

A WHITE HOUSE WHITE WASH

The ugly charge of dual loyalty aimed at the American Jewish community which surfaced during last year's heated debate over the sale of AWACS reconnaissance planes to Saudi Arabia, was brought back from the not-so-murky past as the highest Administration official to address a Jewish organization since President Reagan took office 14 months ago described the charge as "scurrilous" and "outrageous."

In an address to young Jewish leaders from across the country attending the third annual United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Conference in Washington, Vice President George Bush spoke on a range of topics concerning the Jewish community including the AWACS debate. He declared: "To say that someone is disloyal to America because he or she has an abiding affection for another country is an insult. It's offensive. And it's just basically un-American."

Bush stressed that those who made the charge "did an injustice to all Americans whose birthright it is to dissent. And I reject as equally outrageous the notion that this charge came out of the White House." While Bush might view as "equally outrageous" that the charge of dual loyalty came from the White House, nevertheless is a point of contention in a report by the American Jewish Committee in New York released the same week as Bush spoke in Washington.

The AJCommittee report, titled "The AWACS Debate: Is There An Anti-Semitic Fallout?" noted in reviewing the events of the AWACS debate that "for the first time in recent memory an American Administration impugned the loyalty of the American Jewish community (saying) that Jews were 'casting undue influence' on the legislative process....The Administration set the tone for debate, managing to convey the notion that the American Jewish community was disloyal, that Jews who fought the sale were fighting against America's best interests. Many non-Jewish legislators who opposed the sale on the merits were accused of fearing cessation of Jewish financial support." The report also points to "threats that dire consequences would ensue for Jews in America if the sale did not go through..."

For the Administration's part, the report said that President Reagan, three weeks after he won Congressional approval of the sale, expressed his profound concern over the anti-Semitic aspects of the debate. But while Bush may profess that the tone was not set in the White House and the charges are outrageous, the report by the AJCommittee does draw broad implications once again that the Reagan Administration should be judged by its actions and not its words.

GUNMEN FIRE AT ISRAELI TRADE MISSION

PARIS (WNS) -- Three masked gunmen strafed the Israeli military trade mission here just as the staff was about to leave for lunch. No one was injured in the gun fire. But a police officer guarding the building which houses the mission said that had the trio opened fire a minute or two later, several people among those leaving the building might have been injured or killed.

The three attackers arrived in a car which stopped in front of the building in the center of Paris. The masked assailants shot several bursts of automatic fire and sped away before

French policemen on duty could return the fire or even take down the number of the car's license. The new head of the mission Brig. Gen. Amir Reuveni, who also serves as Israel's military attache in Paris, was not in the building at the time of the attack.

BEGIN CALLS FOR SPECIAL ISRAEL BOND SALE

NEW YORK (WNS) -- With Israel preparing to complete its evacuation from the Sinai, Prime Minister Menachem Begin has called on Israel to "demonstrate its solidarity" with Israel "by making a special effort in the coming weeks to enable us to back up our endeavors for peace with a strong economy."

Responding to Prime Minister Begin's request, Sam Rothberg, General Chairman of Israel Bonds, said, "we are launching immediately an intensive sales and cash effort which will continue during the next four weeks and culminate on April 25, the date of Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai."

"On that day, which we have designated as 'Unity with Israel Day,' Jewish communities across the country will reaffirm our solidarity with Israel and our commitment to help the nation achieve peace and economic development."

Rothberg pointed out that Israel Bond proceeds are needed to finance the infrastructure for expanded growth in the Negev which will be Israel's only remaining large area for development after the evacuation of the Sinai is completed.

LIBYA SENDING ARMS TO LEBANON

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Libya, through its continued arms purchasing for Palestinian terrorists in south Lebanon, is responsible for the "explosive" situation there, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir charged in an address to a visiting group of West German Bundestag members, headed by Enders Wendelin of the ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD).

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