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SHAMIR DEFENDS ISRAEL'S ROLE IN THE U.S. ARMS SHIPMENTS TO IRAN AND REVEALS A FAILED THREE-WAY DEAL By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir, defending Israel's role in the U.S. arms shipments to Iran, said Tuesday that "if there had not been any leaks" Israeli soldiers held prisoner in Lebanon would have been released as part of the deal.

Shamir, addressing a meeting of the Likud Knesset faction, said that because the arms deal "exploded" into worldwide attention, the soldiers were not freed. He gave no details but he may have been referring to two Israel Defense Force soldiers captured last February in the south Lebanon security zone. They are believed to be in the hands of Hezbollah, the pro-Iran Shiite extremist group.

Shamir justified Israel's assistance to the U.S. in its attempts to trade arms for hostages. "We could have lived on Olympus, detached, neutral and indifferent. But we must live in the area, buy friends, work with friends and cooperate with them when it serves the interests of Israel," he said.

Israel's conscience is entirely clear in this matter, Shamir said, noting that had the soldiers been released "everyone would have praised" the exchange. As it is, he said, he was not worried about Israel's regard in the U.S. He said he has met with several influential "people who came from the U.S." in recent days and all of them "told us Israel is not being attacked and not being accused in this affair." Many in the U.S. appreciate Israel's role, Shamir said.

At a meeting Tuesday with two visiting U.S. Senators, Carl Levin of Michigan and Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico, both Democrats, Shamir gave them a verbal message for King Hussein of Jordan asking him to enter immediately into peace negotiations with Israel without preconditions. He told the American lawmakers that the recent unrest in the West Bank should not affect the desire for peace.

KENNEDY SAYS FUROR OVER U.S. ARMS SHIPMENT TO IRAN HAS NOT HARMED RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE U.S.

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.) arrived in Israel Tuesday with assurances that the international furor over U.S. shipments of arms to Iran with Israel's help has not harmed U.S.-Israel relations.

"Recent events over Iran notwithstanding, U.S.-Israel friendship is strong, solid and enduring. America looks to Israel as our oldest, closest friend in the region in a world of change and doubts," Kennedy told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport.

The Senator declined to reply to specific questions about the arms sale to Iran and the diversion of the proceeds to the Contras, the Reagan Administration-backed rebels trying to overthrow the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

U.S. ABSTAINS ON ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- The United States abstained Monday night during a vote in the Security Council on an anti-Israel resolution. United States Ambassador Vernon Walters did not explain the reason for the abstention.

Diplomats here said the U.S. abstained in an effort to placate Arab countries which are incensed at the revelations that the U.S., in cooperation with Israel, has been selling arms to Iran, a non-Arab country which has been at war with Iraq for the last seven years.

The Arab-sponsored resolution, which received 14 affirmative votes from the 15-member Council, deplored the killing of "defenseless students" at Bir Zeit University near Ramallah in the West Bank by Israeli soldiers last week. The resolution also declared that the Geneva Convention "is applicable to the Palestinians and Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem."

Israeli Diplomats Unhappy

Israeli diplomats were clearly unhappy over the U.S. abstention. Israeli Ambassador Binyamin Netanyahu said in response to questions after the vote: "We are worried by the U.S. vote because some may interpret it as a sign of weakness on the part of Washington. What is needed is a reaffirmation of the traditional U.S. policy of firmness which has gained the U.S. the respect of many in the Arab world as well."

(In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres indicated Tuesday that he was not overly concerned by the U.S. action. "I regret the abstention of the U.S., but it happened for the second time over the last period. The first was when the U.S. abstained on the vote concerning the (Israeli air) raid" on the PLO headquarters in Tunisia last year.)

This year the U.S. vetoed several anti-Israel resolutions in the Security Council.

'A Double Absurdity'

The Council was called into session last Friday night at the request of Zimbabwe, head of the Non-Aligned Group at the UN, to consider the unrest in the West Bank, following violent riots at Bir Zeit University.

