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U.S. ASKS ISRAEL TO DROP LAVI PROJECT

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- The State Department announced Tuesday that it has recommended to the Israeli government that it terminate plans to build the Lavi jet fighter.

The announcement comes the day after members of the Israeli Knesset's Defense and Foreign Affairs and Finances Committees voted to continue the project by a margin of 22 to 6. The Cabinet will vote next Sunday on the issue.

"Both the United States and Israel estimate production costs at a magnitude which could not be funded within our security assistance programs to Israel without crowding out other important projects," said State Department spokesman Charles Redman. "Given the budgetary constraints we and Israel face we believe a decision by Israel to terminate the Lavi would be in the best interests of both our countries."

Redman said this view was conveyed to Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin during his visit here early last month, as well as during a "recent occasion" which he did not elaborate.

Sources have said that a decision by the Israeli government to continue the Lavi project, which would require an additional investment of \$4-6 billion, could bring about a sharp American reaction, which would gravely affect mutual military purchases and thus harm the Israel defense establishment.

Earlier this year, then-U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Dov Zakheim spent five days in Israel trying to convince its political and military leaders that the Lavi, financed by U.S. grants, is too costly to produce. Zakheim urged the Israelis to abandon the Lavi in favor of an already tried and tested aircraft.

He proposed as options the F-16, manufactured by General Dynamics, and the F-18, each of which would be produced under license in Israel and modified by the Israelis according to their needs.

SIX ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Six Israeli soldiers were wounded lightly Monday when mortar shells were fired at them in the central sector of the security zone in south Lebanon. The mortar fire originated outside the security zone, according to an Israeli Army spokesperson.

Israeli troops responded with artillery and mortar fire directed at the source of the attack outside the security zone. Israeli gunships fired a missile at a vehicle near Nabatiyeh, 20 miles from the border, according to Israel Radio.

The attack claimed the largest number of wounded Israeli troops since a roadside bombing in May injured four.

The attack in the security zone was the second in 24 hours. Sunday, Katyusha rockets fired from outside the security zone by Amal militiamen landed in northern Israel, according to military sources. The attack came apparently in

retaliation for an Israeli bombing of pro-Iranian-Hezbollah targets. Military sources said Amal had retaliated after an Israeli air attack on the Amal-controlled village of Soultaniye.

Lebanon's National Syrian Socialist Party claimed responsibility for Sunday's Katyusha attacks, saying they were retaliation for Israeli attacks on Syrian-controlled areas, according to Israel Radio.

Military sources said they believe Syria supplied the long-range missiles for the Katyusha attack.

SECOND TRIAL FOR ZUNDEL IN 1988

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- The second trial of revisionist Ernst Zundel, previously convicted of deliberately publishing lies about the Holocaust, will commence January 4, 1988.

A Canadian court in March 1985 convicted Zundel, a German native living in Canada, of one count of wilfully publishing false information likely to cause racial or social intolerance.

Zundel published a number of books and pamphlets, including "Did Six Million Really Die?" which claimed that Zionists invented the hoax of a Holocaust to extort reparations from post-war Germany. He also claimed nobody had seen Jews being gassed to death.

The court sentenced Zundel, 48, to 15 months' imprisonment and prohibited him from publicly discussing the Holocaust. Zundel appealed the verdict and the Ontario Court of Appeal later ordered a new trial. The Supreme Court of Canada refused to hear an appeal of the Ontario Court's decision.

Zundel's lawyer, Douglas Christie, said the second trial would take four to six months and substantial new evidence would be presented. Christie claimed the court did not permit him to present this evidence to the jury in the first trial.

The court also modified Zundel's terms to allow him to travel outside Ontario province without the Attorney General's permission, as previously required. He must, however, supply an itinerary of his travels.

