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PERES TO BRIEF KNESSET UNIT ON ISRAEL'S POLICY TOWARD IRAN-IRAQ WAR

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has agreed to brief the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee Monday on Israel's policy toward the Iran-Iraq war.

The government has come under mounting pressure on that subject as criticism grew at home and abroad over the Reagan Administration's clandestine arms shipments to Iran in which Israel allegedly played the role of middleman. Peres' briefing, demanded by Committee chairman Abba Eban, is expected to focus on the period when he was Prime Minister and, in that capacity, responsible for any Israeli arms transfers to Iran.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who shares responsibility for arms shipments, insists Israel sent nothing to Iran without clear-cut American approval. Premier Yitzhak Shamir has up to now refused to confirm or deny arms shipments by Israel.

The leftist opposition party Mapam introduced a non-confidence motion in the Knesset Sunday on the issue. It will be debated next week.

Implied Criticism Of The Government

Eban said Sunday that his Committee would not delve into "whether or when a particular consignment left" Israel but would examine the basic policy toward Iran. He implied criticism of the government for failing to brief the Knesset Committee earlier.

He noted that the Committee has within it small and discreet subcommittees which could be relied on not to divulge sensitive secrets. "Anyway, this matter must be the least secret subject in the world these days," Eban said.

Observers here said Israeli policymakers are most concerned about possible revelations that Israeli arms shipments to Iran may have been far more massive than what the Reagan Administration called for as part of a U.S.-Iranian deal.

Meanwhile, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan sharply criticized the United States Sunday for supplying arms to Iran. Both countries strongly favor Iraq in the Persian Gulf war. Egypt supplies Iraq with much of its military hardware. Jordan, through its Red Sea port of Aqaba, furnishes the key supply route for materiel destined for Iraq.

ISRAEL'S SUPPLY OF ARMS TO IRAN ASSESSED BY TWO FORMER CHIEFS OF ISRAEL'S MILITARY INTELLIGENCE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Two former chiefs of Israel's military intelligence see advantages for Israel in the supply of arms to Iran but differ over whether Israel would benefit if Iran won its six year-old war with Iraq.

Res. Gen. Aharon Yariv, director of the Yaffee Institute for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, believes Israel's interests would be served if the war continues, or at least ends in a

stalemate because there can be no Eastern front against Israel as long as the war continues.

But Res. Maj. Gen. Yehoshua Saguy, a member of Yaffee Institute staff, said President Reagan was right to supply arms to Iran, even though he failed in trying to explain it to the American people. Yariv and Saguy participated in a seminar on the Gulf war last week.

According to Saguy, Israel has an interest in an Iranian victory in the Persian Gulf war because there is at least a chance it would then remain in the Western orbit. Yariv, however, said a victory for the regime of the Ayatollah Rohollah Khomeini would be "a disaster" for Israel.

Yariv said a good case could be made for Israel to supply enough arms to Iran to prevent an Iraqi victory, but not enough to ensure a victory for Iran. He admitted he did not know what had happened with respect to arms for Iran.

Statements By Reagan And Shamir

Reagan got into deep trouble with his supporters and adversaries alike last week when he conceded that the White House had been secretly sending arms to Iran in hope of gaining ground with "moderate" elements who might succeed Khomeini.

He also admitted, after denying it in a nationally televised press conference last Wednesday night, that a "third country" had been involved in the clandestine operation. Reagan did not name the country but White House aides had said earlier in the week that it was Israel.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir refused to confirm or deny this. He said last Thursday that it "has never been, and is still not, Israel's policy to disclose anything about arms sales to other countries." He also said he had no sympathy for either side in the Gulf war.

Reagan insisted the supply of arms to Iran was not a quid pro quo for the release of American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon, but admitted that White House emissaries had mentioned the hostages to their Iranian contacts.

Yariv noted, "Whether the President did or did not say something, the point is hostages were freed. And from our point of view, if the U.S. approaches us for help and if -- and I don't say it happened this way -- someone, an Israeli or a Jew, has an idea how to get them freed, all this I can understand. I can also see the other element ... casting your bread upon the waters."

