

FRIENDS OF ISRAEL UNLIKELY TO MISS OUTGOING DEFENSE SECRETARY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- The expected resignation of Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger would remove from President Reagan's Cabinet the leading opponent of the expanding alliance between the United States and Israel over the last seven years.

While maintaining that he is not anti-Israel, Weinberger has continually argued that the United States must not be seen as neglecting its Arab friends in the Middle East, particularly Saudi Arabia and Jordan, in favor of Israel.

The 70-year-old defense secretary has been the leading advocate in the Reagan administration for arms sales to Saudi Arabia and Jordan, and is believed responsible for some of the harsh actions the administration has taken against Israel during the last seven years.

After Jonathan Pollard, a civilian intelligence analyst for the U.S. Navy, was arrested for spying for Israel, Weinberger refused to go along with a State Department effort to ensure that the affair would not harm long-term U.S.-Israel relations.

Weinberger also opposed the administration's efforts for strategic cooperation with Israel and sought to prevent Israel from building the Lavi jet fighter from its inception.

Controversies in Beirut

Some of his most controversial acts came when the U.S. Marines were sent to Beirut in 1983. Weinberger first refused any direct liaison between the Marines and Israeli troops adjacent to them, which resulted in at least one confrontation between the two sides.

When the Marine barracks were blown up on Oct. 23, 1983, the Pentagon rejected an offer by Israel to have the wounded flown to an Israeli hospital. Weinberger maintained that this was a decision by the commander at the scene, based on established practices. Later, the United States and Israel entered into an agreement to provide such medical treatment.

Weinberger directly confronted the perception that he is anti-Israel in a speech to the American Jewish Committee in New York on May 13, 1983 in which he stressed that "this is simply not true."

"I am a strong supporter of Israel, and an admiring witness to the democracy they have built and preserved under the most trying conditions," he said.

A 'Supporter,' If Not 'Admirer'

But, he added, even if he was not an "admirer" of Israel, "as secretary of defense, I would still be a strong supporter of Israel," because, in addition to the emotional ties between the two countries, "it is clear that we in the United States have an important stake in Israel's security."

Weinberger is expected to be succeeded as secretary of defense by Frank Carlucci, now Reagan's national security adviser. Carlucci is considered close to Weinberger, having served under him in the Nixon administration and then

as deputy secretary of defense from 1981 to 1983.

Carlucci is believed to have proposed the sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia in 1981 and had pushed for arm sales to the Saudis when he was deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency in the Carter administration.

However, it is Carlucci who is credited with the compromise worked out with Senate leaders to remove Maverick anti-tank missiles from a \$1 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia.

Carlucci is expected to be replaced by his deputy, Army Lt. Colin Powell. He would be the first black to be national security adviser.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: IS FUND-RAISERS' MOVE AGAINST LEWINSKY CONSTRUCTIVE OR ANTI-DEMOCRATIC?

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- The controversy surrounding the upcoming World Zionist Organization elections has brought to the surface tensions that have long existed between Jewish diaspora fund-raisers and the WZO's Zionist members.

According to interviews conducted with representatives of fund-raising organizations, a Jewish Agency panel's decision last week to reject Akiva Lewinsky, the Labor Party's candidate for the WZO-Jewish Agency chairmanship, represents a show of strength by diaspora Jews who have been calling for new faces and ideas from the WZO leadership.

But according to Zionist representatives, the fund-raisers acted improperly in rejecting Lewinsky, subverting democratic principles in the process.

By opposing Lewinsky's candidacy, a high-level body of diaspora Jewish Agency fund-raisers known as "the Committee of 12" brought down a fragile arrangement between a confederation of American Zionist constituents and the Labor Party.

Support of Lewinsky by the confederation--whose members include Hadassah, the Reform Zionists of America and Mercaz, the Conservative Zionist organization -- would have been matched by Labor support for Avraham Avihai and other confederation candidates for top positions. Avihai, who is currently chairman of Keren Hayesod, one of the fund-raising arms of the WZO and Jewish Agency, would get the post of WZO treasurer, now held by Lewinsky.

