

CUBA BREAKS WITH ISREAL

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Israelis expressed surprise and regret over the sudden breaking off of diplomatic relations by Cuba.

Premier Fidel Castro announced the break Sept. 9 at the conference of non-aligned nations in Algiers but there was no official confirmation from Havana until the following morning.

The long record of cordial relations between Cuba and Israel unbroken by the Six-Day War, added to the surprise.

Gabriel Doron, the former Israeli Minister to Cuba who was based in Havana in 19-68-70, recalled the independent attitude demonstrated by Castro when he was pressured to break with Israel after the Six-Day War. He refused to break relations with any country that did not directly hurt Cuba's interests and rejected the idea of doing so because others urged him to, Doron said.

Israel recalled that Castro cancelled a visit to Algeria in 1963 after he was chided by the then Algerian Premier Ahmed Ben Bella for having declared three days of mourning at the death of Israel's President Itzhak Ben Zvi. Ben Bella declared at the time that "Whoever respects a dead Israeli in that way has no right to come to an Arab land."

It was also recalled here that Israel sent plasma and other medical supplies to Cuba and was hailed for its humanitarian act. An Israeli sports delegation arrived in Havana Sept. 9 to participate in a weightlifting contest. The delegation was received with utmost cordiality, according to a telephone report from Havana. Castro's move was obviously a surrender to Arab pressure in Algiers, Israelis said. Doron added, however, that the break was not expected to alter Cuba's friendly attitude toward its small Jewish community.

Doron noted that less than 1000 Jews remain in Cuba out of some 14,000 who lived there before the Castro regime came to power in 1960. But, he said, they are strongly organized. There are five synagogues to serve them. He recalled that Castro was personally friendly with the Jewish community. His government always paid the expenses of a rabbi on the high holidays.

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30,-40,000 SOVIET JEWS WILL ARRIVE IN ISRAEL IN ONE YEAR

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Israeli Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir told some 700 American and Canadian Jewish community leaders that he has "an unofficial promise" that 30-40,000 Jews will arrive in Israel from the Soviet Union in a year and that he expects 18,000 families "from everywhere" to immigrate in 1974.

He said their resettlement will cost \$600 million.

Sapir said that Israel's first budget item is still defense which amounts to 17 percent of the gross national product, twice as much proportionally as the U.S. He revealed that Israel is in the process of establishing an atomic power plant to produce electric power and is intensifying its search for oil.

Sapir spoke at an Israel Bond Organization dinner climaxing the group's fall leadership conference at which he was honored for his 10 years as Minister of Finance and 18 years in the Israeli Cabinet.

Israeli Premier Golda Meir telephoned her congratulations to Sapir

and Sam Rothberg of Peoria, Ill., the Bonds organization's general chairman, called him "the chief architect of Israel's economic progress" and the "father of Israel Bonds."

Rothberg announced that more bonds were sold during the past eight months in the U.S. than in any other similar year. Since 1951, the Bond organization has provided \$2.4 billion for Israel's economic development.

ISREAL TO CHARGE TERRORIST PLOT

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israel will bring the aborted terrorist plot to shoot down an El Al plane near the Rome airport before the International Civil Aviation Organization's general assembly currently meeting in Rome.

Sources here said the plot to destroy an Israeli airliner with Soviet-made ground-to-air-missile demonstrated clearly who endangers civil aviation and who should be condemned.

The ICAO condemned

Israel by an 87-1 vote for its interception of a Lebanese airliner.

Italian police arrested five Arabs in Ostia and Rome after they found two Soviet-made SA-7 type missiles stored by the terrorists in a house in Ostia on the Italian coast less than 10 miles from Fiumicino Airport in Rome.

The terrorists had planned to shoot down an Israeli airliner at a height of 300 feet as the plane prepared to land.

US PHANTOMS, SKYHAWKS TO ISREAL

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Israel and the U.S. are expected to sign an agreement this month under which Israel will receive 48 F-4 Phantom jets and 36 A-4 Skyhawks at the rate of one plane of each category per month.

The cost to Israel will be about \$122 Million.

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