FRENCH NEWS AGENCY PUBLISHES A BOOK ABOUT THE BARBIE TRIAL

PARIS, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- "The Barbie Trial: Agence France-Presse Tells the Story" is the title of the first book ever to be written by the French wire service Agence France-Presse (AFP). Published by Hachette, the book retraces the entire trial of Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie, which took place between May 11 and July 4. Summaries of the 37 sessions, the testimonies of surviving concentration camp prisoners and all the evidence presented in the trial are included in the 272-page book. AFP president Jean-Louis Guillaud explained the reason for this first in this company's history. "It is so that the awakened memory does not fall asleep again that we have put together this book," he said.

SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER REJECTS LINKAGE PROPOSAL BY PERES

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze rejected Israeli Minister Shimon Peres' view that Soviet participation in a peace conference on the Middle East be linked to the resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and the USSR and to the Soviets opening wider the gates to Jewish emigration.

He told a press conference here last Friday that there was no linkage between the resumption of diplomatic relations and the USSR's participation in the conference. Regarding the conference, he said "The USSR is most interested in having it convened and is doing all it can to promote it." He added that he was gratified to note that there is a growing awareness in the international community that such a conference was a necessity.

Shevardnadze said he thought that Peres was more flexible on the issue of Soviet participation than other Israeli political leaders. He emphasized for a second time at the conference that there was no linkage. He refrained from dealing with the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration. The Soviet diplomat was here to hold talks with American officials on disarmament.

CABINET DECISION SPARKS PROTEST

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- There were protests and demonstrations by workers at the Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDEC) Monday following the Cabinet's decision Sunday to restrict JDEC's operations exclusively to Arab consumers.

The Cabinet approved, by a vote of 15-5, the recommendation of Energy Minister Moshe Shahal to reduce the scope of the debt-ridden JDEC's operations so that the company would cease serving the new Jewish suburbs of Jerusalem and West Bank Jewish settlements.

These will now receive their electricity directly from the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC), the government-owned Israeli power monopoly. The JDEC will confine itself to supplying Arab sections of Jerusalem and the West Bank. The Cabinet rejected an alternative proposal that the JDEC be closed down altogether.

Effect Of The Cabinet Decision

The company will be required to dismiss some 350 of its staff of more than 500. It will be required to purchase all of its electricity from the IEC. Hitherto it has generated five percent of its electricity, and purchased 95 percent from the IEC. The five percent capacity will henceforth be used in emergencies only.

The JDEC is the largest corporation in the administered areas, and its staff is widely reputed to include politically radical elements among its leadership. The company's fate, therefore, has long been seen as a political as well as economic problem.

The company's chairman, Hanna Nasser, said he deplored the Cabinet's decision to reduce the JDEC's concession, but he did not reject the entire plan. Apparently he hopes for concomitant government aid to help bail the company out of its financial troubles.

Jewish residents of East Jerusalem and the

settlements were generally pleased at the Cabinet's decision, because JDEC's antiquated equipment has often broken down in the past, causing lengthy power lapses.

COURT SAYS CONVICTS NEED SEX

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Israel's High Court, in a landmark decision this week, urged that prisoners be allowed to have sexual relations on a regular basis with their wives, or, in the view of one justice, with their women friends if they are unmarried.

Present laws and regulations forbid this. As a result, a three-justice bench of the High Court ruled Sunday that it must deny convict Chaim Weill's application to be allowed conjugal rights.

But Justices Menachem Eilon, Dov Levin and Aharon Barak urged the legislature to change the law and permit conjugal rights, which, in Eilon's words, are fundamental to human dignity. He suggested a monthly meeting between convict and spouse either at home or in special prison facilities.

Eilon, who is religious, said the ban on such rights promoted homosexuality in jails. Barak, concurring, urged that the right apply to all prisoners, whether married or single.

STUDY SHOWS MAJORITY OF U.S. LARGEST PAPERS CRITICIZED POPE'S MEETING WITH WALDHEIM

NEW YORK, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Pope John Paul II's recent meeting with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim was criticized by the vast majority of America's largest circulation newspapers that commented on the controversial Vatican visit, according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The ADL also said that most newspaper columnists and cartoonists reacted negatively to the June 25 meeting.

