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SAUDIS WON'T GET ADVANCED WEAPONS IN SHORT TERM, CHENEY TELLS LEADERS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- The United States will not seek to sell its most sophisticated weapons to Saudi Arabia "in the short term," Defense Secretary Dick Cheney assured a delegation of American Jewish leaders Friday.

Nevertheless, the Jewish leaders emerged from their one-hour meeting at the Pentagon concerned about any long-term plans for arms sales to the Saudis and uncertain about the fate of weapons sent into Saudi Arabia in the past few weeks once U.S. troops withdraw from the region.

Cheney assured the group that "none of the more advanced equipment would be (sold there) in the short term," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

But there was no specific discussion of what weapons would fall under that classification, said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

At the bare minimum, though, that heading would almost certainly include top-of-the-line F-15E fighter planes. What is unclear is whether the United States would also exclude in the short term such weapons as Stinger anti-aircraft missiles or Maverick anti-tank missiles.

Congress blocked sales of both those missiles to the Saudi kingdom in 1985 and 1986. Pro-Israel circles are concerned that the Stingers, which are transported easily, could fall into the hands of terrorists.

Cheney, who requested the meeting with Jewish leaders, praised the Jewish community's stance of not opposing emergency U.S. aid to King Fahd's regime.

The session was the first formal meeting of Jewish leaders with Cheney since shortly after he was named to the post last year. By contrast, U.S. Jewish leaders have met several times during the Bush presidency with Secretary of State James Baker.

'Real Understanding And Sensitivity'

"We assured Secretary Cheney that the American Jewish community fully supports President Bush's policies and actions in addressing Iraq's aggression. History has taught us that there can be no appeasement to an aggressor," the delegation of 11 leaders said in a statement issued after the meeting.

Cheney also "expressed appreciation for our support for our government's handling of these issues, including assistance for the defense of Saudi Arabia, to deal with the present emergency," the leaders said.

They expressed little doubt that the United States would continue to bolster Israel's defense against any array of opponents.

"We are confident that our government recognizes Israel's strategic importance and will ensure that Israel maintains the qualitative edge essential to defend itself," the statement read.

Hoenlein said that on the issue of maintaining Israel's qualitative edge, "we found real understanding and sensitivity and support."

For example, Cheney expressed "concern

about any design that (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein might have to attack Israel and rally the Arabs," he said. Cheney also praised Israel's "low profile" role in the crisis.

Cheney mentioned his support for continuing joint research with Israel on the Arrow anti-tactical ballistic missile. If and when the crisis subsides, Israel is hoping the Pentagon will draft a new memorandum of understanding that would detail cost-sharing and technology-sharing arrangements for Phase 2 of the program, which Israel is hoping to begin next spring.

The Jewish delegation raised the subject of Jewish soldiers and chaplains serving in Saudi Arabia, which has a policy of denying Jews entry to the kingdom.

Hoenlein said his group "had looked into" allegations that Jewish chaplains had not been granted approval to be sent to Saudi Arabia and that some Jewish soldiers had been told unofficially to hide dog tags identifying themselves as Jewish.

But they told Cheney they had found no basis for concern. "We consider the matter resolved, and we made that clear," Hoenlein said.

The delegation was led by the dean of Jewish Republicans, Max Fisher, who is honorary chairman of the National Jewish Coalition, a Republican outreach group.

IRAQ MORE LIKELY TO ATTACK SHIPS THAN SAUDI ARABIA, EXPERTS NOW SAY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- Iraq is strengthening its forces in Kuwait and on the Turkish border, but it shows no intention of invading Saudi Arabia, security officials told Israel's Cabinet on Sunday.

The experts voiced their fear that the longer the Persian Gulf crisis continues, the more chance there is that the United States may lose the support of nations participating in the multinational force defending Saudi Arabia and enforcing the embargo against Iraq.

The U.N. Security Council voted 13-0 early Saturday to empower member states to enforce the embargo by blocking shipping to and from Iraq.