The arrangement would have effectively frozen out members of Israel's Likud bloc from top Jewish Agency posts, a reason given by fundraising officials for their opposition to Lewinsky.

Need For A 'Brand New Face'

Yet the strongest rationale for opposing Lewinsky, according to a top fund-raising official, was to "get somebody young, energetic, with a brand new face -- someone who would help with the process of changing around the agency. We felt Lewinsky would be perceived as being the same old stuff again."

And according to Neal Potash, assistant executive vice chairman of the United Israel Appeal, "Some U.S. leadership felt that Lewinsky was not seen as enough of a change from (Aryeh)

Dulzin (the outgoing WZO-Jewish Agency chairman), and they felt that they wanted to see more of a difference in the leadership."

"I think it is a healthy, constructive step, not an attack on two men," said Rabbi Brian Lurie, executive director of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco. "Avraham Avihai is a friend and a wonderful guy. Akiya Lewinsky is a fine man. But can either provide dynamic, forceful leadership?"

But representatives of the Zionist political establishment feel the fund-raisers may have overstepped their bounds in rejecting the Labor candidate.

Simmy Ziv-el, North American representative of the United Kibbutz Movement and executive director of Friends of Labor, said the meeting in Jerusalem that resulted in Lewinsky's rejection was improper. He bases his claim on WZO rules that outline the limits of "advice and consent," a process of candidate review that he said has been abused by the Committee of 12.

No Respect For Democratic Process

"The committee's move doesn't respect the fact that the Zionist movement is in the middle of a democratization process," said Ziv-el.

"While we, the Zionist movement, respect the right of fund-raisers to review the election of chairmen of the movement," he added, "we expect the fund-raisers to respect the Zionist movement's rights to a democratic process."

Yehiel Leket, chairman of the World Labor Zionist Movement, concurred. "Never before has the nomination process taken place without asking the candidate to appear," said Leket, who is in the United States to attend this week's retreat for American delegates to the 31st Zionist Congress in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. "I think there was a deliberate campaign against Lewinsky."

Leket said that Labor still gives its full backing to Lewinsky, whom he describes as "clever" and "a doer" who has distinguished himself as WZO treasurer.

"The fund-raisers feel he lacks charisma, that he talks too much at meetings," said Leket. "But he introduced a plan of change. There's a lack of leadership from both sides, and policies have been frozen for the past eight years. His plan was never even discussed."

Alternative Labor Candidates

Despite Labor's continued support of Lewinsky, Israeli dailies report that other names have been mentioned in Labor circles as alternative candidates. They include Gad Yaacobi, the minister of economic coordination in the Labor-Likud coalition Cabinet, and Knesset member Mordechai Gur. Both are well known to Israelis and diaspora Jewish leaders.

"I think this is going to be the first dance in the minuet," Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice president of the (Conservative) Rabbinical Assembly, said of the situation. "I think there are going to be many realignments and much re-coalitioning. The real thing to watch is how the confederation, Likud, and Labor slug it out."

Conservative and Reform organizations will watch that battle with intense interest. Ironically, by opposing the package deal that included Lewinsky, the Jewish Agency leadership threatens to lessen the gains made by the Conservative and Reform movements in terms of WZO representation. With Labor, they control 320 of the 535 delegates to the Zionist Congress.

Kelman said he was sure that promises made to the Conservative and Reform organizations concerning top agency posts remain firm. "They must be given a spot, major spots," he said. "No one denies that Reform deserves a major post and Conservative a smaller one. . . . The fight is over the treasuryship."

Fund-raisers maintain that whoever emerges as the strongest candidates for the chairman's and treasurer's posts will be a force for change.

"Who will be the next candidate? Somebody good," said Lurie of San Francisco. "I'd like to see a leader who believes and understands strengthening the diaspora relationship. Somebody who wants to work with partners."