He explained that even if Iran does not win the Gulf war, and whether or not it continues to have differences with its neighbors, "we have an interest, in the long term, in relations with Iran."

Yariv said he understood "that we sell arms to Iran when she is in a difficult situation, and since we have no interest in an Iraqi victory. What I do not understand -- and I hope this did not happen -- would be the sale of arms to Iran in quantity and kind which could result in victory for the Khomeini regime, because this could be a disaster for us. We are not talking about monetary gain but about helping a great friend and preparing the ground for relations (with Iran) without giving Khomeini victory."

He said Israel had lessons to learn from the Gulf war, particularly Iraq's use of chemical

weapons, which have not been used since World War I, except by the late Egyptian President, Gamal Abdel Nasser in his military adventure in Yemen in the 1960's.

The peril, Yariv pointed out, is that other Arab countries also have chemical weapons and this must serve as a warning to Israel. (See related story.)

LIBYA HAS REPORTEDLY GIVEN SYRIA DEADLY NERVE GAS WEAPONS By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- The Sunday Telegraph reported Sunday that Libya has given Syria deadly nerve gas weapons, traceable to the Soviet Union, which could be used with devastating effect on Israel's main cities.

The report, by the newspaper's defense correspondent, cited Western intelligence sources for the information. According to the writer, the Syrians can use the nerve gas warheads on their Soviet-made SCUD missiles.

The chemical warheads could kill everyone within a 25-mile radius and render a city uninhabitable for about 24 hours after the attack, the Telegraph report said. The SCUD is a vehicle-launched surface-to-surface missile with a range of more than 160 miles. Until now, SCUDs in the arsenals of Libya, Syria and Iran were thought to be armed with conventional warheads in contrast to the Soviet weapons which are nuclear-armed.

According to the Telegraph, possession of a long-range chemical warfare capability will give Syria "a huge advantage" over Israel in any future conflict. Fired from the Golan Heights, a SCUD armed with a chemical warhead could devastate the population of any Israeli city ... There will be immense pressure on Israel for a preemptive strike," the Telegraph said.

Israel is said to be "fully aware" of the Syrian weapon and has carried out military exercises in nuclear-chemical-biological protective clothing.

POLICE CHIEF SAYS CACHES OF ILLEGAL ARMS OWNED BY JEWS IN THE OLD CITY By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- David Kraus, Chief of Israel's national police, told the Cabinet Sunday that caches of illegal arms have been found in the possession of Jews in the Old City. He said they included grenades and light weapons. But he did not believe they signified the existence of an anti-Arab Jewish underground such as was exposed in the West Bank two years ago.

Kraus provided the intelligence information to the Ministers after a week of anti-Arab violence and harassment by Jews that followed the fatal stabbing on November 15 of Eliahu Amdí, a 22-year-old student at the Shuvu Banim yeshiva in the Moslem quarter of the Old City. Amdí was murdered near the yeshiva. Three Arab youths suspected of the crime are in custody.

Kraus said that unless calm is restored to Jerusalem, massive military reinforcements would have to be called in to keep the peace. He said the police preferred not to ask the army for help, but it could not allow itself to be overwhelmed by rioters.

Kraus told the Cabinet that searches for illegal arms would continue. He said he understood that people felt a need to protect themselves but

insisted that the police could not allow them to act in an illegal manner.

He shocked the Ministers with his description of the persistent provocations by Shuvu Banim students against their Arab neighbors. He said one of their practices was to hurl bags of feces and urine from the yeshiva building at Arab homes nearby. The yeshiva is described as a school for penitents and reportedly has a large number of former criminals in its student body.

Violence Continues In The Old City

Premier Yitzhak Shamir called on "all sectors of the Jerusalem populace" Sunday to preserve order and peace in Jerusalem and avoid public disturbances.

Just hours after Kraus appeared before the Cabinet, a Molotov cocktail was thrown in an Old City street. A memorial service for Amdí, marking the end of the seven-day mourning period, took the form of a procession from the Shmuel Hanavi neighborhood in West Jerusalem, where the murder victim had lived, to the site in the Old City Moslem quarter where he was killed.