Israeli defense experts said that, rather than invade Saudi Arabia, the Iraqis might be inclined to attack American or allied ships involved in efforts to enforce the blockade.

The defense officials said that Jordan's King Hussein is continuing to assist Iraq in a number of ways, despite his pledge to President Bush that he would abide by international sanctions imposed on Iraq.

Opposition To Arms Sales

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said in a television interview Sunday that the king's behavior was contrary to Israel's interests, a danger to its security and would not help Hussein's political survival at all. Jordan's heavily Palestinian population is largely supportive of the Iraqi invasion.

But Shamir said the Jordanian monarch was well aware of the fact that Iraq had no aggressive intentions against him.

The prime minister also reiterated Israel's

determination to stay out of the conflict, if possible.

"When it comes to confrontations, we do not necessarily want to be at the front of the stage," Shamir told the Arabic program of Israel Television.

"When Israel is hurt, we must react," he said, "but when she is not, one does not have to make other considerations."

Asked whether he foresaw a possible diplomatic solution to the crisis, Shamir said it would only be possible if all of Saddam Hussein's demands were fulfilled. Since that is highly unlikely, he said, the crisis would soon near its climax.

The premier also restated Israel's opposition to the sale of sophisticated arms to Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia. He said that the fall of Kuwait's Western-produced weapons into Iraqi hands was further proof of the risks involved in such arms sales.

GULF CRISIS HAVING NEGATIVE IMPACT ON ISRAELI TOURISM AND CULTURE, TOO By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- The Persian Gulf crisis is having a negative impact not only on tourism to Israel, but also on the local cultural scene.

Hotel owners report some decline in the number of tourists arriving and booking ahead. They fear the degree of cancellations may increase if the uncertainty and threat of war continue into the winter season.

In public at least, the Tourism Ministry is painting a far more optimistic picture of the situation than leaders in the tourism industry itself. The ministry claims tourist arrivals are actually up compared to previous years.

But cancellations by a few celebrities from abroad have made a deep impression on the public at large.

The Soviet Union's prestigious Red Army Chorus, which was due to arrive this week for a series of concerts, canceled at the last minute "because of the situation."

The Kremlin apparently was concerned about the impression that would be created if a Red Army contingent arrived in Israel at a time of possible military confrontation in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, the organizers of "Jazz on the Red Sea," a jazz festival that opened Sunday night in Eilat, spent the weekend looking for substitutes for the American band Spyro Gyra, headed by saxophonist Jay Beckenstein and American guitarist Barney Kessel.

To make matters worse, 78-year-old French violinist Stephane Grappelli pulled out at the last minute because of a sudden illness.

By Sunday morning, hours before the jazz festival opened, the organizers had managed to line up as replacements American saxophonist Wayne Shorter and drummer Elvin Jones.

The audience at the festival in Eilat will have a grandstand view of the Jordanian port of Aqaba, across the bay less than 10 miles away, where ships can be seen unloading cargo bound for Iraq or intercepted by U.S. and European naval vessels as they try to approach the Jordanian port.

The Gulf crisis has been a boon for hoteliers in Eilat, who are reporting almost complete bookings, thanks to the hundreds of foreign correspondents and television crews who have rushed to the town to be on hand for developments.

WALDHEIM RETURNS FROM BAGHDAD ON MISSION CRITICIZED IN ISRAEL By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- Austrian President Kurt Waldheim returned here Sunday from his controversial meeting in Baghdad with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, escorting 96 Austrian hostages released by the Iraqi leader.

The freeing of the Austrian detainees was Waldheim's stated goal for his visit to Baghdad on Saturday, in which he also tried to act as a mediator in the fiery Persian Gulf crisis.

Waldheim is the first Western leader to meet with the Iraqi president since he ordered his troops to invade Kuwait on Aug. 2.

The two held a high-profile joint news conference Saturday, which was broadcast by Iraqi television and then by Cable News Network, which rebroadcast the Iraqi tape.

