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BUSH, SEEKING JORDANIAN COOPERATION, WILL MEET WITH KING HUSSEIN THURSDAY
By David Friedman and Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- President Bush promised Tuesday that the United States would help alleviate any economic difficulties suffered by Jordan if it abides by the international trade embargo on Iraq.

"Clearly we have always been a friend of Jordan," Bush said at a White House news conference late in the afternoon. "We have helped them in the past; we will help them in the future if they fulfill their obligation," he said.

Bush is scheduled to meet with King Hussein of Jordan on Thursday, at his vacation home in Kennebunkport, Maine.

The president, who interrupted his vacation Tuesday to return to Washington for budget talks and a briefing on the Middle East situation, said no agenda has been set for the Hussein meeting.

The king called and said, "I would like to come over and talk about the whole situation," Bush reported.

Bush will likely question Hussein about reports that food supplies and other materials are reaching Iraq by way of the Jordanian port of Aqaba.

Bush said he would order a blockade of Aqaba "if it's a hole through which commerce flows (to Iraq) in an otherwise tight net."

The president said he knew nothing of reports that the king was bringing him a letter from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, with whom the Jordanian monarch met Monday.

But Bush again rejected the Iraqi leader's proposal Sunday that he would consider withdrawing Iraqi troops from Kuwait, which they invaded Aug. 2, if Israel withdrew from all "occupied areas" and Syrian troops pulled out of Lebanon.

The Iraqi proposal brought in "extraneous problems and did not address itself to the fundamental problem, which is that they took over Kuwait and that they got to get out of Kuwait" and restore its legitimate government, Bush said.

He called the Iraqi offer "a replay of an old position."

Israeli Effort To Lure Israel

The president said he hoped there would be a diplomatic solution to the crisis once the economic sanctions, which are "just beginning to bite," took hold.

But Saddam Hussein's proposals are not even a basis for negotiations, Bush said.

Washington sees the Iraqi proposals as part of Baghdad's effort to draw Israel into the international force against Iraq, in order to turn the Arab countries now supporting the United States against the sanctions being taken.

The Bush administration has advised Israel to keep a low profile in the situation and does not look for any Israeli support in a possible blockade of Aqaba, even though it is just across the Gulf of Aqaba from the Israeli city of Eilat.

"We don't have any plans for any Israeli military involvement," a State Department official said. "It just wouldn't help the situation."

Earlier, without mentioning any specific country, State Department spokeswoman Margaret

Tutwiler said the United States would do something to "alleviate some of the pain that (the blockade) is going to cause some of these countries" that are making "enormous sacrifices" in the sanctions against Iraq.

One country that will be hit hardest is Turkey, which borders Iraq and is losing millions economically by joining in the sanctions.

Bush indicated Tuesday that other unnamed countries will "make up the shortfall" in oil production that is being lost by the boycott of oil from Iraq and Kuwait.

The president also said he could give no time limit on how long U.S. troops would be in Saudi Arabia. "We are going to be there long enough to get the job done," he said.

ISRAEL WON'T TAKE PART IN BLOCKADE, THOUGH EILAT AREA COULD SEE ACTION
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- The Persian Gulf crisis may be moving toward Israeli waters, but Defense Minister Moshe Arens assured the country Tuesday that Israel is not participating in the U.S.-led blockade against Iraq.

Arens specifically denied an NBC-TV news report that Israel asked the United States for additional aircraft and attack helicopters to help in the blockade of Iraq and Kuwait, which the Iraqis occupied on Aug. 2.

"I hear that the embassy in Washington has already denied the report, and I can only add my own denial to it," the defense minister told Israel Radio.

He said Israel also has not asked the United States to speed up the delivery of weapons on order.

Arens said Israel is not directly involved in the Gulf crisis, is taking no part in activities there and has no reason to intervene.

But the crisis could confront Israel in its home waters.

Iraq trades with Jordan across their common border and conducts maritime commerce by way of Jordan's only seaport, Aqaba, which lies within shouting distance of the Israeli resort town of Eilat.