Netanyahu charged during the debate that the Council was convened to satisfy the propaganda needs of the PLO. He accused the PLO of instigating the riots in the West Bank. Netanyahu said that the anti-Israeli resolution constituted a "double absurdity" because it ignored bloodier events in the Mideast, such as the Iran-Iraq war, and deprived Israel of applying law and order in the administered territories.

During the debate, Soviet Ambassador Alexander Belonogov charged Israel with "genocide" in connection with the events in the West Bank. Netanyahu replied that "the term genocide better describes the Soviet behavior in Afghanistan."

RABIN SAYS PLO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATHS OF YOUNG PALESTINIANS IN CLASHES WITH THE IDF IN THE WEST BANK

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin charged Tuesday that the Palestine Liberation Organization was responsible for the deaths of young Palestinians in recent clashes with the Israel Defense Force in the West Bank because it was the PLO which incited youths to riot and throw rocks at Israeli security forces and civilians.

He also blamed the unrest on Jordan's lack of response to Israeli calls for peace negotiations and on "residents of the (administered) areas and other Palestinians who are not declared members of the PLO (but) who refuse to accept Israel's hand outstretched for peace, to sit around the negotiating table and reach peace."

Rabin was replying in the Knesset to two non-confidence motions on the use of force by the IDF in quelling unrest in the West Bank. The motions were defeated. He said if the PLO and other agitators had not incited Palestinian youths to violence, the army and police would not have to resort to rubber bullets, tear gas, and finally live ammunition to halt the rioting.

Investigation Of A Fatal Shooting

Four Palestinian youths, two of them minors, have been killed in clashes in the West Bank since last Thursday. The IDF is investigating the fatal shooting of a 12-year-old Palestinian at the Balata refugee camp near Nablus Monday. Rabin told the Knesset that a forensic examination of the bullet removed from the boy's body proved it came from a weapon not used by the IDF or the border police.

He said the youngster was brought to a local hospital with fatal wounds before the IDF opened fire. He said the investigation is continuing to determine how he met his death.

Speaking earlier at Bar Ilan University, Rabin said the motive of the PLO is that the worse conditions are for the West Bank population, the better for the PLO. He vowed that Israel would not surrender to terrorism or to unrest in the territories. The present wave of disturbances is aimed at moderate elements in the West Bank and against supporters of Jordan who want to take positive action for peace, Rabin said.

MUBARAK BLAMES SHAMIR'S ATTITUDE FOR HIS FAILURE TO VISIT ISRAEL

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt blamed the attitude of Premier Yitzhak Shamir for his failure to visit Israel. Mubarak, who arrives here Wednesday for a three-day state visit, told the newspaper *Le Monde* that he had in fact accepted an invitation to visit Israel, extended to him by Shamir when the latter, as Israel's Foreign Minister, visited Cairo a year ago.

Mubarak said he advised Shamir privately that he would go to Israel but not to Jerusalem "as we do not recognize it as Israel's capital." He said Shamir broke an agreement when he revealed this to the press, and when he said on his return to Israel, "If Mubarak does not want to visit Israel, let him stay away."

According to Mubarak, the future of an Israeli-Egyptian dialogue depends on the flexibility of Shamir. "I hope he will show himself as flexible as (Former Premier) Shimon Peres has been," Mubarak said.

Says U.S. Credibility Has Been Undermined

The Egyptian President maintained that American arms shipments to Iran undermined the "credibility" of the U.S. in the Arab world. He also spoke of his "clash" with the U.S. in 1985 when U.S. Air Force planes forced an Egyptian airliner to land at a NATO base in Sicily. The airliner was carrying terrorist suspects in the hijacking of the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro*.

The Egyptian leader will be accompanied by six of his Ministers and an entourage of economic and military advisers. He will be guest of honor at a formal dinner at the Elysee Palace and is scheduled to meet twice with President Francois Mitterrand and Premier Jacques Chirac. French officials said the visit will "symbolize the new warm climate which marks Franco-Egyptian ties."