The news conference, most of it taken up by Hussein, included the Iraqi president's unforgettable remark that any American attempts to use force would be met with "columns of dead bodies."

Waldheim's move seemed designed to draw him out of his international isolation, which resulted from revelations about his activities as a German intelligence officer in the Balkans during World War II, in which Jews and partisans were deported and killed.

Success getting Iraq's Hussein to cease his aggressions would reap considerable recognition for the mostly scorned former U.N. secretary-general.

Although Waldheim has visited with several Arab leaders since being elected president in June 1986, he has been largely shunned by Western leaders, following revelations that he concealed his activities and whereabouts during the Holocaust.

One exception was his meeting last month at the Salzburg Music Festival with Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel and West German President Richard von Weizsacker, which was widely criticized.

Snide Editorials In Israel

Waldheim's visit with Hussein of Iraq drew snide comments in Israel, where commentators said Waldheim had played into Hussein's hands.

The independent Ma'ariv, in an editorial, said, "Waldheim in Baghdad with Saddam. It takes one to know one. Better he should have stayed there."

The mass-circulation daily Yediot Achronot accused Waldheim of a "deal with the devil."

Israel pulled its ambassador from Vienna in 1986 when Waldheim assumed the presidency and never replaced anyone in that position.

Israel's Foreign Ministry refused to comment about the meeting.

However, Ehud Olmert, Israel's minister of health, told reporters following Sunday's Cabinet meeting, "I have no doubt that this meeting and combination are very appropriate for each other. Saddam Hussein and Mr. Waldheim fit each other."

Similarly, Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, which singlehandedly went after Waldheim following the first disclosures of his activities, said in New York that the two men "belong together. The world is being treated to the spectacle of an old Nazi and a new Nazi."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:

U.S. SUPPORTERS OF PEACE NOW HURT, BUT NOT DETERRED, BY STANCE OF PLO

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- American supporters of Peace Now have been staggered and hurt by the Palestine Liberation Organization's support for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, but they remain convinced that dialogue and an ultimate settlement with the Palestinians is the only course that will bring peace to Israel.

"The morning after the Iraqi affair is settled, we must still deal with the Palestinians; nothing has changed in that," said Ahavia Scheindlin, national executive committee chairwoman of Americans for Peace Now.

Stanley Sheinbaum, one of five American Jews who met with Yasir Arafat in Stockholm in December 1988, is even more emphatic. Asked if he would meet with the PLO leader today, he replied, "Yes. I would do anything for peace. I would meet with Arafat again, if there was anything to get out of him."

But even Sheinbaum admitted that Arafat's support for the Iraqi president had put Peace Now supporters on the defensive. Other local supporters of the movement used such words as despondency, despair, anger and disappointment to describe their initial reactions.

Much of the Los Angeles leadership of Peace Now met last week at Sheinbaum's house, not to talk politics but to raise funds for Operation Exodus, the United Jewish Appeal campaign to help finance the massive Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel.

The evening, co-sponsored by the American Jewish Congress, attracted 85 people and raised \$87,000 in pledges.

Support For Operation Exodus

Richard Gunther, local co-chairman of Operation Exodus, declared himself pleased both with the monetary results and the fact that "the most liberal segment of the Jewish community" was solidly behind his campaign.

"From Peace Now to Chabad and the Wiesenthal Center, people who couldn't get in the same room and agree about anything Jewish are behind Operation Exodus," Gunther said.

Though backing for the Soviet aliya was the main focus of the evening, the participants' liberal agenda gave it a special emphasis.

"Our commitment to the Russian Jews does not end when they arrive in Israel. They must be able to settle in a secure, safe and just Israel," said Rabbi Laura Geller of AJCongress.

"Every time we write a check (for Operation Exodus) we should also make a statement that no Soviet Jews be settled in the West Bank and that the money should not be diverted to other purposes," said Scheindlin of Peace Now.

Sheinbaum took a less categorical approach, warning that in a volatile world, the immediate rescue of Soviet Jews should take precedence over any other consideration. "We must support Operation Exodus, even if we cannot get an assurance from the Israeli government that none of the money will be used in the territories," he said.

