

PROPOSED SALE OF MAVERICK MISSILES TO SAUDIS FACES FIGHT IN CONGRESS

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, June 2 (JTA) -- Strong bipartisan opposition is seen in Congress to the State Department's proposal Monday to sell 1,600 Maverick air-to-ground missiles to Saudi Arabia.

About 30 Senators have written to President Reagan stating that the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia, including the Mavericks, is "not in our best interests." The Senators note the opposition of Saudi Arabia to any peace initiatives with Israel, "our best friend in the region," and ask if "these are the actions of a friend."

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the \$360 million Maverick sale was already approved by Congress in 1984, but delivery was delayed at the Saudis' request.

The arms sale will occur unless Congress blocks it within 30 days. The Administration, citing the 1984 agreement, refused to give Congress the 20-day advance notification of the sale.

"There's no good justification anywhere for this sale," Rep. Mel Levine (D. Calif.), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "It's obviously an Administration effort to buy back some of the credibility lost through the Iranian arms sale."

Levine, who said he would introduce a resolution to oppose the sale, said the Mavericks sale was a case of the Administration "salami-slicing" the arms package so that while each individual sale was not enormous, its total effect is significant.

More Lethal, Says AIPAC

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee said that the Mavericks in question are more lethal and are significantly more sophisticated than those approved for sale by Congress in 1984. The newer version has never been exported before, according to AIPAC. "They're so upgraded, they could be in a class by themselves," said an AIPAC spokesperson.

The proposed sale of the Maverick missiles comes a week after the Reagan Administration announced that it would postpone the sale of 60 F-15 fighter planes to Saudi Arabia. The delay came in the aftermath of the refusal of two Saudi F-15s to force down the Iraqi jet that attacked the U.S. missile frigate Stark in the Persian Gulf.

The State Department has defended the Saudi response, saying that the pilots didn't get authorization to stop the jet. "The Saudis do quite a bit in terms of providing combat air patrol support for the AWACs (surveillance planes) that are in the (Gulf) region," Redman said.

FORMER SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT HEADS JUDICIAL PROBE OF GSS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 2 (JTA) -- A three-man judicial commission to investigate alleged misconduct by the General Security Services (GSS) was appointed by Supreme Court President Meir Shamgar Tuesday. He acted at the formal request of

Premier Yitzhak Shamir. The panel is headed by Justice Moshe Landau, a former President of the Supreme Court. Its other members are State Comptroller Judge Yaacov Maltz and Gen. (Res.) Yitzhak Hofi, a former head of Mossad, Israel's external intelligence agency.

They will convene immediately after the Shavuot holiday to plan their schedule and agenda.

The Cabinet voted Sunday to initiate a judicial inquiry into the GSS, also known as Shin Bet, following charges that it fabricated evidence and extracted a confession by illegal means to obtain the conviction by a military tribunal in 1981 of former Israel Defense Force officer Izat Nafsu on charges of treason and espionage.

Nafsu, 32, a Circassian soldier, was sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment. He was released on May 24 by order of the Supreme Court, which overturned his conviction and upheld his charges against the GSS.

SKOKIE, ILL., HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL VANDALIZED EARLY MONDAY MORNING

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, June 2 (JTA) -- A suburban Chicago Holocaust memorial, dedicated Sunday afternoon, was defaced with spray-painted swastikas and defamatory phrases before daybreak Monday. Police in the suburb, Skokie, focus of a confrontation between Holocaust survivors and neo-Nazis in 1978, are investigating the crime, but have no suspects.

The vandalism took place sometime between 4 and 6 a.m. Monday, according to Michael Kotzin, regional director of the Greater Chicago Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. A routine police patrol discovered it at 6:15. Kotzin said the perpetrators must have been hiding in bushes and acted quickly. He did not rule out the desecration being the work of teenagers, exhibiting "hostility and aggression. Often, these young people know they can hurt people," Kotzin said.