In making public the ADL's "Big 50" survey of the nation's leading dailies, Abraham Foxman, ADL's national director, said 19 of the 50 largest circulation newspapers commented editorially on the Pope-Waldheim meeting in a total of 24 editorials on the subject (some newspapers commented more than once).

Most said the meeting reflected poor judgment with 15 expressing dismay that it might strain Catholic-Jewish relations. Some, however, suggested that the visit could be used positively.

Eight editorials -- including those in The New York Times, Boston Sunday Globe, Atlanta Constitution and New York Newsday -- noted that the Pope missed an important opportunity to condemn Waldheim for his involvement in Nazi atrocities and raise public awareness of the Holocaust.

Three -- in the Hartford Courant, Chicago Sun-Times and Los Angeles Herald Examiner -- while in general agreement that an important opportunity had been missed, said the Pope had the right to meet with whomever he wished. Two newspapers -- The Seattle Times and The Milwaukee Journal -- were concerned that the Pope's action would clear the way for Waldheim to meet with other international figures and dignitaries.

The survey included the following sampling of press comment: The Miami Herald said that Pope John Paul II "disappointed and offended a large segment of the world population" by receiving Waldheim, adding that "Catholics and Jews,

especially, find repugnant the Pope's praise of Mr. Waldheim..."

The New York Times assailed the Pope's "praise for (Waldheim's) past good work and not as much as a frown about the darker past that the Austrian President has struggled to hide." The Times said the "effect is to slight all victims of Hitler's war."

The Atlanta Journal questioned the Pope's intentions, saying "even if the Pope's original decision to accept the visit were forgivable, his florid and unfettered praise of the man was not. We would hate to see any repetitions of this sad and sorry scene in any more world capitals."

The ADL's survey of "Big 50" columnists disclosed almost unanimous criticism of the Vatican meeting. Of 22 columns, only four did not find the meeting completely objectionable. The rest were strongly critical of the Pope's decision to welcome Waldheim without acknowledging his Nazi past. Some columnists said the meeting was antagonistic to the Jewish community and harmful to relations between Jews and Catholics.

Ten "Big 50" newspapers -- New York Newsday, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Pittsburgh Press, the Seattle Times, The San Diego Union, Los Angeles Herald Examiner, The Kansas City Times, The Miami Herald, The New Orleans Times-Picayune, The Houston Post -- published editorial cartoons critical of the Waldheim-Pope meeting.

WIESEL ADDRESSES BRAZIL'S CONGRESS

BRASILIA, Brazil, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Characterizing the Bible as his "favorite constitution," Elic Wiesel urged the Brazilian people to adopt a democratic constitution that would reflect scriptural values, including respect for human rights, concern for the poor and defenseless and an open door to those in need of refuge.

"Give a haven to those who feel alienated from their former world," he said, adding: "A society is judged by its attitude towards strangers."

Wiesel, here to receive the Grand Cross of the Order of the Southern Cross -- highest civilian medal awarded by the Brazilian government -- made his remarks Monday in an address to the Constitutional Congress, a joint assembly of legislators and government officials charged with creating a new constitution for the country, which is making the transition from military rule to democracy.

The award, presented by Abren Sodre, Brazil's Foreign Minister, was given to Wiesel for his contributions to international peace. While in Brasilia, the country's capital, the Nobel Peace Prize recipient also met Monday with Brazilian President Jose Sarney and other government officials and dignitaries.

Rabbi Henry Sobel, spiritual leader of the Congregacao Israelita Paulista in Sao Paulo, largest Jewish congregation in Latin America, is accompanying Wiesel during his three-day visit to Brazil. The Nobel laureate is a guest of the congregation and the Confederacao Israelita do Brasil, the central body of the Brazilian Jewish community, which is affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

Sobel pointed out that Brazil was the "largest Catholic country in the world" -- with some 117 million Catholics -- and that leading Catholic prelates would be greeting the Nobel laureate. "Mr. Wiesel's visit," he said, "will strengthen

efforts to build Catholic-Jewish understanding in Brazil and, because he is so identified with Israel, will also focus sympathetic attention on Israel's role as a free and democratic nation in the Middle East."

