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SHARON ANNOUNCES PLAN TO CONSTRUCT THOUSANDS OF HOMES IN EAST JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Oct 15 (JTA) -- Housing Minister Ariel Sharon may have set Israel on a collision course with the United States when he announced plans to build 17,000 new apartments for Soviet Jewish immigrants in Jerusalem, all but 2,000 of them in the Arab-populated eastern part of the city.

The plan, adopted Sunday by the Ministerial Absorption Committee, which is headed by Sharon, is believed to have the tacit support of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and will be presented to the Cabinet for approval.

It is being seen as an angry response to the American sponsorship of a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel for the fatal shooting by police of 21 Arab rioters on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem a week ago.

Sharon's move is also being viewed here as an attempt to undermine the credibility and status of Foreign Minister David Levy, who provided assurances to the U.S. government on Oct. 2 that Israel would not "direct or settle Soviet Jews beyond the Green Line."

Levy made that pledge to obtain U.S. government guarantees for \$400 million in loans that Israel hopes to use to build badly needed immigrant housing.

The "Green Line" is the imaginary demarcation line between Israel proper and the territories captured by Israel in 1967. It encompasses the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which are governed by a civil administration under military rule.

East Jerusalem, on the other hand, was annexed by Israel in 1967 and proclaimed an integral part of the Jewish state. The United States and most other countries do not recognize the annexation.

'No Green Line In Jerusalem'

"There is no Green Line in Jerusalem," Sharon declared Monday. "We never took on ourselves a commitment not to build in Jerusalem -- never," the former Israel Defense Force general said in an army radio interview.

Asked whether there was no conflict between his committee's recommendations and Levy's promises in Washington, Sharon replied that the only commitment in effect was that newly arrived immigrants would not be settled in the administered territories.

"Not that we think it is just, but we agreed to it, in order not to jeopardize Soviet aliyah," he told the army radio.

Shamir's position was reflected in the sharp comments by Yossi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

Ben-Aharon directly criticized Levy for promising to limit the use of American-guaranteed loan funds within the Green Line and to keep the United States informed of the use of the funds.

According to the prime minister's aide, the Bush administration will use that information to challenge Jewish settlements in the West Bank that the Likud-led government is determined will proliferate.

For the moment, Israeli leaders are furious over the American support for the Security Coun-

cil resolution, which was unanimously adopted last Friday night and rejected by the Israeli Cabinet on Sunday as "totally unacceptable."

Israeli leaders see in the resolution the beginnings of a move to undermine Israel's sovereignty over all of Jerusalem.

Of the 17,000 housing units Sharon's committee decided to build for Soviet newcomers, 15,000 will be erected in East Jerusalem, where some 150,000 Arabs live encircled by more than 300,000 Jews in the western part of the city and its suburbs.

The plans call for two new Jewish neighborhoods consisting of 2,400 units in the northern reaches of East Jerusalem, between the heavily Jewish French Hill and Pisgat Ze'ev neighborhoods.

Another 4,500 units would go up on the Wall Mountain and along a stretch of the Bethlehem Road in southern East Jerusalem. Other flats would be built in existing Jewish parts of East Jerusalem.

Sharon's committee is also recommending generous incentives for settlers and builders. The government would offer larger mortgages to immigrants settling in Jerusalem and would give developers 100 percent guarantees that their apartments will be sold.

SHAMIR URGES JEWS AROUND WORLD TO BACK ISRAEL AGAINST U.N. MOVE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- Israel's furious reaction to the U.N. Security Council resolution condemning the fatal shooting last week of 21 Arab rioters on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem intensified Monday.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in a fiery speech at the opening of the Knesset's winter session, issued a clarion call to the nation and to Jews the world over -- particularly in the United States -- to rally around Israel against the resolution, which he denounced as biased.

All Israelis and Jews abroad "can only look aghast" at the tendentiousness of the U.N. position, Shamir declared.

A similar call was issued by World Zionist Organization Chairman Simcha Dinitz, who urged Zionist groups around the world to protest the "distorted and one-sided resolution."