In interviews, both Scheindlin and Sheinbaum denied they had ever placed any personal trust in Arafat or that his maneuverings were relevant to the ultimate goals of Peace Now. Nevertheless, they both blamed Israeli and American policies for pushing Arafat into the pro-Iraqi camp.

"There was no reward for Arafat for turning moderate," said Sheinbaum. The PLO leader "might not have tilted to Baghdad if the U.S. and Israeli governments had been more forthcoming," he said.

Liberal Embarrassment

Sheinbaum criticized some leaders of the peace movement in Israel and the United States who have said they are re-examining their past positions or see no sense at this point in further negotiations with the PLO and Palestinians.

"It's a failing of liberals that they can't stand embarrassment," he said. "Critics who claim that Peace Now's credibility has been damaged because Arafat's credibility has been damaged set a trap, and some liberals walked right into it. But Arafat has never been the issue."

Americans for Peace Now became a membership organization only this year. It claims 10,000 members nationwide and about 3,000 in Los Angeles alone. Spokespersons for the group said there had been no protests or resignations by members since the Aug. 2 Iraqi aggression.

"In a sense, Peace Now is stronger now," said Sheinbaum. "When people heard about the meeting at my house for Operation Exodus, they wanted it to be through Peace Now, to show the flag, so to say."

5 SUSPECTED COLLABORATORS MURDERED BY FELLOW PALESTINIANS IN TERRITORIES
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- Five Palestinians suspected of collaboration with Israeli authorities were murdered by fellow Arabs, and four more wounded, while demonstrations in support of Saddam Hussein continued throughout the weekend in the administered territories.

The most gruesome of the murders took place in Rafah, at the southern end of the Gaza Strip.

Ashraf al-Gharbali, 25, was in his father's home when six masked men arrived and tried to attack him. After closing all entrances to the house, Gharbali pulled out a gun and began shooting in the direction of his attackers.

Hundreds of Rafah residents surrounded the house, throwing stones, bricks and axes.

Gharbali's father, fearing his family's safety, tried to open the door to the attackers, and was stabbed in the back by his son.

When the younger Gharbali ran out of ammunition, he went out into the street wielding a large knife. He was quickly surrounded by hundreds of residents and stabbed, then lynched to death.

The other four incidents took place in the West Bank.

In other security developments, the Jerusalem District Court on Friday denied bail to Rachel Kahalon, remanding her in custody until the end of legal proceedings.

The 22-year-old mother has been charged with deliberately endangering lives by throwing stones at Arab vehicles following the murder of two Jewish youths in Jerusalem earlier this month.

Her indictment did not link her directly to throwing the stone that caused the death of Izzat Halahla, 42, a resident of Silwan village, during riots on Aug. 6 and 7. 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.

**THE 1990 ELECTIONS:
JEWISH INCUMBENTS IN THE HOUSE
ALMOST CERTAIN OF RE-ELECTION**
[Part 2 Of A Series]
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25 (JTA) -- With most members of the House of Representatives seeking re-election this fall almost certain of winning, the House is expected to continue to be the core of support for Israel in the U.S. government.

The 31 Jewish incumbents in the House, 26 Democrats and five Republicans, are all expected to return to Washington.

The only long-term Jewish incumbent who faces a close race is Rep. Howard Wolpe (D-Mich.), who represents a marginal district. He has had to squeak out a victory every two years since he was first elected in 1976.

Rep. John Miller (R-Wash.), seeking his fourth term, is also in a marginal district. But the latest reports from his Seattle district say that he is expected to win.

There is also a question mark about how Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) will fare in his district. Frank, a leading liberal in the House who was formally censured for activities involving a male prostitute, had earlier been expected to win a sixth term easily.

But another Massachusetts Democrat, Rep. Gerry Studds, the House's only other openly gay representative, has had little problem winning re-election since he admitted having relations with a male page.