With the U.S.-led blockade coalescing in the Persian Gulf, Aqaba has become the sole port in the region still accessible to Iraqi shipping. And in recent days, the port reportedly has served as a transit point for the shipment of food and possibly military supplies to Baghdad.

Arens said he has no knowledge of any substantial increase of goods being transported overland between Aqaba and the Iraqi-Jordanian border.

"I presume the United States and the other countries joining with it in enforcing sanctions against Iraq are fully aware of the possibility of the use of that route and will take the necessary steps," Arens said on Israel Radio.

If the U.S.-led blockade extends to Aqaba, Israel could get entangled simply by virtue of its proximity.

Yachtsmen in Eilat, a few miles away from Aqaba, said Tuesday they could discern no unusual activities in the Jordanian port. They counted about 10 vessels docked or anchored offshore

waiting for berths. The distance was too great to identify the flags or port of registry of the ships.

Residents of Eilat said that during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war, between 70 and 90 ships could be counted daily at Aqaba.

NEWS ANALYSIS:
GULF CRISIS, ONCE FAR FROM ISRAEL,
NOW LOOMS RIGHT NEXT DOOR IN JORDAN
 By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- The Persian Gulf crisis, which erupted with an invasion hundreds of miles from Israel's borders, now looms threateningly close, just across the narrow Jordan River.

It threatens the status of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which, though technically at war with Israel, has for years provided it with a strategic buffer and barrier against terrorist infiltration from the east.

King Hussein, reportedly despondent and disillusioned with the West, is one of the few Arab leaders who has refused to join the American-led crusade to punish Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for his Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The Jordanian monarch, who is no relation to the Iraqi leader, was en route to the United States to discuss the Gulf crisis Thursday with President Bush.

But until now, Jordan has refused to cooperate with the embargo and unofficial blockade of Iraq launched by the Western nations in cooperation with most of the other Arab League states.

The consequences are unpredictable and understandably make Israel nervous. Its friendly enemy in Amman has aligned himself with one of Israel's most dangerous, implacable foes.

Warned by the United States to keep a low profile while Washington tries to rally Arab support for its actions against Iraq, Israel seemed content to stand behind its "red line," watch events unfold and possibly take advantage of the diplomatic and public relations opportunities accruing from the spectacle of Arab fighting Arab in the Middle East.

Israel's "red line," announced to a supportive Knesset by Defense Minister Moshe Arens, was in Jordan. Should Iraqi forces step on Jordanian soil by invitation or aggression, Israel would regard it as an act of war and react accordingly, Arens said.

A Warning On Use Of Territory

The director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yossi Ben-Aharon, added a vague but ominous warning Tuesday that the use of Jordanian territory by Iraq for "any military purposes is something that we cannot acquiesce in."

Arens, for his part, noting that King Hussein has made mistakes in the past, expressed hope he would not repeat them in the present situation.

His mistake in 1967 was to ignore Israel's warning to stay out of its war with Egypt and Syria. It cost Jordan the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Now Hussein's very throne could be in jeopardy, Arens said. "In times of tension like this, dangers of instability are created in many countries," the Israeli defense minister observed.

"I suppose there are some destabilizing factors in Jordan, as well," he said. "I hope Hussein will be able to overcome them."

Arens' hope is undoubtedly genuine, though there are some right-wing Israelis who would like

nothing better than to see Jordan become a Palestinian state.

Periodically over his long rein there have been times of anxiety in Israel over the stability of the Hashemite regime, a creation of the British colonial era, and the staying power of its ruler.

Hussein is now the longest-surviving chief of state in the world, due in no small measure to Israel.

Israel forestalled a Palestine Liberation Organization coup in Amman and a Syrian invasion of Jordan by threatening military intervention during the "Black September" of 1970.

Israel has seen fit to prop up the Jordanian monarch, not just out of strategic considerations. Hussein until now has enjoyed the sympathy of the U.S. government and public opinion. His wife is American.