The resolution, which condemned the excessive use of force by Israeli police that also left more than 150 Arabs wounded, called on the U.N. secretary-general to send a team to Jerusalem to investigate the incident and report back.

But Shamir's Cabinet voted unanimously Sunday not to receive the U.N. mission or cooperate with it.

The Cabinet did not bar the U.N. secretary-general's emissaries from entering Israel. But Defense Minister Moshe Arens, apparently reflecting the prevailing government attitude, made it clear in a U.S. television interview that it would be better if the three-member mission stayed home.

Washington, however, seems equally determined that the Security Council's mandate is carried out.

"I want to see that U.N. resolution fully

implemented," President Bush told reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Texas. "We are a part of it, and we think it's the right step."

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Monday that the United States "voted for this resolution because we think it is right. And therefore we are disappointed that the Israeli government has decided not to cooperate with the mission."

A Warning From Mitterrand

In Paris, French President Francois Mitterrand said he hoped Israel would reconsider its decision. "A country which refuses to apply a Security Council decision risks a far more severe resolution," he warned.

Prior to the Cabinet's decision Sunday, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had urged Israel to cooperate with the U.N. team.

In a letter to Foreign Minister David Levy, Baker warned that by rejecting it, Israel would open itself to charges in some quarters that it is no better than Iraq, which also ignores U.N. resolutions.

Baker's letter also reportedly warned that rejection would keep the Jerusalem dispute in the limelight, while it is in the mutual interests of Israel and the United States to focus world attention on Baghdad and the Kuwait crisis.

Those pleas have fallen on deaf ears, given the mood in Israel.

Shamir accused the Security Council of deliberately ignoring a Palestinian attack on Jewish worshippers at the Western Wall during the Sukkot holiday.

He defended the police, who he said reacted "to a cruel, criminal and unprecedented attack" on Judaism's holiest site. According to Shamir, that was the ultimate sacrilege and should have occasioned unequivocal world condemnation and protest.

He insisted the violence was triggered by "the criminal acts of the Arab mob."

Shamir also charged that the motive behind the Security Council's unanimous support for the measure was "the current international situation."

That was an oblique reference to Washington's strenuous efforts to maintain the solidarity of its international alliance against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, especially the Arab component.

Tough Rhetoric At Cabinet Session

Other members of Shamir's Cabinet were no less fervent in their condemnation of the U.N. resolution and the U.S. role in orchestrating it.

David Magen of Likud, the minister of economics and planning, reportedly spoke so harshly of the United States that Levy, himself a hard-liner, interjected, "Those are our closest friends you're talking about."

The mood of the Cabinet appears to reflect the views of the country as a whole, making it especially difficult for the opposition parties to speak out against government positions they consider extreme and counterproductive.

The Labor Party sought a middle position from which it could flay both the Security Council's resolution for its bias and the government for various acts of omission.

Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, who addressed the Knesset after Shamir, said refusal to receive the U.N. team would only increase Israel's isolation and ensure that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would divert world attention from the situation in the Persian Gulf.

Although Labor has taken a far more moderate stand than Likud on Jewish settlement in the administered territories, Peres criticized Foreign Minister Levy and Shamir as well for formally promising Baker last month that U.S.-guaranteed loan money for housing Soviet immigrants would not be used in areas captured by Israel in June 1967.

Peres said he would never have given the Americans such a sweeping commitment, because it implies clearly that those parts of Jerusalem that Israel captured from Jordan in 1967 are included. That severely prejudices Israel's claim of sovereignty over the entire city, Peres said.

In saying this, the Labor Party leader was knowingly pouring salt on a wound. Levy has been criticized for his undertaking by one of Shamir's closet aides, Yossi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, and by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, his rival for eventual leadership of Likud.

There are indications, in fact, that Shamir's office is seeking ways to withdraw Levy's commitment.