Earlier this year, a commission of 10 Catholic and Jewish leaders headed by Sobel issued a 187-page "Guide for a Catholic-Jewish dialogue in Brazil."

In his address to the Constitutional Congress, Wiesel noted that "as a son of the Jewish people, I view Scripture as the most eloquent moral code of behavior for nations, groups and individuals alike."

He said that as a Jew his experience made him aware of perils that could threaten any society as well as of "hopes that must be offered to any individual anywhere." He urged the Brazilian leaders to view their projected constitution not as a contract but as a "covenant between government and the citizens."

No people, he said, is superior or inferior to another and no nation is holier than another. "No religion," he added, "is closer to truth or to God -- the source of truth -- than another." Racism, Wiesel pointed out, "is sinful and ethnic discrimination outrageous."

Praising Brazil as a nation that has been immune to racism, he also urged the rejection of religious fanaticism as a course that "leads to hate, not to salvation, just as political extremism begets hostility, not security."

Urges Speaking Up For Soviet Jews

He also urged that the country speak up for Soviet Jews "whose only desire is to join their families in Israel . . . Speak up for dissidents everywhere who use non-violent methods to obtain freedom for themselves and their friends," Wiesel said. "Based on the moral imperatives that would be part of your constitution, adopt a policy of interference in other countries' affairs when human rights are violated and when peace is in danger."

Tuesday night Wiesel was scheduled to address Sobel's congregation at the Sao Paulo synagogue. More than 5,000 persons, including government officials and Catholic Church dignitaries, are expected to attend.

Brazil's 150,000 Jews make up the second largest Jewish community in Latin America. Only Argentina's Jewish population is larger. In Brazil, relations between the Jewish community and the Catholic Church are marked by "theological and political sensitivity, commitment and vision," according to Sobel.

ROSENNE HAS A NEW POST

JERUSALEM, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- Meir Rosenne, who recently ended his term as Ambassador to the U.S., has taken up a post as top fund-raiser for the Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem. His title is chairman of international relations for the hospital.

Some political observers believe Rosenne hopes to receive another senior political appointment if the Likud returns to power after the next elections. His political outlook is closer to Likud than to Labor, and his postings as Ambassador to Paris and then to Washington were advocated by senior Likud leaders.

Rosenne, 56, is a professional diplomat and served as legal adviser to the Foreign Ministry before his Paris appointment seven years ago.

FORMER REFUSENIK CRAFTS U.S. CONSTITUTION MEDALS

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- A Soviet Jewish emigre who once held a prestigious position as a sculptor-engraver at the Leningrad Mint has etched his name into United States history. Alex Shagin, now of Los Angeles, has designed two medals commemorating the U.S. Constitution in honor of its bicentennial.

One is a multi-sided design whose outline matches the drum engraved on its reverse side. Upon the drum lies the parchment reading "We, the People of the United States," with drumsticks resting on top. On the flip side is a man in early American clothing with open mouth as though declaring liberty, and bearing a flag with a semi-circle of stars curved around the date Sept. 17, 1787, the day the Constitution was completed.

"I call it my drum medal, and I felt like we have to drum up the meaning of the document that moved the modern era, modern society, modern history, and influenced all civilized countries in the last two centuries," Shagin, 40, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"But above all, I wanted to show a man, a town crier announcing that event, as if he is crying, 'Citizens, listen, something is happening around here... that is going to shake up the entire world and affect our future.'"

The other medal is even more intricate. It shows on one side a group of delegates to the Constitutional Convention, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and James Madison. The reverse depicts three Colonial figures with drum, flag and the Constitution.