He is also held in high regard in Britain.

King Is 'Walking A Tightrope'

Despite their technical state of belligerence, Israel and Jordan have found ways to establish permanent and efficient communications and to manage peaceably the myriad problems that arise along their lengthy border.

Jordan has taken great care since 1970 to tightly seal its frontier against Palestinian terrorists seeking to infiltrate Israel.

Occasionally, a few get through, with bloody consequences. But mostly the Israel Defense Force has had the active cooperation of the Jordanian army in keeping the border closed to marauders.

Jordan benefits from this tacit relationship by the free flow of goods and people across the Allenby Bridge, enabling Jordan to maintain its ties with the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to serve as a link between the administered territories and the Arab world outside.

That relationship is threatened now by the repercussions of the Gulf crisis. Although King Hussein has said he has no intention of allowing the Iraqis or anyone else to enter his territory, he is "walking a tightrope" according to Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy.

Levy, who only recently praised the king for his sagacity and responsibility, chastised him this week for "support of the Iraqi aggression."

CRISIS MEANS FEWER SEATS TO ISRAEL,
BUT EL AL SAYS ITS PRICES WON'T RISE
 By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- The airlift of U.S. military forces to the Persian Gulf may affect the availability of seats for air passengers to Israel, but prices for those seats are not currently likely to rise.

The U.S. Defense Department has engaged the use of dozens of civilian aircraft to transport military personnel to Saudi Arabia, Ma'ariv reported last Friday.

This includes the use of two 747s belonging to Tower Air, a private airline which usually provides charter service from New York to Tel Aviv.

But El Al, Israel's national airline, which operates regularly scheduled services from New York, Boston, Miami, Chicago and Los Angeles, has announced that it is holding the line on air fares, despite the soaring price of oil due to the Persian Gulf crisis.

El Al said last Friday that it "does not see the need to increase air fares while oil prices are still stabilizing."

TEEN-AGE BOY AND YOUNG MOTHER ARE SUSPECTS IN ARAB MAN'S DEATH

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- A 14-year-old boy and a 23-year-old married mother of a baby were the unlikely suspects taken into custody Tuesday by Jerusalem police for last week's fatal stoning of an Arab motorist during an outbreak of Jewish mob violence here.

The woman, Rahel Kahalon, was ordered held in jail for another 10 days by the Jerusalem Magistrates Court.

The boy was not identified because of his age.

The victim, Izzat Halahla, 42, from Jerusalem's Silwan neighborhood, was the father of six children. He died Aug. 9 of brain injuries suffered when he was struck on the head by a brick hurled into his car on the Hebron road in the southern part of Jerusalem.

Eyewitnesses reportedly pointed out the suspects. They also claimed that police officers witnessed the assault but did nothing to prevent it.

No evidence has been produced so far to refute that charge. If true, it is a worrisome sign that Jewish police may experience a psychological block when required to protect Arabs from assaults by Jews.

Apart from highlighting the deepening hatred between the Jewish and Arab communities here, the case provides troubling evidence of the double standard that prevails.

While the families of Jewish victims of terrorist acts receive financial assistance from the state, the Halahla family will get no compensation, because the suspects are not defined by law as "hostile elements."

Jews, moreover, often receive light sentences for capital offenses when the victims are Arab.

Levinger Released From Prison

A case in point is Rabbi Moshe Levinger, the militant Gush Emunim leader from Hebron, who left jail a free man Tuesday after serving 13 weeks for the fatal shooting of Hebron shopkeeper Hassan Salah, 42, in September 1988.

Kahalon's family protested outside the courtroom that the police had no evidence to hold her. But the magistrate said the evidence presented before him gave more than "reasonable grounds" to keep her in jail pending formal charges.

Police said they had a witness who saw Kahalon holding the brick that was thrown at Halahla's car.

