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SHAMIR HOPEFUL U.S. SUSPENSION OF PLO TALKS LEADS TO COOPERATION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 21 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Thursday that he hoped President's Bush's decision to suspend the U.S. dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization would help Israel "achieve cooperation" with Washington in the pursuit of peace.

"We can only welcome this U.S. decision," Shamir told Israel Radio on Thursday morning, a day after Bush announced a suspension of the 18-month talks.

Shamir recalled that the Israeli peace initiative of May 1989 had explicitly stated that the PLO cannot be a partner to the peace process.

"We said if the PLO is in, then Israel is out," he said.

He noted that the U.S. decision to "suspend" rather than terminate the dialogue "leads to doubts" about whether the administration had in fact concluded that the PLO was an inveterate and immutable terror organization.

"But we think that reality is stronger than any tactical considerations," Shamir said. "The PLO can play tactics, but the U.S. government cannot afford to do so. It has to maintain its credibility in the eyes of its own citizens and of the world."

Expressing hope that the suspension would not be temporary, he said, "We will mark the beginning of a new attitude and new period by the U.S. to this region."

Shamir's gratification was echoed not only by members of his own Likud party and the parties of the coalition, but also by the leaders of the opposition Labor Party.

"A right decision at the right time," Labor leader Shimon Peres said in a telephone interview from New York, where he was speaking to American Jewish groups.

RIOTS BREAK OUT IN EAST JERUSALEM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 21 (JTA) -- Riots broke out Thursday in the East Jerusalem neighborhoods of Silwan and Abu Tor, following the death Wednesday of a local youth by police fire.

A local police commander said the youth was shot after masked men approached a border police unit and threatened the lives of the officers.

It was one of the rare cases in which Jerusalem police used live ammunition to deal with Arab unrest.

In the riots that followed, three local youths were wounded by rubber bullets. An Israeli ambulance that rushed to the scene was attacked with stones, which shattered its windows. The ambulance crew was rescued by border police units.

The riots may have been fueled by anger over the American suspension of talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But the West Bank and Gaza Strip were relatively calm Thursday, as Palestinians waited for the PLO's official reaction.

By Thursday night, the PLO executive committee was still in session in Baghdad, weighing its response to the U.S. move.

ISRAEL SOLD CLUSTER BOMBS TO ETHIOPIA BEFORE '79, RABIN REPORTEDLY DISCLOSED

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, June 21 (JTA) -- Israel supplied cluster bombs to Ethiopia prior to 1979, former Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin revealed last week.

According to highly reliable sources, Rabin made the disclosure privately last Friday in New York, where he was attending the National Commission meeting of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

His comments came in response to a request from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee to clarify a recent account of Israel's military ties to Ethiopia given to members of Congress by Israel's ambassador to the United States, Moshe Arad.

Several lawmakers, including Sen. Gordon Humphrey (R-N.H.) and Reps. Dan Burton (R-Ind.) and Frank Wolf (R-Va.), had met with Arad and later with Thomas Dine, AIPAC's executive director, to express concern about reports that Israel was supplying deadly weapons to the Ethiopian government.

The matter has been of particular concern lately because of the recent escalation of violence in Ethiopia's decades-long civil war. News reports have blamed cluster bombs dropped by government forces for inflicting massive casualties on the civilian population.

A cluster bomb scatters over a wide area smaller bombs carrying special charges designed to penetrate armor. It can expand the range of a conventional bomb by a factor of 40 times.

On June 14, NBC News showed a videotape, apparently supplied by an Eritrean rebel group, of victims of cluster bombs allegedly supplied by Israel. NBC also reported that Israel has been training Ethiopian security forces.

A day after the report, Rabin told the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations that there were no Israeli military advisers now in Ethiopia. But the same day, he disclosed privately that Israel had sold cluster bombs to the Marxist government until 1979.

No Such Sales Now

However, when questioned about the matter Thursday, Oded Eran, Israel's deputy ambassador to the United States, said he was unaware of any such sales to Ethiopia.