For freshmen representatives, the first re-election bid is the crucial race. If they win it, they can usually be assured a long House career.

One Jewish freshman who seemed to be in trouble earlier in the year was Steven Schiff (R-N.M.). But like Miller in Seattle, Schiff is now considered the front-runner.

The same is true of the two other Jewish freshmen, Eliot Engel and Nita Lowey, both New York Democrats.

There are also Jewish challengers running to unseat incumbent members of the House this fall.

State Races Especially Important

Benjamin Waldman, executive director of the National Jewish Coalition, an arm of the Republican Party, believes these mostly young, Republican candidates can help change what has been traditionally a Democratic-dominated Jewish delegation in the House.

A member of this generation who has been appealing for national support from Jews is Scott Shore, a 34-year-old Orthodox Jewish Republican who is trying to unseat freshman Democratic Rep. Harry Johnston in the Palm Beach area of Florida.

Johnston is considered a supporter of Israel and is expected to be re-elected.

But while watching the November elections for the House, Democratic and Republican activists alike are stressing that the elections for governor and state legislature may be even more important this year.

The reason is that following the 1990 Census, state legislatures will be required next year to reapportion the 435 House seats because of population changes.

Pro-Israel activists are urging the Jewish community to pay close attention to the reapportionment, since the Northeast and Midwest are expected to lose about 18 seats to the Sunbelt, mainly Florida, Texas, Arizona and California.

**CITY OF KHARKOV, IN CELEBRATION,
RETURNS SHUL TO JEWISH COMMUNITY**
By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Aug. 26 (JTA) -- The municipality of Kharkov, a city in the Soviet Ukraine, returned a synagogue to the Jewish community there last week with fanfare and good wishes.

Present at the Aug. 21 ceremony were Soviet officials, at least one Israeli and two American Jews: Sidney Kwestel, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, and New York City Councilman Noach Dear.

The ceremony, televised in the Soviet Union and announced in local newspapers, included fluttering Israeli flags.

"Glasnost has given us the ability and the opportunity to help our Jewish brethren in the Soviet Union," said Dear, who was involved in efforts to get the synagogue back.

Ivan Klaglov, vice president of the Ukraine, promised the assemblage that the republic was changing. "One vital part of that change is to forever bury the horrid past that has characterized Ukrainian-Jewish relations over the past centuries," he said.

Kharkov, a center of the Zionist movement before the Holocaust, has been the scene of numerous official anti-Jewish activities over the years, including numerous arrest of worshippers, the closure of a matzah-baking factory by police in 1960 and the plowing over of a Jewish cemetery in 1967 to make a public park.

Charles Levine, an Israeli public relations agent who attended the ceremony, said, "A very different mood is prevalent, at least for now, as a changing Ukraine seeks overseas Jewish support for its rapidly evolving policies."

The Orthodox Union intends to bring the Kharkov shul under its wings, said Kwestel.

Kwestel and Dear, who represents a committee to preserve Jewish places of worship in the Soviet Union, are the latest of several American Jewish activists to take interest in helping the Kharkov Jewish community, numbering some 70,000, retrieve the shul, which was taken away from the Jewish community in the 1920s.

Cincinnati Federation Involved

The quest to take back the shul has been a special project of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, which sent a delegation to Kharkov in May.

The Cincinnati federation adopted Kharkov as a twin city and offered to help the city's Jews, several of whom asked American Jews for help in renovating the synagogue, which had been used as a health club and a sports center.

Rabbi Zev Scharfstein, a member of the Chabad movement who is a leader of the Cincinnati Vaad Hoier, or community religious council, said the Kharkov municipality had offered to return the synagogue to the Jewish community if a replacement for its sports center would be provided.

Scharfstein said the Cincinnati federation was trying to raise funds to buy a prefabricated building, manufactured in Sweden, to replace the sports club.

A number of Jews in Kharkov, among them members of the Chabad Lubavitch movement, continued holding quiet minyanim at home during all the vicissitudes of Communist rule.

(JTA correspondent Gil Sedan in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)