VAD HAPOEL TO SET FINAL DISTRIBUTION OF ZIONIST CONGRESS DELEGATES

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Unless the Zionist general counsel chooses to act upon a suggestion made last week by the president judge of the Zionist Supreme Court, the results of this spring's World Zionist Congress elections will stand when the congress meets in Jerusalem in December.

The elections determine the number of delegates each of several competing Zionist slates will be allowed to send to the December congress. This year, five of those slates went before the Supreme Court of the World Zionist Organization to appeal the procedures used by the Area Election Committee of the American Zionist Federation to distribute the congress mandates.

In a ruling issued last Friday, Justice Moshe Etzioni rejected appeals brought by three of the Zionist organizations, who claimed they were entitled to larger shares of representation at the Zionist congress.

But in an apparent good-faith move, Etzioni also suggested that eight unassigned mandates, usually held in reserve by the WZO, be distributed between two of the appealing organizations, the Religious Zionists of America and Americans for a Progressive Israel. The third group, the Students for Israel, was reportedly not included because of flagrant election irregularities.

According to Karen Rubinstein, director of the AZF, it would take a constitutional amendment by the Vad Hapoel, or Zionist General Counsel, to make those eight mandates available to Zionist organizations in the United States. Traditionally, so-called "floating" mandates have been distributed only to Zionist organizations outside of the United States.

In a telephone interview Wednesday, Etzioni called his suggestion "a more peaceful way to settle differences." Etzioni called the ultimate decision of whether or not to make the additional mandates available "a question of politics now, not law."

Etzioni also clarified the court's decision to accept the appeals of two other organizations, the Zionist Organization of America and Bnai Zion, who claimed that they had been short-changed by an AEC review process that was used to verify voter registration.

AEC officials agreed that mistakes were made in determining voter eligibility of the two groups, said Etzioni. But his decision to accept their appeals will have no effect on the number of ZOA and Bnai Zion delegates, because any subsequent adjustment could only be measured in fractions.

CONGRESS EXPECTED TO ALLOW REVISED SAUDI ARMS SALE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- The Reagan administration's proposed sale of \$1 billion in arms to Saudi Arabia, which was submitted to Congress last week, is expected to go through with little or no opposition.

This was assured when the White House agreed on Oct. 5 to eliminate Maverick anti-tank missiles from the arms package during discussions with leading Senate opponents of the sale.

Supporters of Israel, both in Congress and in the organized Jewish community, had seen the Mavericks as posing a potential threat to Israel. Before the compromise was reached, there were enough votes in the Senate and House both to reject the sale and to override a presidential veto of the rejection.

Once the Mavericks were removed, there was little inclination to fight the arms sale, particularly in view of current United States military maneuvers in the Persian Gulf.

The proposed sale to the Saudis now includes 12 F-15 jet fighters, conversion kits to improve the performance and ease the maintenance of the F-15s the Saudis already have and conversion kits to upgrade 150 M-60A1 tanks.

The administration has promised that the F-15s will be sent to the Saudis only as replacements for any of the 60 F-15s they now have that are no longer usable.

The sale goes through automatically if Congress does not pass a resolution rejecting the sale within 50 days of being notified by the administration.

KEY DEMJANJUK DEFENSE WITNESS NEARLY BOLTS DURING TESTIMONY

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- A key witness for the defense of suspected war criminal John Demjanjuk threatened to walk out of the court Wednesday because he said he was insulted by the cross-examination of state attorney Yona Blatman.

But Count Nicolae Tolstoi, a Russian-born British historian, changed his mind after presiding Judge Dov Levin warned that if Tolstoi withdrew, his testimony of the past two days would be expunged from the record, thus dealing a major setback to the defense.

Tolstoi, a distant relative of the famous Russian novelist Leo Tolstoi, insists that a vital prosecution document which could convict Demjanjuk may well be a KGB forgery. He also maintains that Demjanjuk's alibi "is fully consistent with historical events as they are known to me."

