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FOREIGN AID BILL CONTAINS BENEFITS FOR ISRAEL, AND EVEN MORE FOR EGYPT

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- The 1991 foreign aid bill, which gained final approval over the weekend in the Senate and House of Representatives, for the first time contains greater monetary benefits for Egypt than for Israel.

It also does not include an amendment contained in the Senate version of the bill that would have barred any U.S. contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The language was stricken in House-Senate negotiations primarily because lawmakers argued it would have been perceived by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as a sign of U.S. hostility toward the Arab world.

But milder language from previous foreign aid bills was approved, which bars the United States from recognizing or negotiating with the PLO "as long as the PLO does not recognize Israel's right to exist."

As it wrapped up its legislative business, Congress also decided not to block a sale of \$7.3 billion in advanced weaponry to Saudi Arabia.

Pro-Israel activists expect the Bush administration to propose as much as \$14 billion in additional arms sales to the Saudis, including F-15 fighter planes, after the new Congress convenes early next year.

To partially offset those sales, the administration has indicated in recent weeks that it will soon send Israel 15 F-15s, 10 CH-53 helicopters and two Patriot missile batteries.

The House of Representatives adopted the foreign aid bill in its final form by a vote of 187-162, and the Senate did so on a voice vote.

President Bush on Sunday stated his intention to sign the foreign aid bill into law, though he is unhappy about the sharp reduction in military aid to El Salvador.

Debt Forgiveness For Egypt

The bill contains \$3 billion in all-grant aid to Israel and \$2.3 billion in aid to Egypt, the same amounts the two countries have received for the last several years. But the bill also forgives Egypt's \$6.7 billion debt to the United States, without extending that benefit to Israel.

The debt forgiveness is intended as a gesture of appreciation for Egypt's leadership in the U.S.-led initiative against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Egypt's fragile economy has been badly hurt by its support of the economic sanctions against Baghdad.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee did not stake out a position on relieving Egypt's debt, although it wanted Israel to receive similar treatment.

There are new perks for the Jewish state, however. The bill allows Israel to transfer \$200 million of its \$1.2 billion in economic assistance to the \$1.8 billion military aid package it receives.

Israel is also designated to receive \$700 million in excess U.S. weaponry being "drawn down" from Western Europe and to have its stockpile of U.S. munitions doubled from \$100 million to \$200 million.

Mark Pelavin, Washington representative of the American Jewish Congress, voiced satisfaction with the House vote, saying, "People's worst fears weren't realized."

"There was a great deal of concern whether people were going to be willing to vote for foreign aid in a year in which the budgetary pressures are so great," Pelavin added.

A pro-Israel lobbyist argued that the closeness of the vote "reflects the concern over the Egyptian debt forgiveness." But it was unclear how inclusion of a similar provision for Israel's \$3.7 billion U.S. military debt might have affected the outcome of the vote on the bill.

Funding For 40,000 Jewish Refugees

The foreign aid bill also contains enough funds to bring 40,000 Soviet Jews to the United States, and the health and human services spending bill contains \$39 million in funding for domestic resettlement.

More than \$34 million of those funds will go to the 40,000 Jewish refugees, as long as Jewish community federations agree to match the amount dollar for dollar.

The foreign aid bill also directs the Immigration and Naturalization Service to grant Soviet Jews and other minorities a presumption of eligibility for refugee status for the next two years, on the basis that they still face a "well-founded fear of persecution."

In other legislative action, Congress adopted the 1991 defense appropriations bill, which allows the United States to spend as much as \$50 million on its joint anti-tactical missile program with Israel, which is entering the second phase of development.

The defense bill also calls for the United States to place 4.5 million barrels of oil in Israel, which the president could certify for Israeli use at any time.

PARTS OF ADOPTED CHILD-CARE BILL DISTURB SOME JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Jewish groups were largely unhappy with the last-minute adoption by the departing 101st Congress of a \$22 billion child-care bill.