Cries of "death to the Arabs" were heard as the mass of Jews moved slowly through the narrow streets. Men kicked at the barred fronts of Arab owned shops as they passed, the shopkeepers having prudently closed early and left.

At the murder site, Rabbi Moshe Levinger, leader of the Gush Emunim in Hebron and other rabbis harangued the crowd. They blamed the government and the Jerusalem municipality for Amdí's death. But the police were out in force and no serious violence developed.

ANNUAL ISRAEL FILM FESTIVAL HAS BEEN EXPANDED IN SIZE AND SCOPE THIS YEAR By Margie Olster

NEW YORK, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Israeli film magnate Menahem Golan and American actor Chuck Norris joined a crowd of American and Israeli film personalities to mark the opening of the fourth annual Israel Film Festival in New York Wednesday night at the Waldorf Astoria.

Festival producer Meir Fenigstein said the festival has expanded in size and scope this year, with an added run in Los Angeles for the first time.

During the festival, November 22 through Dec. 4, 14 Israeli films will play several runs each at the New Carnegie Theater in Manhattan. Eight of the 14 films are premiering in New York.

Six of the festival films have received nominations for Academy Awards as Best Foreign film: "Sallah," "I Love you Rosa," "The House on Chelouche Street," "Operation Thunderbolt (Entebbe)," "Beyond the Walls," and "Avanti Popolo."

Fenigstein said a major goal of the festival and the company he founded and directs to produce the festival, Israfest Foundation Inc., is to promote film production in Israel. In 1986, the number of foreign films shot in Israel jumped from six the previous year to 17.

Golan, chairman of the Board of Cannon Group Inc., said Wednesday that he hopes a \$30 million studio Cannon is building outside Jerusalem will further encourage foreign producers to make films in Israel.

Golan said Cannon is in the midst of filming 16 fairy tales in the not-yet-completed Jerusalem studio. "We are building the biggest studio

in the whole Mediterranean," said Golan. "this marks the new potential of making films in Israel."

Three Golan-Globus productions will play in the film festival: "The Lover" based on A.B. Yehoshua's popular novel, "Gloves," the story of a Polish immigrant boxer, and "Queen of the Class." Other films in the festival include: "Smile of the Lamb," "Irit Irit," "Nadia" "Bar 51," "You're in the Army Girls," and "Hamsin."

A REFUSENIK WHO SUFFERS FROM CANCER HAS ALLEGEDLY BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO GO TO THE U.S. FOR TREATMENT

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Refusenik Rimma Bravve of Moscow, who is suffering from ovarian cancer, has allegedly received permission to leave for the United States, where she can be treated for her illness.

However, although this information was publicly announced last Thursday in Vienna by the Soviet Ambassador to the Helsinki Review meetings, Viktor Kashlev, neither Bravve herself nor her husband, Vladimir, have been told of the decision, according to her sister, Larisa Shapiro, a Soviet emigre who lives in Rochester, NY.

Shapiro was notified of the public announcement Thursday by the U.S. Ambassador to the Vienna talks, Warren Zimmerman, and by Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY), who has been in contact with Zimmerman and is trying to assist Shapiro in getting her ailing sister to the U.S.

Shapiro said she had been told by D'Amato that it was a "normal situation" to have a third party announce the granting of a visa while the actual recipient hadn't been notified.

The 32-year-old Bravve's medical condition is tenuous -- her sister described her as being in the last stage of the cancer.

Visas Not Yet Received

Kashlev made the announcement as part of a speech before 36 delegates to the talks, saying that Bravve and her husband received exit visas Wednesday. But Vladimir Bravve, speaking with Shapiro by telephone both on Thursday and Saturday, said the couple had not yet received visas.

Vladimir went to the OVIR emigration office and to the Central Bureau of the Communist Party in Moscow Friday, where he was told the decision was not yet made. He left letters in both places saying that the granting of visas had been announced in Vienna.

