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CONGRESS GETS BILLS FOR NUCLEAR PACTS WITH EGYPT AND ISRAEL

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 27 (JTA)--Legislation to give Congress veto authority over U.S. government agreements to deliver nuclear reactors to foreign countries is expected to be adopted by both Houses in the wake of provisional contracts signed yesterday with Egypt and Israel. The voting is not expected until after the Congress returns July 9 from a fourth of July recess.

The legislation, signed by all 18 members of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, has strong bipartisan backing. It was introduced by the committee's chairman Rep. Melvin Price (D.Ill.) and its vice-chairman, Sen. John Pastore (D,R.I.).

At present an agreement must be submitted to the committee which would allow the agreement to become valid by the committee's not taking action within 30 days after receiving it. It is not mandatory for the Joint Committee to present it to the full Congress. The new legislation provides that the Administration provide the agreements to the committee which would have 30 legislative days to review it and then submit it, whether with approval or not, to the Congress for review during the ensuing 30 legislative days.

"The committee has been concerned over loose ends in the present legislation," a committee aide told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "The new provisions give Congress a clear-cut mechanism to review all agreements--civil and military."

Meanwhile the Atomic Energy Commission informed the JTA that its agreements with Egypt and Israel are not identical. Among the differences, a spokesman said, was that deliveries of nuclear fuel would begin to Egypt in February 1980 and to Israel 11 months later, in January 1981. Both contracts call for payment of \$39 million spread over ten years. Egypt made a down payment of \$660,000 and Israel \$726,000. Both checks were on the Morgan Trust Co., New York. Funding for the remainder of the contracts, it was intimated, will be through the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

Each country is to receive a 600-megawatt plant with construction to be completed in about eight years. Such a plant, the AEC told JTA, is sufficient to provide electrical power for an American city of about 250,000 inhabitants. The spokesman told JTA that he did not know of any hidden undertakings or clauses in either agreement.

At a hearing by two House Foreign Affairs Subcommittees, AEC's director of international programs, Abraham S. Friedman, said there was no urgency about the contracts but that if the U.S. did not sign a fuel agreement by June 30, the projects might have to be delayed a year or two.

Herbert P. Scoville and Dr. Theodore B. Taylor, former specialists at the Los Alamos scientific laboratory, said the U.S. should insist that fuel used in the plants in Egypt and Israel should be reprocessed outside the Middle East. Reprocessing yields plutonium used in atomic weapons.

Some concern was heard here that if the U.S. did not supply Egypt with a reactor, France or West Germany might. This was indicated by Sec-

retary of State Henry A. Kissinger, who said last week that a country other than those in Eastern Europe may be a supplier if the U.S. is not.

GUR WARNS LEBANON AGAINST ACCEPTING OUTSIDE ARAB WEAPONS

TEL AVIV, June 27 (JTA)--Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur warned Lebanon today that it would "become a battlefield" if it brought in war planes, anti-aircraft missiles and other weapons from Arab countries. His remarks at a press conference here were viewed as a response to reports that the Lebanese government is considering asking other Arab countries for military aid against Israeli air raids on terrorist encampments in Lebanon. Such aid reportedly has already been offered by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt.

Gen. Gur said he did not think "Lebanon really wants to become a battlefield" but the decision rested with the Beirut regime. He claimed that the Lebanese armed forces were fully capable of ending terrorist incursions against Israel from Lebanese territory if ordered to do so. He said Israeli retaliatory raids on terrorist strongholds in Lebanon had achieved their aims and indicated that they will be repeated when necessary. "We have learned the lesson and we shall try our best to find methods and the time for action that will prevent the terrorists from carrying out their murderous attacks," Gen. Gur said.

His replies to reporters' questions covered a wide range of military subjects. He claimed that Israel's armed forces had recovered and in some respects exceeded their pre-Yom Kippur War strength and were capable of meeting a combined attack by Egypt, Syria and Jordan. He said in that connection that Israel was taking seriously the warlike remarks of President Sadat. Gur reiterated his statement on an armed forces radio interview yesterday that Israel retains the option to declare war if certain conditions develop. He said it was important for the world and especially for Israel's neighbors to know that option exists and would be exercised under certain circumstances.