According to Egyptian sources, Mubarak hopes to convince French leaders to help convene an international conference for Middle East peace. Egypt also hopes for French backing in its efforts to obtain a \$1 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund and economic assistance from Western Europe.

Mubarak has been to Paris at least 14 times. But his visit starting Wednesday will be the first by any Egyptian head of state to France in an official capacity since the overthrow of King Farouk in 1952. Mubarak's predecessors, Anwar Sadat and Gamal Abdel Nasser, came to France many times on what were working or private visits.

OPINION DIVIDED IN ISRAEL OVER AN EXTRADITION CASE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court ordered William Nakash to be held in custody Tuesday pending a hearing December 23 on a petition to overrule the decision by Justice Minister Avraham Sharir not to extradite him to France.

Nakash, 25, was sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment by a French court for the 1983 murder of an Arab in Bensacon in eastern France. A five member panel of the high court will hear the appeal filed by the Citizen Rights Movement (CRM).

The case has sharply divided opinion in Israel. Nakash, an Orthodox Jew, is supported by rightwing and religious elements who contend the murder was justified as an act of self-defense against anti-Semitic, anti-Israel acts by Arabs.

Liberal and leftwing circles note that the French court found Nakash to have committed a criminal act that had no bearing on the fact that he is a Jew and his victim was an Arab. They argue that Israel should not be turned into a "haven for criminals just because they happen to be Jews." According to the French court that sentenced Nakash, the murder stemmed from a quarrel between two business partners. Nakash did not appear in court Tuesday. His lawyer, Ronald Roth, told reporters that the Chief Rabbinate has forbidden Nakash to leave the country because it would make his wife an "aguna," an abandoned woman according to religious law who could neither divorce him nor re-marry.

SOLON SAYS U.S. AID TO ISRAEL IS 'A HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE BARGAIN'

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA)-- America's assistance to Israel is "a highly productive bargain," according to Sen. Larry Pressler (R. SD). "One outstanding and less appreciated fact" is the tremendous return the U.S. obtains from its small economic and security assistance contribution to Israel, he told some 600 people at the annual New York Regions Dinner of the Zionist Organization of America Sunday night.

Pressler, who is chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on European Affairs and formerly was chairman of the Senate Arms Control Committee, noted that the \$3 billion in U.S. aid to Israel pales in comparison with what the U.S. spends in defense of NATO countries.

"At a time when the U.S. spends more in defense of Japan than the Japanese themselves spend on their defense, more Americans need to know about the returns we obtain from our modest investment in Israel," he said. "The U.S. Defense Department has calculated that the returns on our defense research and development investment in Israel is between two and three times the cost."

He cited, as an example, Israel's development of a fuel tank system "which extended the range of our fighter aircraft by 500 miles and proved that it would work under actual combat conditions." Israel has done the same in other areas of defense technology and weapons development, the Senator added. "In terms of contributing to improvements in our own defense, our assistance to Israel is a highly productive bargain."

A highlight of the dinner was the presentation of the Justice Louis Brandeis Award to Ambassador John Loeb, Jr. for his "exemplary and dedicated service to the community, Israel and the Jewish people." Loeb was U.S. Ambassador to Denmark from 1981 to 1983.

In honoring Loeb, the ZOA also paid tribute to the Danish people for their valor in saving the Jews of their country from extermination by the Nazis. The tribute was acknowledged by Eigil Jorgensen, Denmark's Ambassador to the U.S.

'HISTORIC' ZIONIST ALLIANCE ANNOUNCED

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA)-- Three Zionist organizations have formed a coalition to provide a voting bloc in the World Zionist Congress scheduled to be held in December 1987 in Jerusalem.

The bloc, the United Israel-Zionist Coalition, comprises Herut, Tehiya and Tami, "three American Zionist organizations that share a desire for Israel's peace and security, settlement of Judea and Samaria, and a dynamic free enterprise economy," according to a statement issued by the Herut Zionists of America which also announced the formation of the Coalition. The Coalition also includes the Betar and Tagar youth movements.