"We do not sell cluster bombs to Ethiopia, so therefore we've notified the administration exactly what we've done with Ethiopia, and that's a far cry from the cluster bombs."

But Eran did not specifically deny that cluster bombs had been sold in the past.

A pro-Israel lobbyist here said it is "certainly possible" that the cluster bombs being used now were supplied by Israel in the 1970s, because they do not degrade in that span.

The 1979 date is significant, because it was the first full year that a section of the Arms Export Control Act went into effect requiring an end to U.S. military aid to Israel if cluster bombs provided after that date to the Jewish state were used against civilians.

The United States continued to sell cluster

bombs to Israel until mid-1982, when President Reagan notified Congress that Israel may have violated that policy by using them against populated areas during the invasion of Lebanon. Reagan resumed cluster bomb sales to Israel in 1988.

Last week, Yediot Achronot cited a State Department document as saying Israel supplied 100 cluster bombs to Ethiopia in October 1989.

A State Department official, responding to both the NBC and Yediot Achronot reports, said he had "no basis" to say the reports are true.

The official said that in recent months, the only weapons Israel has provided to Ethiopia have been "a small amount of small arms, but nothing beyond that." An Israeli Embassy official said the small arms consisted of a few hundred rifles.

Reports About China, South Africa

Rabin's disclosure about past cluster bomb sales comes in the wake of a barrage of media reports linking the Jewish state to arms sales to belligerent nations around the globe.

Israel's defense establishment has been angered by the reports, which Israeli officials blame on leaks from the State Department.

Israeli officials say U.S. officials, particularly in the State Department, are unfairly blaming Israel for an arms shipment to Antigua that ended up in the hands of Colombian drug traffickers.

They are also upset with reports quoting anonymous U.S. officials as alleging that Israel provided aircraft technology to China after the United States banned such shipments in the wake of the June 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

Earlier there were reports that Israel had provided South Africa with the technology to build nuclear-tipped missiles.

Only in one of those cases have the allegations been confirmed publicly by the United States or Israel: that of Israel's sale to Antigua of \$200,000 worth of Uzi submachine guns, Galil assault rifles and ammunition diverted to Colombia, reportedly without Israel's knowledge.

In virtually all of the cases, the accusations against Israel are "specious," said a pro-Israel lobbyist here. But at the same time, at least in the case of Ethiopia, the lobbyist said, there appear to be "legitimate" unexplained questions.

On China, the Los Angeles Times last week quoted a senior U.S. official as saying that Israel is supplying the People's Republic with military technology "over our objections."

'No Evidence' Of Violations

If Israel did provide such technology to China, it would not be alone. A State Department official said Wednesday that Britain has publicly acknowledged providing avionics technology to China following the U.S. ban.

The department official would not confirm or deny the allegations against Israel. But he said he was unaware of any country that was supplying U.S. technology to China following the 1989 ban, which would most directly violate U.S. policy.

The Pentagon and Israel's Defense Ministry refuse to comment on the Times report, because it deals with intelligence matters.

Despite the range of allegations against Israel, they have yet to amount to any major public crisis. The Pentagon, said spokesman Lt. Col. Steven Roy, has "no evidence that Israel has conducted anything in violation of what we are concerned about."

(JTA correspondent Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv contributed to this report.)

ISRAELI OFFICIAL TAKES ISSUE WITH MIDEAST TRAVEL ADVISORY By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, June 21 (JTA) -- An Israeli tourism official said Thursday it was "unjust" for the State Department to issue a blanket warning for American tourists in the Middle East.

Earlier in the day, State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher had urged Americans to "exercise extreme caution" while traveling in the Middle East.

Boucher said that it was possible there could be some acts against Americans in retaliation for President Bush's decision Wednesday to suspend talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"We don't understand this advisory," said Raphael Farber, Israel's tourism commissioner for North America, when reached by telephone in his New York office.

