bein asserted, nominated a nine-member committee to improve the international network of terrorist organizations with Libya, Iran and Syria serving as a "war cabinet" for that purpose.

"They declared war against the West, against democracy, against all those who would not bend to intimidations and threats," the Israeli envoy said. He compared international terrorism to organized crime, calling the Libyan leader, Muammar Qaddafi, "the godfather of international terrorism."

ISRAELIS DESTROY 'TERRORIST BOAT'

JERUSALEM, Nov. 20 (JTA) -- Israel Air Force helicopter gunships destroyed a "terrorist boat" in the port of Sidon, south Lebanon Thursday, a military spokesman announced. He said the aircraft returned safely to their base.

The strike was the third this week at terrorist targets in the Sidon area. Israeli jets bombed a terrorist base used for seaborne missions against Israel Sunday. On Monday, combat helicopters attacked the same targets under protection by jet fighters.

3 UNIFIL SOLDIERS AND 3 LEBANESE KILLED BY A BOOBY-TRAPPED CAR

JERUSALEM, Nov. 20 (JTA) -- A booby-trapped car blew up near the south Lebanon security zone Thursday afternoon, killing three soldiers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and three Lebanese. Three UNIFIL soldiers, two Lebanese civilians and a soldier of the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) were injured. The UNIFIL soldiers were members of the Fijian contingent.

The car, a Mercedes, ran through a UNIFIL roadblock about 10 kilometers north of the Rosh Hanikra border checkpoint in an apparent attempt to reach the Israel border. It came under fire as it approached an SLA roadblock, turned around and returned to the UNIFIL roadblock where it was stopped by Fijian soldiers. As Fijian and SLA soldiers approached, the two occupants of the car blew it up with themselves inside.

HERZOG VISITS SRI LANKA

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 20 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog made an unannounced visit to Sri Lanka Thursday, on his way home from a two-week tour to Australia, New Zealand and Southeast Asia. It was a surprise to the entourage of reporters accompanying the President and something of a diplomatic coup for Herzog whose trip has come under criticism in the Knesset.

Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon, broke relations with Israel in 1968 and only recently moved toward restoring them after many years of nearly total boycott.

Herzog's visit symbolized a rapprochement. He met with President Julius Jayawardene, with the Defense Minister and other top officials. Two years ago, Israel was permitted to open an interest section at the American Embassy in Colombo. Sources in Jerusalem expressed hope Thursday that the visit presages full diplomatic relations with Sri Lanka.

Despite their absence, Israel has in recent years sent agronomists and other technicians to the island nation south of the Indian subcontinent. It has also helped the Colombo government cope with the Tamil separatist movement. Sri Lankan leaders have conceded on occasion that their country has benefitted from Israeli aid and advice on security and counter-terrorism.

Herzog arrived in Colombo from Singapore where he had been warmly received by Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, despite anti-Israel demonstrations by Moslem and pro-Palestinian elements. He reportedly told Lee that he would visit Sri Lanka but kept it from the press corp. Sri Lanka was not on his original itinerary.

Despite embarrassments that dogged his visits to Australia, New Zealand and Singapore and the last minute cancellation of his visit to the Philippines, Herzog said his trip was a success. It "put Israel on the map" in that far-off part of the world, he told Israel Radio in an interview after leaving Singapore.

There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated November 27, Thanksgiving, a postal holiday.

SPECIAL REPORT**SOVIETS' NEW WRITTEN EMIGRATION CODE**

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Nov. 20 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union's codification of emigration procedures this month was criticized as a "smokescreen" by some Soviet Jewry movement leaders contacted by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Others, however, saw some positive development in the new regulations.

The regulations, to take effect January 1, define acceptable conditions for emigration and temporary travel, differing significantly from the current procedure in two respects: having no provision for repatriation; and a new rule for quick application for an emergency visa to visit ailing relatives.

The regulations, which the Soviets claim will ease the process, is known officially as a Decree of the USSR Council of Ministers. The new codification contains an addendum of 11 provisions to the Statute on Entry into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Departure from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which was approved September 22, 1970 with 19 provisions or "points."

It is stated that the new section is added in "consideration of application for entry" into the USSR and for departure from the USSR "for personal reasons." It is the first time the Soviets officially have recorded their rules for application to emigrate and, in turn, grounds for rejections.