Harry Taubenfeld, chairman of Herut's U.S. election committee, said the Coalition "is a unique and historic agreement-- the first formal alliance of American Zionist organizations. Away from the pettiness of partisan Jewish struggles, the Coalition indicates Herut's desire to unify efforts to promote peace and democracy for the State of Israel, as well as the integrity of Jews worldwide."

The coalition is conducting a massive membership/election campaign Taubenfeld said. Elec-

tion of delegates to the Zionist Congress will take place in May 1987.

All Zionist organizations in the U.S. are now preparing for those elections by placing ads in the media, holding public forums, and conducting direct mailings and personal canvassing. The organizations are also distributing brochures explaining their basic positions and enjoining members and sympathizers to sign statements of support.

Michael Teplow, national director of Tehiya, praised Herut for its "moral integrity" in forming the coalition. Rabbi Mitchell Serels, the American representative of Tami which claims to represent Sephardim in the U.S., said the coalition "strongly upholds our ideological commitment to fight assimilation and maintain strong traditions in Jewish education."

SILENCE WOULD HAVE BEEN GOLDEN

CLEVELAND, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- Mayor George Voinovich is not likely to get a warm welcome home when he returns to City Hall from a visit to Israel Friday. Citizens of Cleveland, local officials and the press are far from pleased with the remark His Honor dropped at a Tel Aviv press conference Monday to the effect that, despite Israel's history of war and terrorist assaults, he feels "safer here than in some neighborhoods in my city."

He explained later that he meant "I feel as safe in Israel as I do at home, in my own city." But his ex post facto clarification did little to ease injured civic pride. The Cleveland Plain Dealer suggested in an editorial Tuesday that the returning Mayor might be detained at the border for "foot-in-mouth disease."

AUSTRIA RETURNING ITS ENVOY TO ISRAEL

VIENNA, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- Austria's Ambassador to Israel, who was recalled in October, will be returning to Israel, it was announced Tuesday by Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. He told reporters after a Cabinet meeting that the return of Ambassador Otto Pleinert was "an expression of the desire, the will and the effort for good and correct relations with Israel." Pleinert was recalled from Israel after Israel withdrew its Ambassador, Michael Elizur, following the election of Kurt Waldheim as President of Austria last June.

COMPUTER FRAUD REPROGRAMMED

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- A 17-year-old who used his expertise with computers to plant a false story in the mass circulation daily Yediot Achronot, was given two years' probation by a Haifa youth court Tuesday and ordered by Judge Aharon Melamed to donate his computer hardware and software to the National Center for the Deaf. He was also ordered to teach the deaf how to operate computers in lieu of a prison sentence.

The youth, who was not identified because of his age, managed last June to access the computer line of Yediot Achronot's New York correspondent, Yaacov Eilon. He planted a story, ostensibly from Eilon, that a former teacher of his and another Haifa resident headed a large drug smuggling network in the U.S.

The story made the front page of the newspaper. When it was shown to be false, the police were called in and traced the youth who had also accessed the lines of other computer users.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

A SNAG IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9 (JTA) -- President Reagan reiterated last Tuesday that he remains committed to combatting terrorism throughout the world.

He stressed this point at the end of a short televised address in which he announced the appointment of Frank Carlucci as his new National Security Advisor and said that the Justice Department will ask that an independent counsel be named to investigate if any federal laws had been violated in the secret sale of American arms to Iran and the deposit of excess funds from the sale in a secret account for the Contras in Geneva.

"It is my policy to oppose terrorists throughout the world, to punish those who support it and to make common cause with those who seek to suppress it," Reagan said.

In fact, one of the reasons Reagan has given for agreeing to begin secret negotiations with "moderates" in Iran was "ending its participation in political terror." At his press conference November 20, Reagan denied that the United States had sent Iran arms in order to gain the release of American hostages held in Lebanon, but maintained instead that the Iranians were asked to show their opposition to terrorism by obtaining the release of the hostages.