He said there was "no justification" for placing Israel and other countries in "one basket." He said if there are threats, the State Department should have listed specific countries.

The State Department announcement Thursday was not based on any specific threats, Boucher said, but was an update of a warning the department issued after the May 30 attempted attack on Israel beaches by the Palestine Liberation Front.

"On May 31, the department announced its concern over the rising level of violence in the Middle East," Boucher said. "We said terrorist groups in the region have threatened publicly to attack American citizens."

Boucher had no advice on how to go about exercising extra caution.

Some 300,000 Americans visited Israel in 1989, and Farber said that during the first four months of this year, the number of tourists increased 18 percent over the same period in 1989.

"Americans, in contradiction to the State Department, feel safe in Israel," Farber said.

LIKUD MAN REPORTEDLY CHOSEN TO BE NEW ENVOY TO WASHINGTON By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 21 (JTA) -- Knesset member Zalman Shuval of Likud's Rafi-Ometz faction is slated to be Israel's next ambassador to Washington, according to a report Thursday in Ma'ariv.

The paper reported that Foreign Minister David Levy had agreed to a request by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Shuval be named. But the nomination still requires the approval of the Foreign Ministry's nominations committee and of the Cabinet, and acceptance of his credentials in Washington.

To take up the diplomatic post, Shuval would have to resign from the Knesset, where his place would be taken by Chaim Kaufman of Likud.

Shuval, 60, was born in Danzig, Germany, now Gdansk, Poland, and came to Palestine at the age of 8. He served in the Intelligence Corps of the Israel Defense Force and retired with the rank of captain.

He joined the Foreign Ministry at the age of 25 and served two years before entering banking. He served two terms as chairman of the Israel Union of Banks and acting chairman of the Export Bank, before switching to politics.

Israel's current envoy to Washington, Moshe Arad, is due here next week for consultations.

MANDELA WELCOMED AT SERVICE BY FANS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS

By Elena Neuman

NEW YORK, June 21 (JTA) -- The sounds of trumpets, choirs, drums, dancing feet and chanting voices intoning "Nelson, Nelson" resounded in Riverside Church on Thursday morning, as Nelson Mandela addressed New York religious leaders and an enthusiastic crowd in an ecumenical service.

Local and national Jewish leaders were prominent among the religious groups that came to meet the South African black leader and extend to him a welcome to the United States.

"When our cause was not popular, it was the religious community, colleges and universities and anti-apartheid groups, that stood firm on sanctions. I am here today to say thank you," Mandela told the adoring crowd.

He reaffirmed his call for continued economic sanctions and continued international pressure on the South African apartheid regime.

"To lift sanctions now before an irreversible change in apartheid would be a serious political error," Mandela warned, which could "plunge us back into the darkness from which our country is trying to emerge.

"Stand firm. Your message must leave no doubt as to what the oppressed in South Africa demand -- it is democracy."

The atmosphere of the church was electric, as people stood with fists raised in solidarity to the anti-apartheid cause. Some chanted African slogans, others sang along to "We Shall Overcome" and "Amazing Grace."

An Ethnic Festival

Following the singing of "Nkosi Sileleli Afrika," the African National Congress anthem, crowds thronged into the aisles of the church to dance to the "Toyi Toyi," a dance created in ANC guerrilla camps.

The event took on the appearance of an ethnic festival. Prayers were read and chanted in Spanish, Arabic and Hebrew. Representatives of almost every religious faith in America, from the Greek Orthodox to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, had a role.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, opened the ceremonies with an invocation, and Ellen Stettner Math, cantor at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue here, chanted a psalm in Hebrew.

"That a rabbi and a cantor were involved were very important and couldn't have escaped the notice of Nelson Mandela," said Rabbi A. James Rudin, director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee. "It was an important continuation of the communication begun in Geneva."

Jewish leaders met with Mandela in Geneva on June 10 to seek clarification of some of the statements he had made regarding the Palestinians and Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

It was only after Mandela convinced them of his support for the Jewish state that most mainstream Jewish groups decided to participate in the New York festivities.