The document in question is an SS identity card, obtained by the prosecution from Soviet sources, which bears a photograph of Demjanjuk at about age 22 and proves that the bearer was a Soviet army defector trained by the SS for voluntary guard duty at the Treblinka death camp.

Demjanjuk, 66, a Ukrainian-born retired automobile worker from Cleveland, Ohio, claims he was recruited into the Red Army and captured by the Germans following the battle of Kerch in the spring of 1942. He says he remained a prisoner of war until he joined the Vlassov Brigade, a unit of the German army consisting of Ukrainians and other anti-Soviet elements.

Therefore, according to Demjanjuk, he could not have been at Treblinka from the summers of

1942 to 1943 and was not the brutal guard known as "Ivan the Terrible," who operated the gas chambers.

The defense contends that Demjanjuk did not mention his status as a POW when he applied to the United Nations for help in 1948 out of fear that he might have been forcibly returned to the Soviet Union.

Tolstoi, who specializes in Soviet involvement in World War II, testified that Demjanjuk's explanation coincided with the facts. Refugees were returned to the Soviet Union against their will until 1950, Tolstoi said.

The historian said that from personal experience he knew that the KGB could easily have forged the ID card to incriminate Demjanjuk because of his Ukrainian nationalist activities. No one can categorically state whether the document is authentic or not, Tolstoi declared.

He objected vehemently to Blatman's suggestion that his admitted anti-Soviet bias could have influenced his testimony. He also took offense at Blatman's questioning of his professional credentials. The prosecutor cited unfavorable reviews of some of his books.

Tolstoi said he was "shocked" by the prosecutor's "insulting manner" and could no longer "participate in these proceedings." Blatman later apologized to the witness, saying he had not intended to imply he was not an expert in certain areas.

INDUSTRIALISTS SEEK DEVALUATION OF SHEKEL AGAINST DOLLAR

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Industrial circles here are pressing for a moderate devaluation of the shekel out of fear that the sudden decline of the American dollar in recent weeks will weaken the competitiveness of Israeli products on the American market.

They seek a devaluation of about 5-7 percent. On Wednesday the shekel stood at 1.564 to the dollar.

According to knowledgeable sources, both Finance Minister Moshe Nissim and Michael Bruno, governor of the Bank of Israel, want to avoid devaluation. Nissim said on an army radio interview Wednesday that he does not intend another devaluation. But, the interviewers noted, finance ministers are wont to disguise their intentions, and Nissim did not demur.

The shekel was devalued by 10 percent last January. It has since bounced back by 4 percent against the dollar, but has fallen significantly against the yen and the major European currencies.

OBSCURE SONG MEANS SCHOLARSHIP

TEL AVIV, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- The army radio's version of the American game show "Name That Tune" produced no winners after 40 days, so Otzhar Lehayal, the Soldiers Bank which sponsored it, has decided to donate the mounting \$3,000 prize to a scholarship fund for demobilized soldiers.

True, only the opening bar was played each day, lasting about a second. But the thousands of contestants unable to identify the music seem to have cause to cry foul. The tune chosen could not have been more obscure.

It was the theme music written by the Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis for the Michael Cacoyannis film "The Day The Fish Came Out."

ILLINOIS FIRM ALLEGED TO BE DISTRIBUTING NON-KOSHER POULTRY

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- The Illinois attorney general filed suit Wednesday against a Chicago poultry processing and distributing company for marketing poultry falsely labeled as kosher.

Named in the suit were Sheldon Terman and Michael Terman, respectively president and secretary of Shelat Kosher Foods Inc., United Poultry Inc. and Espan Food Inc. Their products are distributed nationally under the "Shelat Kosher Foods" label.

According to Dave Curry, administrative assistant to Attorney General Neil Hartigan, the attorney general's office is working closely with representatives of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations (O.U.) and the Chicago Rabbinical Council.

