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U.S. AIR FORCE OFFICIAL SAYS U.S. WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED IF ISRAEL CONTINUES WITH LAVI BUT U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17 (JTA) — An American Air Force official said here Monday that Israel-U.S. relationships would not be damaged if Israel went ahead with its Lavi jet plane project "but I think we will be very disappointed," he said.

Air Force Secretary Edward Aldridge, here on a five-day visit, was received at Defense Ministry headquarters Monday morning and later met with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and senior defense officials. During his stay in Israel, his first, Aldridge will visit Air Force bases and military installations, including the Israel Aircraft Industries which manufactures the Lavi.

Questioned by reporters about the Lavi project, he said that the decision to halt or go ahead with it "is, of course, an Israeli decision with many facets and many important but difficult problems. Our view is that it would not be in the best interests of the Israeli government because of the impact it will have on other programs which are equally important."

Difficulty Of Making A Decision

Aldridge added that "We understand the difficulty of making such a decision. We are disappointed it had to be delayed and we are sorry a go or no-go decision was not made. But we understand the difficulties with that." He was referring to the Cabinet decision Sunday to defer until next Sunday a vote on the fate of the Lavi project.

The American official, who is an aeronautical engineer by profession and received training in the U.S. space program, also told reporters "I don't think there will be any negative effect (if the Lavi project continues). We will be disappointed. But it is an Israeli government decision — it is their decision to make. Our views about the program are well known and we would be disappointed. But as far as our relationships exist, it will not affect those relationships."

Hoping For A Cabinet Majority

The Cabinet's decision Sunday to delay voting on the Lavi followed public urgings last week by the State Department and personal messages by Secretary of State George Shultz to top Israeli government leaders to ground the Lavi. In addition, a growing number of Cabinet Ministers now favor scrapping the jet. Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres resolved privately and recommended jointly to the Cabinet that it defer a vote for a week or two.

Peres said Monday that the Cabinet will deal with the Lavi project at its next session. He told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that there would have been a tie had the vote been called at Sunday's session. He said he hoped that by next Sunday's Cabinet meeting there will be a majority for continuing the Lavi.

SHAMIR ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO ROMANIA

JERUSALEM, Aug. 17 (JTA) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was scheduled to leave Monday evening for a three-day official visit to Romania. Officials expected Shamir's talks with Romanian Presi-

dent Nicolae Ceausescu to center on an international Middle East peace conference, which Shamir still firmly rejects and of which the Rumanian leader has been a long-time advocate.

Ceausescu hosted PLO chairman Yasir Arafat in Bucharest last week.

Ceausescu's invitation to Shamir is seen as an effort to improve his standing on the world stage and revamp his image as an international statesman. That standing has suffered recently as a result of the decision by the U.S. Congress to withhold Most Favored Nation status from Rumania on grounds of human rights abuses.

Israeli sources said Shamir would want to bring up the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration with Ceausescu and his aides. The idea of emigrants flying through Bucharest direct to Tel Aviv has long been mooted as a partial solution to the problem of "neshira" (dropping out).

OPPOSITION IS GROWING WITHIN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY TO BORK'S NOMINATION TO THE SUPREME COURT

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 (JTA) — Opposition to the nomination of Judge Robert Bork to the Supreme Court is mounting in the Jewish community. The Jewish War Veterans last week became the fifth Jewish organization to voice its protest.

"Contrary to the Administration rhetoric surrounding Bork's nomination, the issue is one of ideology and the Supreme Court is not well-served by extremist positions," said the statement issued by Edwin Goldwasser, the group's national commander.

The statement by the Jewish War Veterans, a mainstream organization, suggests the extent to which Bork's nomination is meeting opposition in the Jewish community. Worried about Bork's stand on minority and women's rights and church/state issues, some Jewish groups which do not traditionally oppose presidential appointments, consider this one fight where they can not remain on the sidelines.

Along with the Jewish War Veterans, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), American Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith Women, National Council of Jewish Women and New Jewish Agenda are opposing the Bork nomination. The National Jewish Coalition has come out in support of the nomination, maintaining that Bork is "eminently qualified" to serve on the court and that "neither ideology nor political opportunism should prevent him from doing so."