However, he confirmed the existence of various hate groups operating in the Chicago area, with splinter groups ranging in size between two and six persons each, espousing neo-Nazi ideology. There have been a few reports of anti-Semitic literature and fliers. But Kotzin said ADL found a decrease in anti-Semitic activities in the Chicago area from 23 in 1985 to 14 in 1986.

Five Bronze Figures

The bronze monument is located on the village green between Skokie Village Hall and the public library. It features five figures: a mother holding a dead child, a male child embracing an observant male Jew, and above them with arms spread, a male resistance fighter. On each figure, swastikas were sprayed in silver paint. Over the words honoring "the underground resistance and the U.S. Armed Forces who helped defeat the scourge of Nazism" was painted the word "Liar."

The monument, the work of Detroit artist Edward Chesney, was built after a three-and-a-half-year fundraising effort by the Holocaust Monument Committee, established by the Holo-

caust Survivors of Metropolitan Chicago. Of Skokie's population of 69,000, about half are Jews, an estimated 7,000 of whom are Holocaust survivors. Many of them helped to put Skokie into the national eye when they opposed a planned neo-Nazi march through Skokie streets in 1978. After legal challenges to the march organizers, who were affiliated with the National Socialist Party of America, a small demonstration was held instead in a Chicago park.

Mayor Albert Smith, who was Mayor in 1978 during the well-known neo-Nazi incident, released a statement about the vandalism, saying: "I, and the citizens of Skokie, abhor this criminal act. We believe that this highlights the need for us all to never forget."

Reward Offered

A \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible was offered by the American Jewish Committee, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago and the Church Federation of Greater Chicago. The three groups released a joint statement saying: "This incident not only represents a violent assault on public property, but it defiles and trivializes the suffering of the victims of one of the most monstrous evils committed during this century. It is especially painful for the many Holocaust survivors who live in the Skokie area, for it is a tragic reminder that hate and bigotry continue to poison our community."

Monday evening and again Tuesday afternoon, Jewish religious services were held at the memorial. Clean-up of the vandalism is scheduled to begin Wednesday.

Kotzin noted that more people have seen the memorial since the vandalism than who came to the dedication Sunday.

Mordechai Levy, leader of the Jewish Defense Organization, told JTA that the group has "several dozen people" in Chicago who are going to patrol the nearby synagogue and Jewish institutions "to make sure the incident does not repeat itself."

SHARON, IN U.S. TO SEEK INVESTMENT IN ISRAEL, RIPS MIDEAST CONFERENCE By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 2 (JTA) -- Israeli Minister of Industry and Trade Ariel Sharon warned Tuesday that an international peace conference on the Middle East is "extremely dangerous" for Israel.

Addressing a special meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the Likud Minister asserted that Israel would find itself completely isolated in the much discussed international conference which would be sponsored by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Noting that "even our only friend, the United States," never accepted Jerusalem as Israel's capital, Sharon said that the other permanent members of the Security Council, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France, will put pressure on Israel and support the Arab position. He noted that the USSR and China do not have even diplomatic relations with Israel, charging that Moscow has been supporting Arab terror against Israel and had instigated wars against Israel.

Rejecting charges that the Likud is opposed to peace with the Arabs, Sharon said, "Everybody

wants peace." But Sharon said he supports peace through direct negotiations with the Arabs without preconditions and that security must be "a vital factor" in dictating Israel's borders.

In response to a question, Sharon said that he is opposed to new elections. Noting that public opinion polls show that almost 80 percent of the Israelis share his opinion in that matter, he said that the present unity government should continue in office until November 1988, when new elections are due.

Seeks Help Attracting Investors

Turning to more specific issues of his Ministry, Sharon called on the Jewish leaders to help Israel attract foreign investors. He said that in the last two-and-a-half years it became "easier" for foreign investors to invest in Israel and that special attention was given to eliminate the hardships of "red tape."