"Geneva made it easier for us to respond," said Albert Chernin, executive vice chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council. "Had the meeting not been held, the issue would have been much more problematic."

At a meeting with religious and lay leaders prior to the service, a declaration was affirmed

by the approximately 160 leaders to "keep the pressure on," to press for mandatory sanctions by the United States government and to support the release of all political prisoners.

"The meeting was very warm and friendly," said Jean Rosensaft, Hebrew Union College national director of public affairs.

Other Jewish leaders who participated in the interreligious meeting with Mandela were Bernice Balter, executive director of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism; Rabbi Jerome Epstein, vice president of United Synagogue of America; John Ruskay, vice chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary; and Rabbi David Saperstein, co-director of the Reform movement's Religious Action Center.

PROSECUTION CONCLUDES CASE IN APPEAL BROUGHT BY DEMJANJUK

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 21 (JTA) -- "The spirits of the 800,000 Treblinka victims hover over these proceedings all the time. No 'statute of limitations' can apply to the crimes of 'Ivan the Terrible,' and no good behavior can mitigate them."

With these words, state prosecutor Michael Shaked concluded his case Wednesday in the High Court of Justice, where John Demjanjuk, convicted of being Ivan the Terrible, a brutal guard at Treblinka, was exercising his final appeal against his conviction and death sentence for crimes against humanity and against the Jewish people.

Defense counsel Yoram Sheftel has the right to address the court once more, next Tuesday. The hearing will then end, and the judgment is expected within three months.

A death sentence for Demjanjuk is not a matter of revenge, Shaked stressed. "What the prosecution is doing, in the name of the state, is to vomit forth from society, and from the world, someone who is not fit to stay alive even one more day, because of what he did at Treblinka," he said.

Shaked, who urged the High Court to uphold Demjanjuk's death sentence, dismissed the defense argument that any sliver of doubt about Demjanjuk's identity, no matter how small, should suffice to prevent a death sentence.

He argued that no additional burden of proof is required for the imposition of death upon a defendant so convicted by law.

Shaked also rejected the argument that Demjanjuk's clean record as an American citizen for more than 40 years should affect the court's decision. The Israeli law for doing justice to the Nazis, he said, clearly mandates that Nazi crimes be dealt with today as though they had just now been perpetrated.

Shaked criticized Sheftel's performance during the appeal, and dismissed what he had submitted as ostensibly new evidence, including depositions from witnesses in Poland identifying someone else as Ivan the Terrible, and the testimony of witnesses who have since died.

He recalled the positive identifications of five witnesses, and insisted that the key identifying document, from the Trawniki camp where SS guards were trained, was valid. He also pointed out what he called lies and inconsistencies in Demjanjuk's own alibi and evidence.

At the end of the day there was no doubt at all, Shaked told the court, that the defendant was indeed the operator of the Treblinka death camp.

Demjanjuk was convicted on April 18, 1988.

SOVIETS WOULD FORFEIT PEACE ROLE IF THEY CUT OFF ALIYAH, SAYS SHAMIR

By Charles Hoffman

JERUSALEM, June 21 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union could endanger its status as a partner in the Middle East peace process if it does anything to restrict the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir warned this week.

Addressing the Zionist General Council on Tuesday, Shamir said, "I call on the Soviet Union not to respond to the Arab incitement campaign. Whoever fights against aliyah challenges Israel's right to exist and is not worthy of being a party to peace efforts."

Shamir told the gathering of Zionist leaders from around the world that "aliyah does not threaten anyone. There is not the slightest doubt that the campaign (against settling immigrants in the territories) is only an excuse for those opposed to aliyah itself."

"The government of Israel has no policy of directing immigrants to Judea, Samaria and Gaza, and in fact, the olim are choosing to settle elsewhere," the prime minister said. "I and my colleagues in the Cabinet have announced this dozens of times, and anyone who doesn't believe it can go see for himself."