David Coyne, executive director of New Jewish Agenda, said he was "very encouraged" by Jewish opposition to Bork. He noted that a year ago, during the nominations of Justice Antonin Scalia and Chief Justice William Rehnquist "the Jewish community was almost nowhere to be found."

Imma Gettler, president of B'nai B'rith Women, an organization which did not oppose the two previous court nominations, said her members are showing an unusual interest and concern about the Bork appointment.

"As a Jewish women's organization we felt compelled to speak out in opposition to Bork because he has spoken out on many subjects affecting women and Jews on which we are on record," said Gettler.

But sources are saying that other Jewish groups will have to oppose Bork if the Jewish community is going to have an impact on the nomination. The Washington Jewish Week recently reported that three Jewish Senators invited several Jewish organizations to send repre-

representatives to a closed-door meeting to urge them to take a stand on this issue. Sen. Alan Cranston (D. Calif.), reportedly told them that by opposing Bork, Jewish groups could show that they are interested in issues besides Israel. Sens. Carl Levin (D. Mich.) and Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio) also reportedly attended the meeting.

Rabbi David Saperstein, executive director of the UAHC's Religious Action Center, said that some Senators who will be swing votes on the Bork nomination could be influenced by the Jewish community's stand on this issue.

"I think what the Jewish community does is going to send a profound signal rippling through the Senate that may well determine the outcome of this battle," he added.

But some Jewish organizations invited to the meeting are still debating whether to oppose the nomination and say they might decide to remain neutral. The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith is currently reviewing Bork's decisions and writings.

"We're just trying to be objective about it. That's why they're having a hearing. Why have a hearing if everyone's taken a position on this?" said David Brody, ADL Washington representative.

The American Jewish Committee has a tradition of not commenting on Supreme Court and Cabinet nominations which are presidential prerogatives, explained David Harris, the group's Washington representative. But he added: "We'll be watching the hearings closely and we reserve the right to reconsider."

EL AL GROUNDED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17 (JTA) -- Nearly 1,000 passengers who planned to leave Israel on El Al flights Monday were stranded because of a sudden job action by pilots. Efforts were under way by El Al management to arrange alternative flights.

About a dozen pilots reported sick at midnight Sunday, claiming that they were not well enough to fly. But aviation observers noted that the pilots did not require medical attention and that they were really demanding a rescheduling of their vacations.

This is the second job action by El Al pilots this year. The El Al Pilots' Association announced last week that 46 pilots would start a "mass vacation" beginning Tuesday. Under civil aviation regulations, all pilots must take a 10-day consecutive holiday every year, and 132 of El Al's 178 pilots had already scheduled their compulsory vacations. But the El Al management said that it and not the pilots individually would decide the vacation schedules. The pilots responded by calling in sick.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The monthly consumer price index rose only 0.2 percent during July. The official figure, released Friday, was much less than government and independent analysts had predicted. The Central Bureau of Statistics attributed the low inflation rate to substantial drops in the prices of fruit and vegetables, and of clothing, during July. The July figure means that employers will not have to pay a cost-of-living increment until at least November.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

By Ellen Kachuck Rosenbluth

(Editor's Note: Ellen Kachuck Rosenbluth is director of public affairs for B'nai B'rith Canada, and coordinator of B'nai B'rith's involvement before the Deschenes Commission.)

TORONTO, Aug. 17 (JTA) -- The government of Canada introduced measures June 23 to prosecute Nazi war criminals in Canada and to prevent any war criminals from entering the country.

The Minister of Justice, Ray Hnatyshyn, called the proposed amendments to the Criminal Code, the Citizenship Act and the Immigration Act "historic legislation."

This initiative represented a most significant step in the process which began with the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals in February 1985. After two years of hearings and investigations, Chief Justice Jules Deschenes, the chairman of the inquiry, submitted his report to Parliament on December 30, 1986. When the government disclosed the report and its response in Parliament on March 12, the Justice Minister made a commitment to introduce legislation before the summer recess of Parliament.

Parliament is now taking that recess, but the law enabling Canada to bring Nazi war criminals to justice has not yet been passed. B'nai B'rith Canada was dismayed when on June 30 the legislation was withdrawn until Parliament resumes in the fall, despite the Government's commitment to enact legislation, and the all-party agreement to speed it through the House of Commons.