The incident occurred during three days of random assaults on Arabs and Arab property in Jerusalem and environs by Jews enraged by the brutal murders of two Jewish teen-agers, Ronen Karamani and Lior Tubol, outside Jerusalem on Aug. 4, presumably by Arab terrorists.

The police have made no arrests yet in the double slaying.

Nor have they arrested anyone for the fatal shooting on Aug. 6 of Aziza Jaber, a 25-year-old Arab woman whose car was riddled with bullets as she drove past the Jewish township of Kiryat Arba near Hebron.

Meanwhile, the token sentence given Levinger was protested by members of Mapam, the United Workers Party of Israel. In turn, the right-wing rabbi, hailed as a hero by his Orthodox supporters, blamed left-wing Israelis for the continuing intifada.

Levinger, who did his time at the Eyal minimum security prison, plea-bargained to get the original manslaughter charges reduced to negligence.

He told reporters he would not hesitate to shoot again if he felt threatened by Arabs. "I hope that next time I will be more careful not to miss the target," he said.

U.S. OFFICIAL PRAISES ARENS POLICY IN TERRITORIES AS AN IMPROVEMENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- A ranking U.S. State Department official has indirectly complimented Defense Minister Moshe Arens for the improved human rights situation in the administered territories since he took office two months ago, Ha'aretz reported Tuesday.

According to the newspaper, Richard Schifter, assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs, noted the improvement in a conversation with a prominent Palestinian leader, Gaza lawyer Fayez Abu Rahme.

His remarks reached the ears of the Israeli authorities, Ha'aretz said.

The paper said that Schifter cited in particular the drop in the number of Palestinian casualties at the hands of the Israel Defense Force in recent months.

There have been no Palestinian fatalities in the Gaza Strip as a result of IDF action for the past two months. Arens and the rest of the Likud-led Cabinet were sworn into office in June.

Schifter attributed the drop in casualties to the fact that Israeli security forces are under orders to fire their weapons only in the most extreme circumstances.

Palestinian sources told Ha'aretz they saw political significance in Schifter's meeting with Abu Rahme.

His name has often come up as a possible member of a Palestinian delegation which would negotiate with Israel.

PLO LINKED TO JERUSALEM BOMB PLOT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- A terrorist car bomb plot intended to cause maximum civilian casualties in Jerusalem was thwarted by security forces last month, it was disclosed in a Ramallah military court Monday.

The chief suspect, Wail Mohammad Musa Salame, a 31-year-old Jordanian citizen, was arraigned for the crime.

According to the charge sheet, Salame was recruited two years ago by Al Fatah, the main faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and trained in the use of arms and explosives at bases in Jordan and Algeria.

In April, he was ordered to remove explosives from a secret cache in the Ramot forest and booby-trap a stolen white Ford to which police license plates were affixed.

The accused was to have left the car in a parking lot next to the government ministries in Givat Ram on July 7.

According to the charges, Salame was to set the explosives to detonate at 2 p.m. local time when crowds of workers would be leaving their offices for the afternoon break.

The plot was foiled by the suspect's arrest a week earlier when he crossed the Allenby Bridge from Jordan into Israel.

JEWISH AGENCY HEAD BLASTS GOVERNMENT FOR ITS 'FAILURE' TO ABSORB IMMIGRANTS
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz blasted the government Monday for not doing its job with respect to immigrant absorption.

"After long months in which the waves of immigration get larger and the Jewish Agency fulfills its mission by bringing over immigrants and expanding the routes of aliyah, the government is still not prepared for absorption," Dinitz charged at the weekly meeting of the World Zionist Organization Executive, which he also chairs.

Dinitz said the government demonstrated its "failure in coping with immigration" by the fact that "until today, not one mobile home was imported, not one house was built."

"Plans adopted by the government have not been implemented, and this may affect the continuation of aliyah," he warned.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon informed the Cabinet on Sunday that the first 1,000 imported homes authorized by the government will arrive within two months and that another 4,000 will be here by the end of the year.

The government also has authorized the construction of 45,000 apartments, mostly in Galilee and the Negev.