Asked why it was not exercised when Syrian and Egyptian forces were massing for their attacks last Oct., Gen. Gur replied that it was the government, not the army, which makes such decisions. "This does not mean that under certain conditions this option would not be put into action," he said.

In his radio interview yesterday, Gen. Gur warned that Israel could expect long-range missile attacks if it went to war again with its Arab neighbors and that despite improved defenses, some of the missiles "will reach us and explode." He said attacks by ground-to-ground missiles of the Scud and Frog type which the Russians have supplied to Egypt and Syria would probably be the opening gambit of any new war. He said Israel's answer to missile attack was its air force and that Israeli pilots retained their superiority over Arab pilots. He said Israel expected to receive the most sophisticated aircraft but did not specify what kind. "Once the means which we are interested in purchasing arrive, we shall be able to complete the circle," he said.

Gen. Gur replied today to Syrian charges that Israeli forces deliberately destroyed the Golan

Heights town of Kuneitra before they withdrew. He said the army levelled some houses that might have served as shelters for snipers firing on nearby Israeli settlements. But most of the damage, he said, was sustained when Kuneitra was a battlefield in the Six-Day War, the Yom Kippur War and more recently during the war of attrition on the northern front.

LEVICH BROTHERS TOLD THEY CAN LEAVE FOR ISRAEL

NEW YORK, June 27 (JTA)--Alexander and Yevgeny Levich, the two sons of Soviet scientist Benjamin Levich, have been told they will be permitted to emigrate to Israel, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported today but the SSSJ was unable to confirm reports that the sons were told they will be allowed to leave before the end of 1974. The Soviet practice is normally to tell Jews given exit permits to leave within a matter of days or weeks.

The Levich brothers have been seeking exit visas for more than two years. Their father, a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, applied to leave for Israel more than two years ago and was fired from his Moscow University post and from the Institute of Electrical Chemistry.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry said the Soviet decision was obviously made to coincide with President Nixon's visit to Moscow. The Conference welcomed it but pointed out that "vague promises" such as this had frequently resulted in persons having to wait even longer for their exit permits.

'BASIC UNDERSTANDING' REPORTED BY PERES AFTER WASHINGTON TALKS

WASHINGTON, June 27 (JTA)--Shimon Peres, Israel's Defense Minister, said yesterday he was returning to Israel today with "an encouraged spirit" because of the "basic understanding I have met" in three days of intensive meetings here with key U.S. officials. Peres met briefly with newsmen late yesterday before attending a closed meeting of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He met earlier yesterday with Acting Secretary of State Joseph Sisco for almost three hours at the State Department and before that with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger before Kissinger left for Moscow with President Nixon. Peres also met for almost three hours with Defense Secretary James Schlesinger at the Pentagon.

Israeli diplomatic officials here indicated that in his conversations, Peres discussed Israel's present and future needs for its security and the necessity to proceed both in the direction of aiding Israel and convincing the Arabs of the need for peace. It was indicated that Schlesinger was very much forthcoming towards Israel's request for arms assistance and has a deep understanding of Israel's requirements for security. He reportedly told Peres that without a secure Israel, little can be done towards a settlement in the Middle East.

Peres was presumed to have made clear that unless all parts of the disengagement agreements with Egypt and Syria are fulfilled, little chance existed for adequate negotiations in other areas. While Peres was encouraged by his first visit to Washington as Defense Minister, it seemed plain that he was not completely satisfied on what he set forth as Israel's requirements. No official, Israeli or American, would confirm the persistent reports that Israel is asking for \$1.5 billion in armaments over the next four or five years. Peres came to Washington to follow up President Nixon's pledge to strengthen Israel on his visit there ten days ago.

It is understood that Peres and the American officials discussed all phases of the Middle East situation including the plight of Syrian Jewry and the Egyptian threats to supply Lebanon with aircraft and other weapons to prevent Israeli retaliations against the Palestinian terrorists for their terror attacks against women and children in Israel. American officials were reported as seeing a hardening line by Egypt and Syria towards Israel. Whether this hardening is tactical or strategic was not certain but the change in the attitudes of the two Arab countries is recognized the officials said.