Celebrated Artist In USSR

In the early 1970's, Shagin was considered one of the Soviet Union's most gifted young artists. He was graduated from the Vera Muchina School of Art and Design in Leningrad, then worked at the Leningrad Mint from 1973-77. There he prepared the designs for many of the coins that were later issued to commemorate the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow.

But feeling deprived of creative -- and Jewish -- freedom, Shagin applied to emigrate 10 years ago. He was immediately dismissed from the mint and denied a source of income for the 14 months he waited for permission to emigrate. In 1979, Shagin left the USSR in the big wave of Soviet Jewish emigration and settled in Los Angeles.

His first job in Los Angeles was in the jewelry business, then in graphic design and journalism. He was a co-founder of An Almanac Panorama, which serves the Los Angeles Soviet community.

His first break in medallic art came in 1981 from the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, for whom he designed the "Wall-Builders Medal" dedicated to those who provided funds for construction of the federation's headquarters. Since then he has received a half dozen commissions from the Federation, including award medals that depicted the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and Micah.

He has also designed commemorative medals depicting Maimonides, Sigmund Freud, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Simon Wiesenthal, Albert Einstein, Anatoly Sharansky and Elie Wiesel.

Shagin grew up knowing little about Judaism. He said his grandmother spoke Hebrew and Yid-

dish, and was brought up in the Jewish religious tradition, but not so his parents. They in turn kept Shagin "totally unaware of my Jewish culture. They wanted to protect me against anti-Semitism, especially in the 1950's, in Stalin's last years, when it was virtually impossible to teach a child anything Jewish. So it was a process of eventual assimilation into Soviet culture," he recalled.

"My artistic career didn't allow me anything of the Jewish cultural values. So when I decided to enter the professional world of visual arts, I knew I would be constantly very closely watched by ideological bosses, by my artists' union and by mint authorities." He said those restrictions combined with the Six-Day War inspired him and his friends to emigrate.

So how did he even begin to envision the giants of Jewish history?

"To bring me to a recovery of my Jewish roots, I spent a lot of time trying to reeducate myself, trying to learn more about Judaica, tradition and history," he said.

He enrolled in many local Jewish education programs. "I'm not very far away from the level of the beginner, but I felt like you don't have to dig very deep," he said. "Your Jewish background eventually will show itself off."

Shagin said that in his work with Judaica subjects, "I always feel like I am enriching myself. Especially since I'm a great admirer of classical art, and I feel like the best Jewish artists in art history for me in my particular case are Michelangelo and Rembrandt, who weren't Jewish. But they gave me a lot of inspiration in how can I visualize, materialize my visions for Jewish history and Judaica subjects."

The Constitution medals were designed in consultation with New York Times numismatic editor Ed Reiter. A cast bronze example of the drum medal, of approximately two by three inches, costs \$87. The medal is hand-finished, numbered and personally signed.

The medal portraying the signers of the Constitution is round, about two-and-a-half inches in diameter, and weighing five ounces in pure silver. This medal is available in both proof-like and antique-finish forms, costing \$115 each.

Shagin has also designed a sepia-ink litho-print of a group of Constitutional Convention delegates, priced at \$50. A set of the litho-print, bronze medal and one of the silver medals costs \$200. Each medal is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity signed by Shagin. Orders and inquiries should be sent to Shagin, 1319 Havenhurst Drive, Suite 1, Los Angeles, CA 90046.

LET 'EM EAT VEGETABLES

COPENHAGEN, Aug. 11 (JTA) -- A member of Parliament has called on the Justice Minister to draft a law making it illegal for Moslems and Jews to continue with their methods of ritual slaughter of animals. Pia Kjerresgard, a member of the Progressive Party, said in a TV interview that Moslem and Jewish ritual slaughtering methods violate Denmark's legal, moral and cultural customs. "Animals must be protected," she said. "If people want to eat, let them eat vegetables." Denmark's Chief Rabbi Bent Melchior told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Kjerresgard's proposal has little chance of being adopted by the Parliament. A move to ban Jewish and Moslem ritual slaughter is also now under way in Holland.