Support From Jewish Groups

The government as a whole has mounted the political, diplomatic and rhetorical barricades to portray itself as defender of Jewish sovereignty over Jerusalem against a cynical and largely hostile world.

Its point of view has largely been endorsed by Jewish organizations in the United States.

In New York, the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council issued a statement Monday saying it understands "Israel's reluctance to subject itself to the scrutiny of a U.N. commission of inquiry," pointing out that the United Nations has had "an abysmal record with regard to Israel."

NJCRC, which represents 11 national Jewish organizations and more than 100 community relations councils, said it understood Israel's concern that the U.N. team could "directly or indirectly call into question Jerusalem's status."

Similar statements were issued by a number of Jewish groups, including the normally dovish American Jewish Congress.

But Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, called on Jerusalem to cooperate with the U.N. investigation, saying "Israel would best be served by making its case to the world community."

(Contributing to this report were JTA correspondents David Friedman in Washington and Edwin Eytan in Paris.)

GAS MASKS DISTRIBUTED IN LARGE CITIES **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Oct 15 (JTA) -- The distribution of gas masks to the Israeli public began in Tel Aviv and other large cities Monday afternoon, but not without some confusion, because many residents did not know where they could be obtained.

That brought a flood of telephone inquiries to the special information centers set up for the purpose. Callers were advised to consult their neighborhood bulletin boards. But a tour of parts of Tel Aviv showed no such information posted.

The authorities estimate the nationwide distribution of gas masks and poison gas antidote kits to the entire Israeli population of about 4.5 million will take six to eight weeks.

ISRAEL KEEPING EYE ON SYRIAN MOVES TO DISLODGE MILITIAMAN IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- Israel, closely watching events in Lebanon, has concluded that its interests were not affected by the Syrian-led air and artillery attack that dislodged Gen. Michel Aoun from his enclave in East Beirut over the weekend.

The assault resulted in the surrender of the anti-Syrian leader, whose well armed Lebanese Christian forces have controlled parts of the Lebanese capital for the past two years in defiance of the government of President Elias Hrawi.

It was Hrawi who finally called on the Syrians for help to defeat Aoun, who was reportedly backed by Saddam Hussein of Iraq, a mortal enemy of Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Israel is concerned by the use of Syrian air power and artillery in support of the Lebanese army, which alone was unable to defeat Aoun.

But Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activities in southern Lebanon, noted in radio and television interviews Monday that the Syrian planes were used only against internal targets in Lebanon.

Israel's policy, which is not to interfere in Lebanon as long as its vital interests are unaffected, remains unchanged, Lubrani said.

Other Israeli experts stressed that the Syrians crossed no "red lines," the imaginary boundaries that would trigger an Israeli response if breached by Syrian forces.

Dr. Yosef Olmert, a specialist on Lebanon and Syria on leave from Tel Aviv University's Dayan Center for Middle East Studies, observed that "right now there is no reason to conclude that Aoun's ouster should affect our security interests" in southern Lebanon.

Increasing Dependence On Syria

Olmert, who currently heads the Government Press Office, warned, however, that the Lebanese and their Syrian partners might become overconfident from their victory over Aoun.

In the long run, Olmert said, they might try to extend the Beirut government's control over southern Lebanon, including the security zone parallel to Israel's border, which is policed by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army.

He predicted, however, that Damascus would not be able to impose a "Pax Syriana" on Lebanon, which has been torn by civil war for more than 15 years and has no central government capable of maintaining law and order.

According to Olmert, "the Christian Lebanese forces, as opposed to the official but ineffective Lebanon army and Yasir Arafat's (Palestinian) loyalists in the Sidon area, are some of the remaining barriers to full Syrian control.

"The logic of Lebanon is such that there is always a built-in opposition to one actor becoming too powerful," he explained.

But a Syrian army of about 40,000 occupies large areas of Lebanon, a country smaller than Israel.

The Beirut government depends increasingly on Damascus, which could one day achieve its ambition to incorporate Lebanon into the Syrian state, Israelis fear.