Sharon said that he is eager to get in touch with personal investors in the U.S. to "show them the possibilities in Israel."

According to Sharon, the size of foreign investments in Israel's economy is small. He said the total investments in Israel in 1985 reached the sum of \$1.2 billion, with only \$47 million of it in foreign investments.

He said that one of the signs of the improved Israeli economy is the growth in Israel's export of industrial goods. He said that last year Israel's industrial exports amounted to \$6.3 billion, a 10 percent increase from the previous year.

Sharon arrived in New York Monday for an eight-day visit, mainly on matters relating to his Ministry.

REFUSENIK TELLS CONGRESSMAN SOVIETS THREATEN CHARGE OF PARASITISM By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 2 (JTA) -- Lev Elbert, a longtime Jewish refusenik, revealed Monday that the Soviet government is threatening to charge him with "parasitism" for not having a job while refusing to provide him with employment.

Elbert told this to Rep. Larry Smith (D. Fla.) during a telephone call from Smith's Capitol Hill office to Elbert in Kiev.

"If anybody is listening on this telephone line, I hope they understand it is a disgraceful, despicable thing for the Soviet Union to keep you from getting a job, and prosecute you for not having one," Smith told Elbert.

A spokesman for Smith said there was little difficulty in getting through to Elbert. However, Soviet Jewry activist groups in the United States and Canada who tried to call refuseniks in Moscow and Leningrad Monday were told the lines were "out of order."

Smith promised Elbert that he will ask Rep. Steny Hoyer (D. Md.), co-chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, to press Elbert's case with the Soviet government both at the Soviet Embassy here and in Moscow.

During a recent visit to Moscow, Hoyer brought up the Elbert case in talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev; Yuri Dubinin, the Soviet Ambassador to the United States; and his predecessor, Anatoly Dobrynin. He was told a decision would be made within three weeks on whether Elbert and his family could emigrate to Israel, but six weeks have already passed, according to Smith. Elbert, who has been trying to emigrate with his family since 1976, was released

from prison on June 20, 1984, after serving a year on the charge of "evasion of draft by a reservist."

He had been denied permission to emigrate on the grounds that he possessed classified information, even though his army service was as a private in a construction battalion that had been building a swimming pool.

Smith said that during his conversation he learned of a new concern for Elbert and his wife, Inna: their son, Karmi, will be eligible for the draft in a year, which could give the Soviets new grounds for denying the family an emigration visa.

BARBIE TRIAL PROMPTS RASH OF FRENCH ANTI-SEMITIC GRAFFITI

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 2 (JTA) -- The trial of Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie has produced a flood of anti-Semitic graffiti and pamphleteering all over France, much of it aimed at high school students in the Paris area.

The most frequent claim is that the Holocaust was a Jewish hoax. A synagogue in Nantes, a city of 223,000 in northwestern France, had its walls daubed with the words "Free Barbie" and "Hitler will live for 1,000 years." The graffiti was discovered Sunday morning by Rabbi David Azoulay. The local police are investigating.

Elsewhere, anonymous tracts have appeared stating that "No Jews were killed by the Germans who deported them to Eastern Europe because the Jews were the enemy of Germany."

The tracts add, "The Jews opposed Hitler like they oppose Waldheim now, but a thousand times more." The reference is to President Kurt Waldheim of Austria, who has been accused of complicity in Nazi atrocities when he served in the German army in the Balkans during World War II.

Barbie, charged with crimes against humanity, is on trial in Lyon where he was the wartime Gestapo chief responsible for the deportation of thousands of French Jews to death camps.

JEWISH GROUPS ASK SUPREME COURT TO OVERTURN MOMENT-OF-SILENCE LAW

NEW YORK, June 2 (JTA) -- Two national Jewish organizations have filed friend-of-the-court briefs asking the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold a federal appeals court ruling that a New Jersey law requiring state school employees to direct a moment of silence in public school classrooms is unconstitutional.