Concern And Praise

We remain concerned that 42 years after the war only one Nazi war criminal in Canada has been extradited; not one has been prosecuted, deported or denaturalized.

In light of Canada's tradition of inaction in dealing with Nazi war criminals, B'nai B'rith Canada's League for Human Rights praised the government for moving quickly and decisively when the Justice Minister introduced the proposed amendments (Bill C-71).

"We are gratified that the government has given top priority to the problem," said David Matas, senior legal counsel representing the League at the Commission hearings. "Time is of the essence. It is crucial that the legislation be passed immediately in order to begin the long overdue process of bringing Nazi war criminals to justice. We must see that prosecutions are initiated quickly, before more criminals and witnesses progress into old age. In the context of 40 years of Canadian inaction, we cannot afford to lose one more day."

The bill would enable Canada to take action against an estimated 20 suspected Nazi war criminals identified in the Deschenes report as still living in Canada.

"The problem of war criminals should, wherever possible, be dealt with here in Canada, and every case must be resolved in a manner consistent with Canadian standards of law and evidence," Hnatyshyn said in describing the guiding principle behind the proposed legislation.

In search of the "made in Canada solution," the Minister proposed amendments to the Criminal Code providing Canadian courts with jurisdiction to prosecute in Canada war crimes and crimes against humanity that were committed outside Canada. To ensure that the law would be retrospective rather than retroactive,

only those offenses punishable under Canadian law and international law at the time they were committed could be prosecuted. Present rules of evidence and procedure would be employed.

While supporting the proposals and urging their immediate passage, individuals and groups such as Robert Kaplan (Liberal) and the League expressed concern that the amendments may allow some criminals to escape prosecution.

For example, the bill may not cover crimes committed by citizens of countries that were not involved in a war with Canada. The member of the Rumanian Iron Guard who committed war crimes before Rumania entered the war is one such case; the crimes of the "enthusiastic volunteers" of Axis states against their own citizens is another. Representatives of Eastern European communities also objected to the limited jurisdiction stated in the proposed law.

The Criminal Code amendment would permit only the federal Attorney General to initiate proceedings against alleged war criminals due to the international implications of the legislation.

In light of Canada's 40-year history of inaction on the issue, with the exception of the extradition of Helmut Rauca in 1983, the League urged the government to allow provincial attorneys general to prosecute war criminals along with the federal government.

Amendments to the Immigration Act would ensure that people who are "reasonably believed to have committed war crimes or crimes against humanity" would not be admitted into Canada, or may be ordered deported. In practical terms, this law could be invoked in the future to exclude an individual such as Austrian President Kurt Waldheim from entering Canada.

Finally, under the proposed amendments to the Citizenship Act, anyone being investigated for committing war crimes, or crimes against humanity, by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service or the Department of Justice will not be able to acquire or resume Canadian citizenship.

The proposals would not permit Canadian authorities to revoke an individual's citizenship or to deport people suspected of committing war crimes. They would, however, prohibit Canadian citizens who have been living elsewhere to try to get back into Canada to avoid facing trial for war crimes or crimes against humanity in another country.

Urged Quick Action

As the first organization to receive standing before the Commission and as an organization that has been concerned with the problem of Nazi war criminals for many years, the League first and foremost commended the government for moving quickly and decisively to draft and introduce the proposed changes.

Above all else, our team of lawyers urged the government and the opposition parties to pass the bill before the summer recess of Parliament and ensure that Canada ceases to be a haven for Nazi war criminals.

The government intended to present the bill for passage by Parliament on June 30, 1987, the final day of the session, before the summer recess. The plan of the government was to have the bill go to committee of the whole, and not to legislative committee, where it could be debated for many months. For that, unanimous consent of all the members present in the House of Commons was necessary.

But MP's Alex Kindy and Andrew Witer indicated they would oppose committee of the whole and insist on legislative committee. Witer was prepared to consent to committee of the whole provided the government would accept five amendments he proposed.

The five amendments would broaden the scope of those considered war criminals; impose a publication ban on the hearings; enable only the Attorney General to consent to prosecution (not the Deputy Attorney General); allow deportations only to a country with which Canada has an extradition treaty; and bar an immigrant only if he was a war criminal or criminal against humanity (reasonable grounds to believe a person was such a criminal would not suffice).