The removal of Aoun is seen here as an indirect blow to Hussein of Iraq, whom the Christian general supported in return for support from Baghdad.

ANOTHER 49 NAMES OF SUSPECTED NAZIS GIVEN TO AUSTRALIA'S WAR-CRIMES UNIT

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- The Israeli office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center has submitted another 49 names of suspected Nazi war criminals believed to be living in Australia to the government's Special Investigations Unit.

But given the government's record to date, chances are slim that any of the suspected Nazis will be prosecuted.

Since the Special Investigations Unit was established in 1987, it has received the names of nearly 600 suspects from a variety of sources, including a total of 256 from the Wiesenthal Center over the last four years.

Of the 600 suspects named, 576 cases were investigated and dropped, the Special Investigations Unit's director told Parliament last month.

"I am satisfied the complainants are malicious, or I am satisfied that the person is the wrong person, or I am satisfied that the person, although the right person, is not here," the director explained.

The director said that when allegations are received, investigations are conducted to determine if the suspect is living in Australia, and if there is sufficient evidence to warrant the preparation of a brief for the director of public prosecutions.

Australian Jews 'Satisfied'

Leslie Caplan, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Jewish community was "satisfied the SIU has investigated the material received from all sources."

Caplan added that the government was correct to make sure that only cases where strong evidence exists come before the courts.

A prerequisite for prosecution is the availability of credible witnesses willing to testify.

Researchers working for the Special Investigations Unit concede that in the absence of witnesses, some Nazi killers evade justice. To date, only one case has come to court.

It is the case of Ukrainian-born Ivan Polyukhovich, whose trial was to have opened in August. It was postponed when the accused challenged the validity of legislation that allows suspects to be tried in Australia for crimes alleged to have been committed elsewhere.

His hearing is scheduled for Nov. 9 in the Australian High Court. According to Justice Mary Gaudron, Polyukhovich's challenge "has some prospect of success."

According to the Wiesenthal Center's announcement in Jerusalem on Oct. 9, the 49 suspects immigrated to Australia after World War II.

The list, consisting mainly of Lithuanians, was compiled from new testimony hitherto unavailable to researchers, which was submitted to the Yad Vashem Archives several months ago.

The testimony by approximately 200 Holocaust survivors was recorded by a fellow survivor, Leib Kunichowsky, between 1945 and 1949 in displaced persons camps in Germany and Austria.

It recounts in great detail the destruction of 171 Jewish communities in Lithuania and the murders of over 200,000 Jews.

"The submission of this list is further proof of the enormous scope of the work still to be done in Australia," said Efraim Zuroff, director of the Wiesenthal Center's Israel office.

SOVIET JEWRY GROUPS DIVIDED OVER NOBEL PRIZE TO GORBACHEV

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- The two major Soviet Jewry advocacy groups in the United States are in sharp disagreement over the awarding of the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry welcomed the news Monday and cabled congratulations to Gorbachev. It told the Soviet leader he had "set into motion processes that have produced fundamental changes" in your country."

Likewise in Ottawa, B'nai Brith Canada wrote a letter to Soviet Ambassador Alexi Rodionov, saying it is "with great pleasure that we write to extend congratulations" to Gorbachev, who the group said had "bravely championed" momentous changes in the Soviet Union.

But Pamela Cohen, president of the Union of Councils of Soviet Jews, said Gorbachev has not "carved out a moral and ethical platform."

Gorbachev, who Cohen called a "clever politician," has yet to demonstrate that he is "fundamentally committed to instituting the rule of law," she said.

Also on Monday, an eight-member delegation of leaders from the National Conference met briefly with Vice President Dan Quayle to discuss the United Jewish Appeal's Operation Exodus campaign for resettling Soviet Jews in Israel.

Quayle had attended an NCSJ seder here in the spring to help kick off the campaign. Shoshana Cardin, the group's chairwoman, said the delegation discussed "the goal that was initiated and the fact that we are achieving that goal."

For his part, Quayle "wished us well and offered his continuing support," she said.