However, the revelation that the U.S. had shipped arms to Iran, a state it includes on a list of those that support terrorism, has put the Administration's anti-terrorism policy in question. That is why Secretary of State George Shultz was so opposed to the Iran arms sales deal, especially as he had been working hard to get the West European countries to join with the U.S. in a coordinated policy against terrorism.

A Possible Coincidence

It may have only been coincidence but the secret U.S. dealings with Iran was revealed November 3 by Al Shiraa, a pro-Syrian Lebanese weekly magazine, at the time Syria was being castigated in the U.S. and West Europe for having been behind the attempt to blow up an El Al airliner that was to have departed London for Israel with some 400 persons aboard last April 17.

Britain broke diplomatic relations with Syria after Nezar Hindawi, a 32-year-old Jordanian, was convicted in a London court October 24 of attempted murder for having tried to have smuggled a suitcase full of high explosives aboard the El Al plane. Testimony at the trial said he acted on the instructions of the Syrian Ambassador to Britain, Loutof Haydar.

The U.S. recalled its Ambassador from Syria and pressure was on the West European countries to act against Syria. But as the U.S. was studying the next step to take against Syria, the negotiations with Iran were revealed and have dominated the news ever since. Syria was no longer the focus of attention.

This was true even though Hindawi's brother, Ahmed Hazi, 35, and another Jordanian, Farouk Salameh, 40, were convicted in a West Berlin court November 26 of bombing the German-Arab Friendship Club in West Berlin last March. The court issued a warrant for the arrest of Haythem Saed, a Syrian Embassy intelligence officer, as an accomplice.

Since the Iranian dealings have become public the U.S. has taken several steps against Syria which have received scant attention.

First, the State Department forbade the sale to Syria of technical equipment such as computers and planes and spare parts for planes and urged U.S. oil companies in Syria to leave. Then, on November 24 the State Department announced its support of a Council of Europe resolution to cut down on the abuse of diplomatic immunity.

"Its principle provisions concern a closer scrutiny of diplomats who are suspected of having connections to terrorism, exchanging such information among their states subscribing to the resolution, considering refusing to accept diplomats about whom another member state has concrete information of their involvement in terrorism and considering restricting the size of diplomatic or consular posts when there is evidence of involvement in terrorism by that state," State Department spokesman Charles Redman explained. He added that the U.S. has already been doing this.

Redman announced last Thursday that the U.S. will no longer issue visas to persons holding Syrian "service passports," which the Syrians use to identify the person is a government employee.

"Our decision is the direct result of evidence that the Syrian government has been issuing service passports to non-Syrians who have conducted terrorist acts in Europe," he said. He noted that Hindawi had such a passport. West Germany has taken a similar step, according to Redman.

He said any visas issued to Syrians, except diplomats going to the U.S. or the United Nations on official business, will be for a single entry. Visa applications from Syrians will take a minimum of 20 days to be processed, Redman said.

The U.S. has still not broken diplomatic relations, probably because many in the State Department consider Syria important to the Middle East peace process despite its avowed rejection of the peace process.

Yet the peace process, as well as the war on terrorism, remains on hold until the Iranian situation in its many ramifications gets the full public airing that Reagan said he wants.

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization of Brazil is collecting one million signatures on a petition to be presented to the government in Brasilia calling on it to support repeal of the 1975 United Nations General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism. The first to sign the petition was Roberto Marinho, publisher of O Globo, the country's largest circulation daily newspaper and head of the O Globo Television and Radio Network.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The 1987 Wolf Foundation Prize in the arts is to be awarded to U.S. violinist Isaac Stern and Polish Composer Krzysztof Penderecki, Minister for Education and Culture Yitzhak Navon, who is also the chairman of the Wolf Foundation Council, announced. The two men will share the \$100,000 prize, to be presented by President Chaim Herzog at a ceremony in the Knesset next May.