The bill, which is the first of its kind since World War II, allows sectarian day-care institutions receiving federal funds to favor those of the same religion in their hiring and enrollment policies.

States would be able to distribute as much as \$2.5 billion in federal funds directly to synagogues and churches that run religious-oriented day-care programs under the new law.

Jewish groups were not opposed to having synagogues and churches benefit from the program, so long as they ran non-sectarian child-care programs. But most Jewish groups did not want such programs to include religious instruction, citing their view that there should be a strict separation between church and state.

Among the groups supporting that view were the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, B'nai Brith International, National Council of

Jewish Women and Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

But Orthodox Jewish groups, especially Agudath Israel of America, which actively lobbied in favor of the adopted language, were happy with the bill.

Congress also approved a \$287 million bill providing grants to institutions that do community service work. Agudath Israel was instrumental in alerting Congress to include religious institutions as possible beneficiaries.

In other legislative action, Congress adopted a deficit-reduction bill that limits allowable tax deductions. But officials of Jewish organizations do not expect it to have a major impact on contributions to Jewish causes.

The provision requires those earning more than \$100,000 to subtract 3 percent of each dollar they earn over \$100,000 from their total itemized deductions, excluding those for medical expenses.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:

ARABS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO JOBS FIND LITTLE TOLERANCE FROM ISRAELIS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- The night was cool but emotions were hot as hundreds of residents of Jerusalem's Baka section gathered Sunday to memorialize three of their neighbors, brutally stabbed to death outside their homes one week earlier by a young Palestinian worker shouting, "Slaughter the Jews."

Mourning was mixed with rage, and the placards carried by some of the people said it all: "Death to the Arabs."

The message may have been directed only at Arab terrorists. But for the moment at least, there is very little tolerance for any Arabs here.

Knesset Member Rehavam Ze'evi, leader of the Moledet party, which advocates transfer of the Arab population out of Israel and the administered territories, was greeted by the crowd with cheers.

Ze'evi was angry because Defense Minister Moshe Arens had just lifted the ban on Palestinians entering Israel from the administered territories, four days after imposing it.

"We tried to live without them," Ze'evi said, referring to the Palestinian workers who were forced to stay away from their jobs in Israel.

"We woke up for four days, but disappointment came quickly," he told the crowd. "This morning they returned to our streets, to our towns and villages, to bring with them death, terror and bombs. Why?"

Ze'evi was articulating sentiments which seem to be shared this week by growing numbers of Israelis, on the left no less than the right, for whom Palestinian workers are no longer welcome here.

New Restrictions Ordered

Several Cabinet ministers criticized the defense establishment Sunday for lifting the ban on Arab workers too hastily.

While the army wanted to prevent further Arab attacks on Jewish civilians, it feared that if Palestinians were kept confined to their towns, unrest would quickly escalate into riots throughout the territories.

But a number of influential politicians felt it was too early to return to business as usual. Ministers such as Ariel Sharon, Yitzhak Moda'i and Moshe Katsav argued that the reasons why

the territories were sealed off last week are still relevant.

The Arab workers themselves are nervous about returning. An estimated 30 percent of the Gaza Strip labor force stayed home at the beginning of the week. The workers feared that Jewish extremists might take revenge for the wave of stabbings by Arabs after the Baka murders last week.

And many who returned to work found that Jews had been hired to replace them.

Still others are now barred from working in Israel, under new restrictions approved Monday night by Defense Ministry officials. The new rules forbid any Palestinian from the territories with a criminal or security record from crossing the Green Line into Israel proper.

Currently, some 8,000 Palestinians from the territories hold green identity cards, indicating they have criminal records or are considered security risks. Under the new restrictions, the cards, which bar the holders from entering Israel, are expected to be issued to another 7,000 Palestinian workers.

But there is a problem of enforcement. Almost 120,000 Palestinians from the territories work in Israel every day. If the restrictions are to work, all of them must have their identities checked every morning on their way to their jobs.