In an interview here earlier, Peres said that Israel does not have tactical nuclear weapons and would agree to allow its two research reactors to be controlled by France and the United States which supply them. The reactors are for peaceful development and electrical energy. Responding to concern in some quarters that Israel could produce plutonium, used in atomic bombs, Peres said Israel has no such plans and no such capability. "We are short both of oil and water," Peres said according to an interview in The Washington Star News. "We have the Jordan River, but this carries more history than water. That is why we need other sources for electrical energy."

(Peres reportedly told leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York today that the most important element in the defense of Israel is world Jewry, either through the physical presence of Jews in Israel or by their participation in support of Israel.

He spoke at an off-the-record meeting at the Presidents Conference headquarters before leaving for Israel. According to sources, Peres stressed he had tried to make U.S. officials understand that a militarily-strong Israel was needed if Mideast peace negotiations are to continue. He said they would not continue until Israel was assured that the military balance of strength was repaired, the sources said.

He also reportedly told the Jewish leaders that the costs of military equipment had soared not only because of inflation but also because of the increased sophistication of weapons. The sources said the Conference leaders seemed deeply impressed by Peres and applauded him frequently.)

KNESSET APPROVES ISRAEL BUDGET 46-43, AFTER LONG SHARP DEBATE

JERUSALEM, June 27 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin's coalition government survived its second major test in the Knesset early today when the government's IL 35.35 billion budget was adopted by a 46-43 vote after 14 hours of debate and parliamentary maneuvering. Had the Knesset defeated the budget, the Cabinet would have had to resign. The strong opposition used every tactic to try to defeat or delay approval of the budget which was not adopted until 2 a.m.

Knesset members who stayed through the night in the budget debate raised their hands some 150 times to approve or reject budget items and objections placed by the opposition. Everyone was so tired that at one time Rabin raised his hand even though no vote was taken. Opposition members mistakenly voted for the government and vice versa. The budget is usually approved before April 1 when the fiscal year begins. But because of the Yom Kippur War and the late elections, the Knesset had approved only an interim budget which expires Sunday. Therefore a new budget had to be adopted this week.

Only 90 out of 120 MKs were present (Moked's Meir Payil abstained in the vote) but this was considered an unusually high turnout for a budget vote.

After midnight Likud leader Menachem Begin called for an end to speeches and a decisive vote, catching Knesset Speaker Yisrael Yeshayahu by surprise. He called for a 15-minute recess because he was not sure all the coalition members were present. The opposition protested but Finance Committee chairman Yisrael Kargman said: "I don't want the budget to pass with a majority of only one vote." After a 30-minute delay all coalition MKs were back in the hall and the budget was approved by the narrow three-vote margin. Rabin's government survived its first test on June 19 when it defeated by a 60-50 vote motions of no confidence over the issue of the United States supplying nuclear reactors to Egypt.

Cites Backing For Terrorists TEKOAHS QUESTIONS SINCERITY OF SADAT'S STANCE FOR PEACE

UNITED NATIONS, June 27 (JTA)--Egyptian President Sadat's announced support of terrorist raids against Israel and his readiness to assist Lebanon against Israel have raised "serious questions" for Israel about Egypt's intention to move toward "a new relationship of peace and understanding" with Israel, Yosef Tekoah, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, said here yesterday.

Emerging from a one-hour meeting with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, Tekoah told newsmen he had also expressed formally his surprise and dismay about Dr. Waldheim's disclosure he had met with Palestinian representatives in Khartoum, in the Sudan. Tekoah listed the terrorists Waldheim met as Zuhayr Muhsin, commander of El-Saiqa in Lebanon, the group that called the Kiryat Shemona massacre "heroic" and took responsibility for many of the terrorist atrocities; Faruq al Qadumi, who represents El Fatah in the Palestine Liberation Organization; and Khalid al Fatum, chairman of the National Palestinian Council of PLO. Tekoah said Waldheim told him the meetings with the terrorists was a "chance encounter" and that he was not aware of the identity of the terrorists he met.