The briefs were filed in the case of Karcher v. May by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Congress, both of which maintain that the New Jersey legislation was enacted "solely for religious purposes" to circumvent the separation clause which bans organized prayer in public schools.

The AJCongress brief was signed by the American Jewish Committee, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, People for the American Way and the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, an umbrella group representing 125 Jewish communal organizations.

The ADL was joined in its brief by Americans for Religious Liberty, a national educational organization defending religious liberty.

Meyer Eisenberg, chairman of the ADL's Law Committee, said the New Jersey statute was the

latest of many attempts by the state legislature to put prayer back into its public schools. The state "is not permitted to legislate a substitute for vocal prayer," Eisenberg said. "To the extent the New Jersey moment of silence law has this very purpose -- to substitute for organized vocal prayer in our public schools -- it intends to endorse and does endorse prayer and religions," he added.

The AJCongress brief cited 18 previous attempts by the new Jersey legislature to circumvent Supreme Court rulings holding public school prayer unconstitutional. "This case presents, in stark relief, the question whether it is the business of government to encourage or promote religious observance," the brief states.

The legislation, enacted in 1982, was the subject of a suit brought against the State of New Jersey in federal court by a teacher and several parents who claimed it was unconstitutional. The district court ruled against the state. New Jersey officials appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals, which upheld the lower court decision. The state then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which has agreed to hear it.

The brief points out that New Jersey school children are not now prohibited from praying privately during their free time at school, so that the creation by the government of a scheduled silent period proceeds beyond accommodation of religion, as required by the Constitution, and constitutes an endorsement of religion, which is constitutionally prohibited.

AJCONGRESS LEADERS SEE GREECE SOON ESTABLISHING FULL TIES WITH ISRAEL

NEW YORK, June 2 (JTA) -- American Jewish Congress leaders said Monday that they have every reason to believe Greece will establish full diplomatic relations with Israel, perhaps within two years. The two countries are cooperating in tourism and agricultural projects.

AJCongress officials, led by honorary president Howard Squadron, just returned from Greece, where they met last week with Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias and other government officials, as well as members of the opposition New Democratic Party.

Squadron said government and opposition party officials uniformly acknowledged in the meetings that Greece should establish full diplomatic relations with Israel "at the earliest possible time." He pointed out that following Spain's recent resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel, Greece is the only member of the European Community that does not have such relations with Israel.

Squadron said the Greek officials told his group that an important motivation for Greek backing of Third World and Arab aspirations was the need to gain their support in Greece's dispute with Turkey over Cyprus. "Nonetheless," Squadron said, "it was uniformly acknowledged by both government and opposition officials that Greece should establish full diplomatic relations with Israel at the earliest possible time."

He declared that the delegation "was encouraged by its conversations with Prime Minister Papandreu to believe that the establishment of full diplomatic relations with Israel will not be long delayed and would certainly occur in the current term of the current government," which runs through early 1989.

UNITY GOVERNMENT CONCEPT FINDS ONE DEFENDER AT SYMPOSIUM - PREMIER SHAMIR

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 2 (JTA) -- A three-day symposium on "The power-sharing politics of national unity government -- cure or predicament?" produced few defenders of national unity government as a permanent fixture of Israeli politics. Most participants contended that it wasn't functioning properly and many deplored what they saw as subordination of ideology to political factors.

The symposium, which opened Sunday at Tel Aviv University, is sponsored by the Jeane Kirkpatrick Forum for Public Leadership and Public Policy, named for the former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. It drew speakers from the major Israeli political factions and from abroad.

The best that was said of the present Labor-Likud unity coalition was that it did a good job extricating the Israel Defense Force from Lebanon and stabilizing the economy. Most participants agreed it failed to resolve social problems or make progress toward peace.

Its most vocal defender, Premier Yitzhak Shamir, insisted that the unity government was "continuing to function effectively," though he admitted that the dispute over an international peace conference for the Middle East "came close to threatening the government's stability." But he added that this was no reason to dissolve the coalition and call early elections.