This is relatively easy to do in the Gaza Strip, because there are only a few roads leading into Israel proper. But there are many routes in and out of the West Bank, which has a long border with Israel proper.

The security forces in the Gaza Strip issued magnetized passes to workers with clean records last week, thereby screening out hostile elements. The authorities are now considering issuing magnetized passes to West Bank residents, as well.

Islamic Jihad Group Outlawed

Israeli employers are being asked, in any event, to be more selective in hiring Palestinians from the territories and to ensure that all have a valid ID card.

The army also announced Monday that it has taken legal measures to outlaw Islamic Jihad, a religious nationalist movement active in the territories.

It is the third Arab organization banned since the intifada started in December 1987. The others are Shabiba, the nationalist youth movement linked to Yasir Arafat's Al Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and Hamas, an Islamic fundamentalist movement still active in the intifada.

It appears, meanwhile, that 23 years after Israel conquered the territories, hawks and doves alike share the view that there should be greater separation between Jews and Palestinians.

But that does not mean that the two sides have reached consensus on the political future of the administered territories. The gap, in fact, remains wider than ever.

While the hawks want to keep the Palestinians out of Israel, the doves want to get Israel out of the territories. The Labor Party soon plans to discuss a proposal that Israel announce its unilateral withdrawal from the territories.

According to the plan, proposed by former Cabinet minister Gad Ya'acobi, Israel would announce by April 1991 that it was withdrawing from the Gaza Strip, and by October of next year, it would withdraw from most of the West Bank.

ISRAELI PARTIES DISCUSSING SANCTIONS AGAINST THE POLICE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Police Minister Ronni Milo is consulting with his Likud party and its coalition partners about whether to take disciplinary action against the top officers responsible for handling the bloody Oct. 8 riots on the Temple Mount.

Milo met Monday with national Police Chief Ya'acov Ternor, one of the three ranking officers named in an investigatory commission's report on the riots, in which at least 17 Arabs were fatally shot by Israeli police.

But speculation in the political community is that Ternor will not be asked to resign.

The National Religious Party reportedly told Milo it opposed any dismissals from the force.

But Likud circles seem to favor measures against two other senior officers singled out for criticism. They argue that to do nothing would fly in the face of the report.

Rahamim Comfort, commander of police for the southern district, may be asked to take early retirement, these circles said. Arye Bibi, the Jerusalem area police chief, would be reassigned elsewhere.

Ternor has set up a police study team to recommend security measures in the volatile Temple Mount area. One measure reported to be under consideration is the erection of a wire mesh fence on top of the Western Wall, to protect Jewish worshipers from stones thrown from the Temple Mount.

Meanwhile, the Israeli human rights group Betselem offered strong criticism Monday of the commission's report, which was released last Friday and unanimously endorsed by the Cabinet on Sunday.

The report places most blame for the rioting on an Arab mob it says was incited by Moslem clergy. While it severely criticizes several high-ranking police officers for mishandling the situation, it justifies the use of live ammunition against Arab rock-throwers.

Betselem, so far the only Israeli group to dissent from the official view, faulted the commission for failing to mention the Arab version of events, whether or not it accepted them.

It also criticized the report for failing to deal adequately with what it considers the central issue, the use of live ammunition by the police.

E.C. LEADERS URGE THAT ISRAEL COOPERATE WITH A U.N. INQUIRY

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- The European Community is continuing efforts to urge that Israel cooperate with the U.N. Security Council's decision to send a fact-finding mission to Israel to investigate the Oct. 8 fatal shooting of at least 17 Arabs by Israeli police on the Temple Mount.

The top leadership of the 12 E.C. member states concluded a weekend summit meeting here Sunday with a statement criticizing Israel's refusal to comply with the Security Council's resolutions calling for such an investigation.