Basis Of Consideration

The decree states that visa applications will be considered based on "reunification with members of one's family, meetings with close relatives, marriage, visiting seriously ailing relatives, resolving inheritance issues and other reasons." Family members are defined as spouse, parent, child or sibling.

Decisions by emigration authorities are to be made within a month unless "further consideration" is necessary, when the waiting period could extend to six months. The decree states that denials will be explained, but no provisions were listed entitling an appeal of a rejection. Reapplication is allowed six months after denial.

The state may deny emigration for a number of reasons: an applicant's familiarity with state secrets; if the basic rights and legal interests of other Soviet citizens are affected; unfulfilled obligations to the state or any organizations; legal grounds for criminal charges; conviction of a crime; if false information was given by the applicant; if the person abroad inviting the applicant had violated Soviet rules upon emigration; if during a prior trip abroad the applicant "committed actions violating the interests of the state" or customs or currency regulations; "in the interest of insuring the protection of social order, health or the morals of the population."

Decree Denounced As A 'Cruel Fraud'

The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) denounced the decree in a statement as "the most cruel form of fraud." It pointed out that "by limiting emigration only to invitation from immediate family members living abroad, the 1966 United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is wiped out in a stroke," the SSSJ charged. "This document, ratified by the USSR in 1973, clearly states that 'everyone shall be free to leave the country, including his own'."

Glenn Richter, SSSJ national coordinator, said that the Soviet ratification of the 1966 UN covenant was the "legal linchpin," according to international law. "This new written list of rules does not contain provisions for repatriation," he said.

The SSSJ statement also said that under the decree only the closest of kin could invite family members to emigrate, thereby "creating a vicious circle: because of this restriction, one cannot leave to be the invitor for other family members." The SSSJ also charged that mailed invitations frequently were "taken by the KGB" and "never reached their destination."

Little Substantive Action

Alan Pesky, chairman of the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews, characterized the regulations as "an abundance of words that promise little in the way of substantive action that would mean a genuine easing of emigration policies." He also took note of "the particularly glaring omission in the rules ... the repatriation to one's homeland."

Pamela Cohen, president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, said the laws "further restrict all movement of people. It limits them, first, in that only families with immediate family members abroad can presume to apply ... which means that the vast body of Soviet Jews who have been targeted by the government are locked in."

'Total Absence Of Process'

Cohen spoke about the "security cases," Jews who were told they could not leave on the basis of "regime considerations," but who had been told eventually when they could leave. "The new codes do not give any clear-cut answer to Soviet Jews," she said. "There's a total absence of process in these laws."

Cohen called the permission given by the Soviets to Olga Goldfarb to visit her ailing father, David Goldfarb, in New York, part of "a very sophisticated campaign of public relations." She said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev "understands it would be helpful to present a civilized view of himself to the West. What he is doing is permitting (only) well-known or well-publicized people to be given permission" to emigrate.

Cohen scored the "case-by-case" approach as "devastating," saying that Soviet Jewry activists "have constant concerns because we understand that this approach is acting as a smokescreen to hide the enormous brutality and repressive policies of the Gorbachev regime. And so while we're seeing reunification of families, we are seeing the mutilation and gross brutality against Jewish prisoners."

She cited two specific cases: the beating of Hebrew teacher Aleksei Magarik, a Prisoner of Conscience, in which his lip was torn off; and the severe beating of 21-year-old Albert Burstein, a Leningrad activist and refusenik who suffers from osteomyelitis, an inflammatory bone disease. He was arrested Monday and sentenced to 15 days in jail for "resisting arrest."

A Different Assessment Offered

However, an almost totally different assessment of the new regulations was offered by Jerry Goodman, executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. He said the regulations are "a recognition that a process for leaving must be created" and admits "that people want to

leave, something which the Soviets have until now wished to deny, and now they cannot deny it."

Furthermore, Goodman said, the recognition of "personal reasons" is something "the Soviets certainly didn't, to my knowledge, admit before in law and in public." He said this was a positive development in that "a Soviet citizen who wishes to leave is not a traitor, but a person who wants to leave," and that, "having said that, this will encourage people who fit" the categories defined in the decree to leave.

Goodman cautioned, however, that the definition of who is eligible, once codified, "doesn't leave much room for flexibility and hope for larger numbers of Jews who have been trying to leave for personal reasons but who don't qualify by these procedures." As an example, he cited persons who lost their kin during World War II and were therefore left without relatives who could invite them to other countries.