The Justice Department turned down these recommendations primarily because they could be contrary to the Charter of Rights.

Ironically, the legislation was not passed on June 30 due to lack of time and lack of unanimous consent necessary for an extension. However, when Parliament resumes, be it in the fall or earlier, the Minister of Justice has once again promised to act as quickly as possible to ensure passage of the legislation.

At least a measure of justice can still be granted to the victims of the Holocaust and their families with the passage of the legislation proposed in June.

U.S. DENIES REPORTS THAT IT PLANS A \$1 BILLION ARMS SALE TO SAUDI

By Judith Colp

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 (JTA) -- The State Department denied reports Monday that it has decided to plan a \$1 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia early next month.

"There have been no new developments and there is no current active consideration of this issue," said State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley. "There is no hidden agenda, there will be no surprises on this issue. As we proceed I can assure you that the Administration will consult fully with the Congress."

But Oakley said the Administration has already stated that it will resubmit an arms sale to Saudi Arabia "when it considers it appropriate."

Oakley was responding to a question about a Washington Post article which stated that the Administration, in light of recent developments in the Persian Gulf, is planning to submit the Saudi arms package to Congress when it convenes Sept. 9. The article said the Administration will argue that a strong Saudi Arabia could be an effective deterrent to the Iranians in the region.

The \$1 billion arms package reportedly would include the 1,600 Maverick anti-tank missiles whose sale was withdrawn in June in face of a Congressional override. The sale would also include 12 to 15 F-4 fighter planes valued at \$500 million and improvements to weapons already in the Saudi arsenal.

Sources have said there is nothing new in the Administration intention to resubmit the arms sale. But they said they expect the White House to inform Congress before the sale is officially resubmitted. Legislators complained in June that they were not given advance warning about the Maverick missile sale.

Congressional opposition to the \$360 million Maverick sale increased after Saudi Arabia failed to come to the assistance of the U.S. missile frigate Stark attacked last in May by an Iraqi jet in the Persian Gulf. The anger grew when the Saudis balked at assisting the 11 Kuwaiti ships to be flagged as American in the Gulf.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Former Prisoner-of-Zion Zachar Zunshain, who arrived in Israel from the Soviet Union recently, has denied rumors that he is settling in the U.S. and does not intend to return to Israel. Zunshain is quoted as saying that he intends to study political science for two years in Ohio, and added: "I don't know what will happen in two years, but it is not correct that I leave Israel in anger, and that I do not intend to return. It is very possible that after the end of my studies in Ohio I will return to Israel," he said.

CHAGALL EXHIBIT PLANNED FOR MOSCOW

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 17 (JTA) — Following years of official neglect by his motherland, Chagall is — posthumously — coming home. For the 100th anniversary of the great Russian Jewish artist's birth, a major exhibition of paintings by Marc Chagall is scheduled to open at Moscow's Pushkin Museum next month.

Long neglected in the place of his birth while the Western world praised him as one of the greatest contributors to 20th-century art, this official Soviet recognition of the Jewish artist is regarded as a tangible result of the new Soviet policy of "glasnost." However, plans for the show have not yet been announced in the USSR.

Poet Andre Voznesensky, a friend of Chagall's who was instrumental in arranging the exhibit, told the press the exhibit was "a victory of glasnost and of artistic democracy." Voznesensky has written the introduction to the catalogue for the exhibit.

Some of Chagall's paintings have been shown in the Soviet Union in the past, but his personal contributions to 20th-century art has not until now been officially recognized. The Great Soviet Encyclopedia mentions him in two paragraphs, in which he is called a "French painter and graphic artist."

Chagall, born July 7, 1887 in Vitebsk, lived most of his life in France, in Paris before World War II and in the village of St. Paul de Vence in southern France in the years since. He spent the war years in the United States. He died in St. Paul de Vence March 28, 1985 at the age of 97.

Difficulties In Mounting The Exhibit

The show will include 50 paintings lent by Chagall's widow, Valentina, 15 from his daughter, Ida, one donated by industrialist Armand Hammer, and several from Soviet museums which have largely hidden Chagall's works away in storage. Valentina Chagall is expected to come to Moscow to help with the exhibit and to plan ceremonies.