At a news conference here, Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti disclosed he had received a letter from Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat asking the Italian government to work for a "stable, equitable, lasting solution to the Palestinian problem."

Andreotti said the E.C. statement was a response to Arafat's letter.

The E.C. declaration criticized Israel's policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and observed that "the tragic events in Jerusalem demonstrate once again that the status quo in the occupied territories is not sustainable."

It called for a "just and lasting solution" to the Arab-Israeli conflict, warned both sides that "violence breeds violence" and urged that an international peace conference on the Middle East be convened "at the opportune moment."

LEVY, IN FRANCE, IS ASSURED ISRAEL WON'T FACE HUSSEIN ALONE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy got firm assurances Sunday from France that no matter how the Persian Gulf crisis is resolved, Israel need not worry about facing an Iraqi assault alone.

Prime Minister Michel Rocard told Levy that France does not yet know whether the crisis will be ended by military action or negotiations.

But "whatever the solution, Saddam Hussein will never again be in a position to threaten you (Israel) and other countries," Rocard said.

Rocard's was responding to an interview published Sunday in *Le Monde*, in which Levy was quoted as saying that if Iraq avoids a military confrontation, Israel would eventually be forced to face Hussein alone with his army intact.

Levy's meeting with Rocard on the first day of his four-day working visit was exceptionally cordial, in contrast to the cold reception he got when he landed in Paris a short time earlier.

The Israeli foreign minister was greeted at the airport by the deputy head of the Foreign Ministry's protocol department, an official considerably below him in rank.

But Rocard went out of his way to extend him the maximum courtesy. He waited for Levy at the bottom of the stairs leading to his office and accompanied him out after their one-hour talk.

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWS ANGERED OVER CLERICS' RESOLUTION

JOHANNESBURG, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- The organized South African Jewish community is up in arms over a resolution passed Oct. 20 by the synod of the Anglican Diocese of Cape Town which supports the Palestinians' "right to resist Israeli aggression."

The resolution, introduced by the Rev. Terence Lester, supports the right of Palestinians to organize themselves politically and backs the Palestinians' "legitimate rights" to land and self-determination.

The measure came under fire from a leading South African rabbi, the South African Zionist Federation and the Israeli ambassador here.

Rabbi Cyril Harris, chief rabbi of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues of South Africa, accused the synod of "at best naivete and, at worst, of anti-Semitism."

The Zionist federation declared the resolution "one sided" and "shameful," in a statement issued by its chairman, Solly Sacks.

It was prompted by the fatal shooting Oct. 8 of at least 17 Arab rioters by Israeli police on the Temple Mount.

Lester maintained his resolution was "not a Jew-bashing motion."

**OFFICE OPENED IN MOSCOW BY UCSJ
TO MONITOR SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS**
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29 (JTA) -- An office to monitor Soviet emigration and human rights practices has been opened in Moscow, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews has announced.

The Moscow Bureau on Exit, Human Rights and Rule of Law in the USSR was opened Monday as a joint venture of the Union of Councils and the Moscow-based Public Committee on Exit and Entrance and Other Human Rights.

"We are excited to be the first Western human rights organization to open an office in Moscow," David Waksberg, the union's vice president, said at the opening ceremony.

He said that the center will provide direct assistance to prisoners of conscience, refuseniks and Soviet Jews fleeing anti-Semitism as well as provide resettlement information for those emigrating to the United States and Israel.

The center opens at a time when the Union of Councils is urging a revival of the grass-roots efforts in the American Jewish community on behalf of Jews in the Soviet Union.

"We in the Jewish community have been complacent because the immigration figures are high," said Pamela Cohen, the group's president.

Cohen said that because Jewish emigration figures have gone from tiny numbers to "twice what we had hoped," the Bush administration and Congress believe American Jews are no longer concerned about human rights in the USSR.

Cohen spoke here last week to some 70 people, representing Soviet Jewry councils around the country, who were last week to attend the organization's annual leadership conference.