Shapiro recently returned from Vienna, where she went with her mother, Khanna Anbinder; Leon Charney, brother of Benjamin Charney, another Moscow refusenik cancer patient; and Dr. Gerald Batist, a Montreal oncologist deeply concerned with the plight of Soviet Jewish cancer patients who have been refused visas and are in desperate need of advanced treatment techniques available in the West.

The group, who spoke on behalf of their families as well as all the refusenik cancer patients, pushed for Bravve's immediate transfer to New York for an experimental treatment for her form of cancer which is available at the Mt. Sinai Hospital here. A Mt. Sinai oncologist, Dr. Howard

Bruckner, told Batist he would make his services available to Bravve without cost.

Batist organized the International Cancer Patients' Solidarity Committee and visited Bravve and Tatiana Bogomolny in Moscow in March. (Bogomolny got her exit visa in September and is now in San Francisco, being treated for breast cancer). Batist issued a televised appeal Friday to industrialist Armand Hammer to fly Bravve out of Moscow. Hammer succeeded in October in obtaining the release of long-time refusenik David Goldfarb, who was hospitalized in Moscow, and flying him to the U.S. on his private jet.

An Unsettling Story

Shapiro told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Sunday that her sister was "very, very excited" about her prospects of leaving. Rimma Bravve's story is particularly upsetting in that she and her husband were in possession of not only visas but airline tickets to the U.S. in 1980. The couple, who first applied to emigrate in February 1979, received visas in December 1979.

Shapiro told JTA the Bravves were supposed to fly out of Moscow on January 17, 1980, but that 7 days earlier they were called to OVIR to surrender their visas for "clarification" and were told they would receive them back "immediately." They never did. The reason given to them, two months later, was that Vladimir's father used to have a security clearance at his job prior to his retirement in either 1978 or 1979.

ANWAR NUSSEIBEH DEAD AT 73

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Anwar Zaki Nusseibeh, a leading Palestinian moderate who maintained close ties with both Jordan and top Israeli figures, died in Jerusalem Saturday, after a long illness. He was 73 years old. A former Jordanian Defense Minister, Nusseibeh came from a prominent Jerusalem family. He was born and educated in Jerusalem and studied law at Cambridge University.

Nusseibeh had served in many posts in Arab organizations, beginning in the Arab Office in London in 1945, and two years later as secretary of the Arab National Committee, set up in 1947 to succeed the Mandatory government in Palestine. He helped organize the Arab defense of Jerusalem in 1948 and lost a leg in the fighting.

He served as the Jordanian Governor of East Jerusalem from 1961 to 1962, and as Jordan's Ambassador to London from 1965 to 1967.

After the Six-Day War, Nusseibeh conducted secret talks between Israel and Jordan on the future of the West Bank and maintained contacts with a wide range of Israeli leaders, including Moshe Dayan and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek.

Late in the 1970's Nusseibeh appeared disillusioned with Jordan, feeling that King Hussein was indifferent to the West Bank Palestinians. From being a staunch supporter of Hussein he came to sympathize with the PO which lost him the Jordanian monarch's support. Nusseibeh's last official position was as board chairman of the Arab East Jerusalem Electric Co.

Nusseibeh is on record as saying he felt the biggest Arab failure was missing the opportunity to establish a Palestinian state in 1948, proposed in the United Nations partition resolution, alongside the Jewish State of Israel.

A 'SHOCKING' LEGAL RULING

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- Rabbi David Saperstein, co-director of Reform Judaism's Religious Action Center here, has called "shocking" the justification by a federal judge of a creche on Chicago's City Hall grounds on the basis that the United States is a Christian country.

"The language of the decision" on November 5 by U.S. District Court Judge Frank McGarr in Chicago "is even more outrageous than the decision itself," Saperstein said. McGarr rejected a challenge by five national Jewish organizations and a group of individuals to the presence of a creche, and a menorah sponsored by the Lubavitch movement, on public grounds. McGarr's decision is expected to be appealed before a higher court.