It has initially allocated \$500 million to build or import prefabricated housing.

Dinitz, who belongs to the opposition Labor Party, chided Cabinet members for appealing to world Jewry to contribute more for aliyah.

Tractors As Decorations

He was referring to Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz and Deputy Minister Geula Cohen, who claimed Sunday that the Jewish Agency was not doing enough to raise funds for aliyah and that therefore the government should take over the task.

The Jewish Agency is the chief beneficiary of funds raised in the United States by the United Jewish Appeal and elsewhere by Keren Hayesod.

"One cannot search for an alibi to cover the government's failure to cope with housing and employment for immigrants by finding fault with the contributions of the Jewish people," Dinitz said.

In fact, world Jewry increased its pledges for absorption by 300 percent this year, the Jewish Agency chairman said.

Dinitz expressed confidence that Diaspora Jewry would continue to expand its contributions as long as the Israeli government fulfills its own obligations and implements its immigrant absorption plans.

He said that about six months ago, visiting Jewish leaders were taken on a tour of construction sites.

"Podiums were erected with flags, choirs, speeches and even tractors, which were placed in the area as decorations," the Jewish Agency chairman recalled.

"Several months later," he said, "the Jewish leaders returned to those sites to see the new neighborhoods, only to find out that nothing was done.

"Even the tractors had disappeared," Dinitz said, adding, "This is not the way to recruit the Jewish people, nor Israeli society."

AUSTRALIAN WAR CRIMES TRIAL IN DOUBT AFTER SUICIDE ATTEMPTS
By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- Prospects have dimmed considerably that Australia's first Nazi war crimes suspect will stand trial because of his apparent suicidal tendencies, government sources indicated this week.

The trial, which was to have opened July 30, has been rescheduled to Aug. 27.

But Magistrate Peter Kelly has ordered the mental and physical condition of Ivan Polyukhovich, 74, to be constantly monitored to determine his fitness to stand trial. He continues to receive medical treatment as a condition of his bail.

Polyukhovich, the first person charged under Australia's new war crimes legislation, was found with a bullet wound in his chest in a suburban street in Adelaide, South Australia, on July 29, the night before he was to appear in court for his first hearing.

Government sources have since confirmed the widespread suspicion that the wound was self-inflicted.

According to the prosecuting attorney, Greg James, police investigators determined there had been no attempt to murder Polyukhovich, nor is his life threatened from outside sources.

James revealed, however, that the accused twice tried to remove life-support equipment, including intravenous tubes, while convalescing in an Adelaide hospital.

Polyukhovich is charged with 25 counts of murder during World War II and with being knowingly concerned with the deaths of 850 other people, including not fewer than 533 Jews in the Nazi-occupied Ukraine.

BILLION DOLLAR ELECTRIC PLANT BEGINS OPERATING IN ASHKELON
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- Israel's new billion dollar electric power station, the largest in the country, went into operation last weekend.

The first of two coal-fired generating units at the new Rutenberg plant in Ashkelon produced 100 megawatts of electricity on its first day. Output will be boosted gradually to 550 megawatts over the next few months.

The power station cost about \$1 billion, including the purchase and installation of its fuel-burning and generating equipment. A second generating unit is expected to be in operation within a year.

Israel has opted for coal-fired plants because coal is cheaper to import than oil. Its first coal plant, in Hadera, began generating power in the early 1980s.

According to Yigal Porat, head of research and development for the Israel Electric Corp., the utility has saved nearly \$750 million since it switched from oil to coal.

The new Rutenberg station at Ashkelon will help the government-owned Electric Corp. keep pace with growing demand for power.

Demand rose from about 2,000 megawatt-hours in late 1988 to 3,760 megawatt-hours by late 1989. It is expected to reach 3,800 megawatt-hours this year.

The Rutenberg plants are named in honor of the late Pinchas Rutenberg, the Russian-born Jewish engineer and industrialist who founded the Palestine Electric Corp. in 1923.