Voznesensky acknowledged difficulties in mounting the exhibit. Authorities in Vitebsk, he told the press, refused to do anything to memorialize Chagall. There will be no celebration there, he said.

Chagall's birthplace, a small, wood-frame house that survived World War II, still stands at Number 2 Pokrovskaya Street. Voznesensky said it was the home of a Jewish house painter whose mother remembered Chagall. Voznesensky's attempts to turn the house into a museum failed. Many of Chagall's works, including the famous "I and the Village," immortalize Vitebsk.

As a youth, Chagall moved between Vitebsk, Moscow and St. Petersburg (now Leningrad) developing his unique style of art. After the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, Chagall was named commissar for art in the region of Vitebsk. He created art centers and was actively involved in a local theater group that staged productions for the Red Army.

When he moved to Moscow, he produced sets and costumes for the plays of Sholom Aleichem at the State Yiddish Theater, for which he designed the famous scrim that served as the backdrop for many productions. The Jewish Cameo Music Theater, a current Soviet attempt at Yiddish musical entertainment, uses a copy of this scrim.

Chagall emigrated to Berlin in 1922, and then settled in Paris. In 1931 he visited Palestine, which greatly affected his work in terms of painting Biblical figures, and in his use of light. Chagall returned to the USSR only once since leaving, in 1973, for an exhibition of lithographs at a Moscow gallery.

In a recent article in Moscow News, Soviet art scholar Vitaly Loginov writes of his encounters with Chagall. This article indicated a reawakened acceptance of the Jewish artist.

Loginov wrote that Chagall told him in 1973, "When I see Russian landscapes ... my heart often aches and I feel homesick." Loginov said Chagall asked him if he could please take a picture of his house in Vitebsk and send it to him.

In 1930, Chagall entered into an agreement with a renowned French art dealer, Ambroise Vollard, to illustrate the Bible. This decision altered the course of Chagall's work forever. Jewish themes cropped up in a large part of his work. He once recalled: "I think my first little rabbi from Mohileff had the greatest influence on me... Every Saturday, instead of going bathing in the river, my mother sent me to him to study Bible."

The impact of glasnost on the Soviet art world does not stop there. Following the Chagall exhibit, which opens September 2, the Pushkin Museum will mount an exhibit of the works of Salvador Dali, an artist never before exhibited in the Soviet Union. And the Russian Museum in Leningrad will next year show avant-garde art hidden from public view for decades.

PETER SHIDLOFF DEAD AT 65

LONDON, Aug. 17 (JTA) — Peter Shidloff, a Jewish refugee who helped to found the world's longest surviving string ensemble, has died aged 65.

Shidloff, viola player in the Amadeus Quartet, came to Britain from Austria in 1938 when he was 16 years old. With the outbreak of war he was, like many German and Austrian Jews, confined in an internment camp as an enemy alien.

There he met fellow refugee violinists, Norbert Bainin and Sigmund Nissel, and in 1948, with English cellist Martin Lovett, they founded the Amadeus Quartet in honor of their great hero Mozart. They were recognized as the leading quartet in Europe and admired throughout the world. With Shidloff's death the quartet will now be disbanded.

RUDOLF HESS DEAD AT 93

BONN, Aug. 17 (JTA) — Rudolf Hess, Hitler's former deputy, died Monday in a British Military Hospital in West Berlin. The 93-year-old Hess was the sole remaining prisoner in Spandau Prison there.

In 1941, he parachuted into Scotland and was captured. His reasons for the jump have remained a mystery. He was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment at the Nuremberg war crimes trials in 1947.

Last year, Chancellor Helmut Kohl sent a personal plea to the leaders of the Big Four wartime powers to pardon Hess, who had been hospitalized. Kohl's bid to "mercifully release the prisoner into the bosom of his family" met with criticism by many, including the head of Poland's Commission for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes. However, Kohl's plea was an echo of many letters and rallies in West Germany over the years calling for Hess's release.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — An anti-Semitic, anti-Zionist, anti-Israel book called "The Promised Land" has recently been published in Czechoslovakia in 14,000 copies, Maariv reported Sunday. The book claims, among other things, that "the Eichmann trial was conducted in order to get rid of a dangerous witness who knew too much," that in the Six-Day War the IDF gave orders not to take prisoners of war, and that one of the heads of the Haganah was in charge of Nazi espionage.