Ideology Said To Be Submerged

Israeli author Moshe Shamir noted that the dispute over the proposed international conference was not expressed in ideological terms, as he believed it should have been. Another author, Amnon Shamosh, said ideology was rendered impotent under national unity governments and this produced only shallow leadership.

Former Histadrut Secretary General Yitzhak Ben-Aharon charged that Israel was not making maximum use of its available resources because ideological goals were being ignored. "We all sit by the stream and go thirsty," he said, adding that it was better to take an ideological stand on issues than to abandon ideology.

Dr. Bernardino Gomes, former chief of the Prime Minister's Office in Portugal, observed that the problem is not confined to Israel. "Nobody wants to discuss ideology today... Throughout Europe, bureaucratic and technical approaches to government take precedence over ideology," he said.

Other Opposition

Labor MK Abba Eban, who chairs the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, likened the present coalition to strong medication which can become addictive if taken to excess. "The sooner we return to our previous system, the sooner we place responsibility on one political bloc, the better our democratic system will be," Eban said.

Likud MK Eliahu Ben-Elissar, who was Israel's first Ambassador to Egypt, cautioned that in the future national unity governments should be formed only in a grave emergency. He predicted it would be a long time before the experiment is tried again.

Yossi Beilin, Political Director General of the Foreign Ministry, said the rival political parties continued to assert their differences

within the national unity government, impairing its ability to function properly.

Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel maintained that the national unity government in fact has ceased to function. He suggested that if Labor and Likud cannot work together, the coalition should be disbanded because the present situation endangers democracy.

Hebrew University Prof. Yehzekel Dror suggested that if Israel's national unity government must continue, it could be improved by giving the Prime Minister more power, holding referenda on controversial issues such as the future of the West Bank, improving the civil service and spelling out a clear code of conduct for ministers.

U.S. Secretary of Labor William Brock said power-sharing in the U.S. "is done at the behest of the electorate" and "there are a lot of Americans who seem to like it," a reference to the Republican Administration and Democratic-controlled Congress.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL ENDORSES BILL ALLOWING YARMULKES IN MILITARY

NEW YORK, June 2 (JTA) -- Legislation introduced in Congress to permit religious Jews serving in the military to wear yarmulkes is supported by the Synagogue Council of America (SCA), an umbrella organization of U.S. Jewish religious organizations.

The legislation states that "A member of the Armed Forces may wear an item of religious apparel if ... (it is) part of the religious observance of the religious faith practiced by the member." It is sponsored by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D. NJ), and has 20 Senate co-sponsors. Representatives Stephen Solarz (D. NY), Patricia Schroeder (D. Colo.) and Jim Courter (R. NJ) are co-sponsoring it in the House.

Last year the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Air Force did not have to make an exception to its dress code to allow a Jew, Captain Simcha Goldman, to wear a yarmulke. A 5-4 court majority felt the yarmulke threatened Air Force discipline.

OPHTHALMOLOGIST IS FIRST POLISH JEW TO STUDY MEDICINE IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, June 2 (JTA) -- Dr. Leopold Glasner, a 32-year-old Jewish pediatric ophthalmologist from Poland, is studying here with Dr. David Ben-Ezra, a world authority on immuno-ophthalmology at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center. According to Polish and Israeli authorities, he is the first Polish physician permitted to visit Israel for advanced training since the State was founded in 1948.

Glasner, who was born in Gdansk and works at the Eye Hospital there, said he started a correspondence with Ben-Ezra after reading his articles in American medical journals. "We wrote one another often because I wished to learn more from him about treating patients in our eye hospital in Gdansk," he said.

"I applied to the Polish Ministry of Health and they agreed that I could go to Hadassah. The Hadassah Hospital receives patients from many lands and we see eye diseases we do not see in Poland," Glasner explained.

He will study here for three months before returning home.