As a result of the suit, a Cook County circuit court order has been entered prohibiting Shelat from processing and distributing kosher food while representatives of the attorney general and the O.U. examine company records and stock. The attorney general is seeking a \$50,000 civil penalty and restitution to consumers under the Illinois Consumer Protection and Deceptive Business Practices Act.

Sheldon and Michael Terman could not be reached for comment.

On Tuesday, the O.U., which supervises the processing and packaging of kosher products, terminated Shelat's certification after laboratory tests confirmed a report from a Shelat employee that kosher "shields" were being applied to poultry in a facility other than the one supervised by the O.U.

According to Rabbi Menachem Genack, rabbinical coordinator for the O.U. Kosher Division in New York, the O.U. has contacted all distributors of Shelat Poultry and notified rabbis across the United States that the company's certification has been terminated.

Genack said that a position paper would be available this week determining whether consumers of Shelat poultry would need to re-kasher their kitchens.

The attorney general's office is directing inquiries to O.U.'s New York office at (212) 564-0330.

ISRAEL'S 1ST BOTULISM IN YEARS TRACED TO U.S. WHITEFISH

TEL AVIV, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- The first cases of botulism in Israel in 16 years apparently were caused by contaminated whitefish from the United States, Health Ministry sources said Wednesday.

They reported it was traced to a kilo (2.2 lbs.) of the fish recently brought from Brooklyn, N.Y., by the relative of a 40-year-old woman admitted to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem last week suffering from breathing difficulties and double vision. Investigators went to her home, where they found the fish. Tests proved it to be tainted.

Several days earlier, a 60-year-old woman, a member of the same family, died at Shaare Zedek Hospital. She, too, is believed to have eaten the contaminated fish.

U.S. health authorities have been notified, although the Israeli Health Ministry could not provide the brand name of the fish.

ISRAELI CABINET EXPECTED TO ADOPT REPORT ON SHIN BET

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Israel's Cabinet is expected this Sunday to adopt the recommendations of a special commission of inquiry into the conduct of the Shin Bet and appoint a ministerial committee to oversee the activities of the internal security agency.

The report, submitted to Premier Yitzhak Shamir last Friday and made public in part, found that Shin Bet systematically used physical coercion to extract confessions from suspected terrorists and resorted to perjury to obtain convictions.

The revelations by the blue-ribbon panel, headed by former Supreme Court President Moshe Landau, has stirred debate in the legal community. It has also revived demands for full pardons for members of an underground Jewish terrorist network convicted three years ago of crimes of violence against Arabs in the West Bank.

The findings of the Landau Commission are not in themselves disputed. But they pose a dilemma, as noted by Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in his initial reaction to the report Tuesday.

He said the security services face a very difficult task fighting on behalf of a state based on law against terrorist organizations which abide by no law.

Meanwhile, according to a Haaretz report, the central committee of the Israel Bar Association decided Tuesday to appoint a committee to recommend how the bar should handle inadmissible testimony in light of the Landau report.

The committee, which has been given 10 days to complete its work, will also recommend measures to be taken against Shin Bet legal advisers and attorneys who have given false testimony in the courts.

Senior judicial figures expressed hope that implementation of the Landau Commission's recommendations will usher in a new era of cooperation between the state attorney's office and the Shin Bet, which have had strained relations for years.

CANADA TO SEEK EVIDENCE ABROAD AGAINST SUSPECTED WAR CRIMINALS

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Canada has begun negotiations with the Soviet Union and the governments of Poland, Romania, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, West Germany and Israel to allow Canadian legal teams to search for evidence in the cases of 20 definite war crimes suspects and 200 probable suspects residing in Canada.

Justice Minister Ray Hnatyshyn announced the development Tuesday night in an address to an international human rights conference that opened at McGill University Law School here Tuesday.

Participating in the conference, whose theme is "Nuremberg 40 Years Later: The Struggle Against Injustice in Our Time," are prominent jurists, government ministers, legislators and human rights activists from Canada, the United States and other countries. Its purpose is to impress on the world the need to implement international legislation on war crimes and to safeguard freedom of expression and the defense of human rights.