The conference focused on reviving the grass-roots movement to press the human rights agenda at the next meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The meeting, which will take place in Paris in November, will be attended by President Bush, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the leaders of the other countries in the CSCE.

'Lowering Of Voice' On Human Rights

The CSCE has been the forum for discussion of the 1975 Helsinki Accords. But Micah Naftalin, national director of the Union of Councils, said the CSCE has been recently concentrating on security and economics, two of the three baskets of the Helsinki Accords, and barely mentioning the third, human rights.

This was most evident when the CSCE foreign ministers met in New York earlier this month and only British Foreign Secretary Dennis Hurd stressed human rights, Naftalin said.

He added that the Union of Councils was not only concerned that there "has been a general lowering of voice on human rights," but that non-governmental organizations like the Union of Councils have been frozen out of the process. "Suddenly we are out in the cold," he said.

The change in focus is due partly to the success of the Helsinki process, which inspired the democratic movement in Eastern Europe, Naftalin said. He said the Paris meeting is aimed at building the "architecture for a new Europe" in which democratization will be the focus.

"Gone (from the CSCE agenda) is anti-Semitism, gone is psychiatric abuse, gone is political prisoners," as well as continued barriers to emigration, Naftalin said.

To reverse the trend to neglect human rights, the Union of Councils is urging its members to raise the issue in their localities and with their representatives in Congress.

Mark Kotliyar, a recent immigrant to Los Angeles from Kiev, has joined the Union of Councils and will be pressing the issue in speeches across the country. The 42-year-old Kotliyar was active in pleading the refusenik cause with thousands of visitors to the Soviet Union.

CZECH JEWS REPORTING JUDAICA THEFTS
By Ruth E. Gruber

TREBIC, Czechoslovakia (JTA) -- Jewish communities in Czechoslovakia have reported a series of thefts of valuable religious artifacts from synagogues and other Jewish institutions.

The most recent was the pillage of ceremonial objects from the synagogue in Brno, in Moravia. Arnost Neufeld, president of the Jewish community there who is visiting nearby Trebic, said the theft occurred within the past month.

He said the stolen objects are probably worth 10 times the official \$3,300 estimate, not to mention their historical and emotional value.

Dr. Arno Parik, head of the Jewish Museum in Prague, said the theft of Jewish ritual objects has become so commonplace that he has alerted collectors of Judaica in Israel to be on the lookout for stolen articles.

He said that when Pope John Paul II visited Bratislava last April, the security forces in the Slovak capital were so preoccupied with his protection that thieves managed to break into the Jewish community's offices and steal valuable silver articles being prepared for an exhibition.

Christian houses of worship have also been robbed, and the crime rate in Czechoslovakia in fact has soared since the ouster of the Communist regime last year, community leaders say.

REVISIONIST ARRAIGNED IN MASSACHUSETTS
By Steve Rosenberg
The Jewish Advocate

BOSTON (JTA) -- Fred Leuchter, a builder of execution systems and Holocaust revisionist, has been arraigned in Malden District Court on charges of practicing engineering without a license.

The charge stems from his self-proclaimed scientific authority, which has been used extensively by neo-Nazis to bolster their arguments that the Holocaust never occurred.

The 47-year-old businessman pleaded not guilty Oct. 23 and was released on his personal recognizance. A pretrial conference was set for Dec. 11.

If convicted, the Malden resident could face a fine of \$500 and up to three months in prison. His credibility as a witness for Holocaust revisionists would also be damaged.

Leuchter left the courthouse protected by police and followed by TV cameras and reporters as dozens of Holocaust survivors standing in the drizzling rain, shouted "Lies!" and waved signs reading "We Bear Witness."

Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld, who helped initiate the action against Leuchter, came here from France to stand outside the Malden court.

Klarsfeld explained that Leuchter could not be sued for false research and defamation but could be brought to court for falsifying his professional credentials.