In his decision, McGarr said: "The truth is that America's origins are Christian with the result that some of our fondest traditions are Christian, and that our founding fathers intended and achieved full religious freedom for all within the context of a Christian nation in the First Amendment as it was adopted, rather than as we have rewritten it."

200 Years Of Constitutional Doctrine Violated

Saperstein charged that the McGarr decision violates 200 years of Constitutional doctrine. He said McGarr used his "rationale not only to justify the creche, "but to call as well for the state to participate freely in religious celebration of Christmas."

But, he noted, "in order to protect himself under the current constitutional standard set out by the Supreme Court in the Lynch v. Donnelly (Pawtucket Creche) case, the judge also determined that the creche has become a symbol of secular national holiday devoid of its religious content."

Saperstein stressed that "the uniqueness of the American vision was that freedom of religion would be protected by separating church and state and that all religions would be treated equally. It was in this context that religious life in America has flourished with unprecedented freedom throughout our history."

The Jewish organizations that participated in the suit were the American Jewish Congress, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Central Conference of American Rabbis, United Synagogue of America, and the Rabbinical Assembly.

SUPREME COURT DECLINES TO REVIEW LOWER COURT RULING ON DISPLAY OF A CROSS ON THE ROOF OF A FIRE DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court has declined to review a federal appellate court decision barring the city of St. Charles, Ill., from displaying a large, lighted Christian cross on the roof of its fire department as part of an annual Christmas display.

The Supreme Court last week also ruled that the Ansonia, Conn., school system need not accept a teacher's proposed alternative to unpaid leave for religious purposes as long as it makes a reasonable proposal of its own to accommodate his religious needs. The suit, brought by Ronal Philbrook, a member of the Worldwise Church of God, was sent back to lower federal courts for further proceedings.

In the St. Charles case, the court let stand the decision by Federal Appellate Judge Richard

Posner that a prominent display by the city of such an "unmistakeable symbol of Christianity" violated the First Amendment ban against the establishment of religion because it "dramatically conveys a message of governmental support for Christianity."

Posner drew a distinction between the cross and the less conspicuous nativity scene in Pawtucket, R.I., that the Supreme Court upheld in a 1984 case. In that decision, the court noted that the holiday display included a Christmas tree and other more secular symbols of Christmas.

The case in Ansonia turned on the Court's interpretation of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act which specifically requires an employer to "reasonably accommodate" an employee's "religious observance or practice without undue hardship on the conduct of the employer's business."

Philbrook sued because he was docked for some of the six days a year he took off for religious observance. He had proposed that he be allowed to supplement the three days of religious leave to which he was entitled in his union contract with three additional days under the contract provision for "necessary personal business." But the contract barred use of "personal business" leave for religious purposes.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist, joined by six other Justices, held that there is "no basis in either the statute (of the Civil Rights Act) or its legislative history for requiring an employer to choose any particular reasonable accommodation" or to accept any of the employee's alternative proposals even if they do not involve "undue hardship."

Justice Thurgood Marshall dissented in part, arguing that the employer should be required to accept any reasonable proposal of the employee that does not cause the employer "undue hardship."

FUND SET UP TO AID VICTIMS OF SAN SALVADOR EARTHQUAKE

BOSTON, Nov. 23 (JTA) -- The American Jewish World Service (AJWS) has announced the creation of an "El Salvador Recovery Fund" to aid victims of the earthquake that devastated parts of San Salvador, capital of the Central American country, October 10.

Noting that 31,000 families were left homeless by the quake, according to recent United Nations figures, the AJWS said funds raised would be channeled through non-governmental organizations and used for recovery programs that address the housing and health needs of the poorest citizens of San Salvador.

The AJWS has responded to two natural disasters in the 18 months since its founding--the Mexico City earthquake last year and the volcanic eruption that destroyed the town of Armero in Colombia.

The AJWS said that tax-deductible contributions for the El Salvador victims should be earmarked "El Salvador Recovery" and sent to: American Jewish World Service, 29 Commonwealth Ave., Suite 101, Boston, MA 02116.

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