LEONARD BERNSTEIN, GIFTED COMPOSER AND PASSIONATE MAESTRO, DEAD AT 72

By Andrew Goldsmith

NEW YORK, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- Leonard Bernstein, one of the most gifted conductors, composers and pianists in American history who also epitomized the Jewish success story, died here Sunday night of a heart attack in his apartment on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. He was 72.

His death came just five days after he announced his retirement due to health problems.

Bernstein, who at the age of 40 became the youngest music director ever engaged by the New York Philharmonic, was once described as a "restless maestro" because of his extraordinary ability to move among roles as conductor, composer of classical and popular music, television performer and teacher.

Bernstein was known for his love and commitment to Israel. And he occupied a warm spot in the hearts of Israelis ever since his frequent visits began in the early days of the state.

The intense and passionate conductor was born in Lawrence, Mass., on Aug. 25, 1918. His early love for music was frowned upon by his parents, both Jewish immigrants. His father, Sam, a talmudic scholar, hoped Leonard would join his successful cosmetic business.

Bernstein demanded piano lessons at age 10, after a divorced aunt stored a piano with the family. His early education and Bar Mitzvah took place at Temple Mishkan Tefillah in Massachusetts, where Bernstein performed for all the school events.

He retained a lifelong respect for Jewish culture. His "Jeremiah" and "Kaddish" symphonies, the "Chichester Psalms" and several other works were founded on biblical themes.

In an appreciation message broadcast Monday in Israel, Zubin Mehta, musical director of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, termed Bernstein "not only a great composer, pianist and conductor, but possibly even more a great music educator through some 100 educational concerts for young people" broadcast in the United States.

Entertained Palmach Troops

Bernstein served as musical adviser to the Israel Philharmonic for the 1948-49 season. While traveling through Israel, he entertained members of the Palmach from the back of a truck in the Negev desert.

During the War of Independence in October 1948, Bernstein conducted Beethoven's Fifth Symphony in Jerusalem's old Edison Theater.

Toward the end of the first movement, machine gun fire from the Old City, held by the Jordanian Legion, erupted and continued intermittently through the rest of the symphony.

According to an audience member, neither Bernstein nor the orchestra missed a beat.

Israelis warmly remember Bernstein's rush to Israel even before the end of the Six-Day War in 1967, to conduct the Israel Philharmonic in a festive performance at the amphitheater on Mount Scopus, freed from Jordanian control only days previously. He gave a thrilling performance of Mahler's Second Symphony, named by its composer as the "Renaissance."

He delighted friends and the public at large by his use of as much Hebrew as he could muster, and by his warm appreciation of what Israel was trying to accomplish both within and outside the world of music.

Bernstein insisted that all his musical works that contained choral sections based on biblical texts be rendered in their original Hebrew when performed in Israel, regardless of whether or not he was conducting the performance.

A close friend recalled that they had dined together in a Tel Aviv restaurant one evening between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. When the waiter approached him to ask his order, Bernstein had broken into song, rendering Jewish and Hasidic synagogue prayers and melodies.

Ode To A Fallen Soldier

Following a guest appearance with the Israel Philharmonic in 1976 in Tel Aviv, Bernstein was asked by the parents of Yadin Tannenbaum, a 19-year-old flutist killed during the 1973 Yom Kippur War, to write a work in memory of their son. "I never knew Tannenbaum," said Bernstein, "but I know his spirit."

The result of his efforts, "Halil," premiered in New York in 1982 and was performed by Jean-Pierre Rampal and the Israel Philharmonic. Bernstein dedicated the work "to the spirit of Yadin and his fallen brothers."

In 1988, at age 70, Bernstein was named conductor laureate of the Israeli Philharmonic.

Bernstein's family announced that his funeral would be private. New York's Carnegie Hall and the New York Philharmonic have announced concerts in his memory, but plans for a memorial service have not yet been announced.

(JTA correspondents Hugh Orgel in Tel Aviv and Tom Tugend in Los Angeles contributed to this report.)