Shamir assured the Zionist leaders that his new government was making a serious effort to deal with the mass absorption of Soviet Jews.

He said a ministerial committee on aliyah and absorption, headed by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, has been set up to deal with the main issues of housing and employment.

"The committee has funds at its disposal, and the Israel Lands Administration is being transferred to the Housing Ministry, so that land for housing will be allocated more efficiently," he said.

Ambitious Housing Plans

Last year, the government initiated construction of some 3,000 housing units. But this year, the number has jumped to 45,000, Shamir said. Until the construction industry catches up with the increased demand, the Housing Ministry will use prefabricated housing, both imported and locally made, he said.

Sharon also announced this week that he would like to set up 40,000 one-story houses, at 30 different sites throughout the country, as soon as possible to solve the housing crunch. He hopes that by December, 7,000 new apartments can be built per month.

The other major issue facing the immigrants is employment. On that score, Shamir told the Zionist leaders that Israel is "redoubling our efforts to encourage new investment by Israeli and foreign businessmen.

"More must be done to attract investment in high technology, with a minimum of bureaucracy involved," he said. "We expect the Jewish business community to take part in this effort, by investing in new firms and securing markets for Israeli products."

The government will also help olim set up businesses and provide job retraining, he said.

"I saw for myself in Petach Tikva that, at least for the time being, many olim are willing to work in factories at unskilled jobs or do shift work," Shamir said. "They study Hebrew during the day and work in factories at night -- and they are happy."

SPLIT DEVELOPS IN BRITAIN OVER HOW TO 'SCHECT' MEAT
London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, June 21 (JTA) -- A major rift has developed in the Jewish community of Britain over new legislation that some leading Orthodox rabbis say will effectively outlaw kosher meat in the country.

The legislation, introduced last week in Parliament, has nevertheless been approved by Britain's chief rabbi, Lord Immanuel Jakobovits, himself a member of the House of Lords.

Other Orthodox rabbis are bitterly opposed to the legislation and are seeking to overturn it.

The new laws place restrictions on shechita, the kosher slaughter of animals. According to the new law, an upright holding pen will be required to hold the animal during slaughter. Many religious authorities believe the restriction may render the meat unkosher.

At a meeting of the Board of Deputies of British Jewry, held Monday night, the Federation of Synagogues, Britain's second-largest synagogue group, asked the board to inform the government that the Jewish community is deeply divided over the requirement.

The Rabbinical Council of Independent Orthodox Jewish Communities, which represents Hasidic groups, said the new law would deprive "thousands of Jewish families of meat and meat products." It criticized the chief rabbi for "misleading the public and misinforming the government."

The new regulation has been introduced as a statutory instrument. Unless the government withdraws it, it will automatically become law on July 5.

GREEK PREMIER SEES ISRAELI ENVOY
By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, June 21 (JTA) -- Moshe Gilboa, Israel's first-ever ambassador to Greece, presented his credentials Thursday to Premier Constantine Mitsotakis.

The ceremony marked a watershed in relations between the two countries, which were united May 21 by full diplomatic relations for the first time since the birth of Israel in 1948.

The ceremony followed the return to Greece of Mitsotakis, who visited with Jewish leaders in the United States earlier this month, with much warmth displayed by both sides.

Thursday's event was preceded by an Israeli concert held Monday by Israeli singer Elinoar Moav Veniadis. The performance was attended by ambassadors, rabbis and journalists.

STORYTELLER LEON KIPNIS DEAD AT 96
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 21 (JTA) -- Leon Kipnis, storyteller and author of some 1,000 stories for children, on which three generations of Israeli children have grown up, died Wednesday at the age of 96. He was buried Thursday.

Kipnis also wrote hundreds of poems, many of them set to music and still favorites on Israeli musical programs. His songs were sung at get-togethers of young and old.

Born in the Ukraine, Kipnis came to Palestine in 1913 and quickly began publishing his stories and poems in children's newspapers and journals, continuing until shortly before his death.