Cautiously Optimistic About The Final Provision

But Goodman said he was cautiously optimistic about the final provision of the decree, which he called "an escape clause," a broadly worded passage that reads: "Questions of entry into the USSR and departure from the USSR for personal reasons may also be regulated by bilateral treaties between the USSR and other states."

There is a potential here, Goodman said, in that the Soviets "are providing the possibility of negotiations." If relations were established between the Soviet Union and Israel, for example, this clause might be a point for discussion, he observed. "A little bit of a door is opening," Goodman said. "Of course, in the end, it's always performance that counts."

KAHANE ARRESTED IN KANSAS CITY SUBURB ON A CHARGE OF DISORDERLY CONDUCT

By Michael Devere
Kansas City Jewish Chronicle

KANSAS CITY, Nov. 20 (JTA) -- Controversial Knesset member Rabbi Meir Kahane was arrested Tuesday night in Overland Park, Kans., a suburb of Kansas City, on a charge of disorderly conduct following a brief clash with Palestinian protestors during his speech.

He was released on his own recognizance and is scheduled to be arraigned in Overland Park Municipal Court on December 2. He could send a lawyer in his place, according to a spokesman for the Overland Park Police Department.

About 20 minutes into Kahane's 75-minute address at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park, he berated Arab presence in Israel. Mousa Shukair, 41, a member of the Palestinian Human Rights Coalition, and a group of supporters began shouting from the back of the hotel's meeting room.

"You took their land from them," yelled one. Kahane yelled for the protestors to be quiet while he spoke. When they did not, Kahane demanded that the police eject Shukair.

Arms Flaied, Punches Thrown

Then, numerous police and hotel security officers and about 140 stunned onlookers went hush as the rabbi charged at Shukair. Arms flaied, punches reportedly were thrown, and Gary Lockhart, a Kach International member from Lawton, Okla., helped police separate the rabbi and Shukair.

Shukair and one of his supporters, Rezek Muslet, 26, were led away in handcuffs by police, charged with disorderly conduct. Another half dozen of their supporters also left the ballroom.

Despite the interruption, Kahane, founder of the militant Jewish Defense League and the Kach Party's lone member of Knesset, continued his speech at the Kach fund-raiser. Overland Park police arrested him afterward.

Preceding the speech, Shukair and Muslet were seen outside the hotel protesting Kahane's appearance. They picketed alongside about 35 protestors representing the American Jewish Committee here, two congregations, the Jewish Community Relations Bureau of Greater Kansas City, the Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City and Ruah/New Jewish Agenda.

Rabbinical Association spokesman Rabbi Philip Field issued a statement condemning Kahane and his views on Arab-Israeli relations.

Earlier Tuesday, Kahane attempted to meet with leaders of the Jewish Federation or JCRB, despite their consistent opposition to him and his policies. As in other cities, he was denied access to Federation offices.

JEWISH PROTESTORS AT RALLY URGE AN END TO NUCLEAR TESTING By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (JTA) -- A group of about 20 Jews sought to provide a specific Jewish presence in the demonstration at the United States Department of Energy Monday urging an end to nuclear testing.

David Shneyer, of the Fabrangen Fiddlers, a local Jewish band, sounded shofar as a signal for some of the demonstrators to block the doors of the government building. Arthur Waskow, of the Shalom Center, a Jewish peace group founded three years ago, was one of 137 demonstrators arrested in the peaceful protest. All charges were later dropped.

The U.S. government's rejection of the Soviet Union's offer of a stop to nuclear testing was called by Waskow "a perverse rejection of all that the Jewish people and all peoples have come to value, the values of freedom as well as life. If our government were in fact pursuing the values of peace and life, we would already have agreed to end all nuclear testing."

Several rabbis were among clergymen of other faiths who participated. There were other Jews among the demonstrators.

The demonstration at the Energy Department came the day after the end of the Great Peace March. It has been estimated that up to 20 percent of those who walked from California to Washington to urge nuclear disarmament were Jews.

GENEVA (JTA) -- Jewish, Christian and Moslem representatives planted a "tree for peace" at ceremonies here under the auspices of the UN Environmental Protection Service (UNEPS). Bjorn Ekblom, European Regional Director of UNEPS, observed that on fundamental issues such as environment and peace "we are all more united than divided."