Tekoah said he also called to Waldheim's attention the plight of Syrian Jewry and "the increased harassment of Soviet Jews in recent days" when many were arrested to avoid their staging protests during President Nixon's visit to Moscow. Tekoah said he asked Waldheim to "continue" his "humanitarian interest" on behalf of Syrian and Soviet Jewries. Tekoah added that the "physical molestation" of the Jews in Syria continued and that the Jews there were "utterly defenseless." (By Yitzhak Rabi)

KAHANE CONVICTED ON CONSPIRACY CHARGE; WILL BE SENTENCED TODAY

JERUSALEM, June 27 (JTA)--Rabbi Meir Kahane, the founder and former head of the Jewish Defense League was convicted by a Jerusalem District Court today of conspiracy to damage U.S.-Israeli relations. He was acquitted on a second count of conspiracy to commit a crime.

Kahane was found guilty on the basis of letters and a cable he sent to JDL activists in the U.S., exhorting them to sabotage Arab and Soviet Embassies in Washington and to sabotage the American visit of Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev in June 1973 because of Russia's treatment of Jews. The Kahane letters also urged his cohorts to sabotage American economic institutions and commercial firms doing business with the USSR. Sentence will be pronounced tomorrow morning. The militant, Brooklyn-born rabbi faces a maximum of seven years in jail.

Judge Yaacov Bazak, explaining the conviction, said that although the violations charged to Kahane were carried out by an individual, the U.S. could regard Israel as responsible for acts of individuals if she did not prevent them. He cited as an example Israel's insistence that the government of Lebanon is responsible for the acts of terrorism based on Lebanese soil. Rabbi Kahane rose to speak for himself, insisting that he was not asking for mercy and saying he did not regret any of the things related to him.

JAVITS SEES MAJOR HOPES FOR ISRAEL IN NEW MIDEAST CHANGES

NEW YORK, June 27 (JTA)--"The monumental new forces at work in the Middle East offer hope that Israel can benefit very materially from the reconstitution of alliances and states in terms of peace and well-being which is now taking place," Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R.N.Y.) said in a speech prepared for delivery tonight at the opening session here of the 77th annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America.

He said that "for the first time in 20 years, the United States has a positive Mideast policy--and it appears to be working." Israel should be helped by the new U.S. policy, he said, adding that Israel's economic situation has "never been more precarious and never before has Israel been so dependent on another government--in this case the United States--for the military equipment needed for its security." Sen. Javits said the dream of Israel's economic and military self-sufficiency, "which seemed close at hand just a year ago, has been cruelly snatched away as a result of tumultuous events which began with the Yom Kippur War."

He said the next five years were likely to place the American Zionist movement into an even more crucial and sensitive role than at any time since 1948-49. For at least a decade, he added, Israel's fate will be "very intimately and inextricably intertwined in U.S. Mideast policy." The Senator said Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's diplomacy "has brought greater hope for peace," adding "we are well rid of the old impasse between Israel and Egypt and Syria because of the disengagement of forces."

He said he welcomed the opportunity--"even with its awesome challenges and dangers"--for "a whole new alignment in the Mideast." He said oil revenues meant that Israel's Arab neighbors no longer need to see themselves condemned to an inferior standard of living "and will start changing the way they look upon themselves," in a way "bound to bring about a change in the way they see their neighbor, Israel."

Herman L. Weisman, ZOA president, urged President Nixon and the Congress not to provide military or economic aid to any country which supports "the policy of terrorism across Israeli borders." In an address scheduled for delivery at the opening convention session, he said "These repetitive incidents of Arafat terrorism on Israeli settlements, schools and apartments, admittedly sponsored by Palestinian terror groups and openly justified and supported by neighboring Arab countries, make a travesty of those recent Arab declarations favoring peaceful settlement of the Israel-Arab conflict, particularly by Egypt and Syria, which induced President Nixon to offer American military and economic aid." Weisman urged Nixon and Kissinger to obtain explicit denunciations by Egypt and Syria "of terrorist attacks across Israel's frontiers and equally explicit declarations of the desire of the Arab countries to negotiate in good faith for a political settlement."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES — ADELMAN CHARTS ALIYA COURSE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 27 (JTA)—“Let’s see what happens,” said Albert Adelman of Milwaukee philosophically, in an interview on the work of the Permanent Aliya Committee of the Jewish Agency Assembly, of which he is chairman. The committee will be following up on its discussions and resolutions during the Agency’s General Assembly here, checking in three months and again in six months to see what progress has been made by the Agency, the relevant ministries and other bodies on the string of vital issues examined by the committee.

The American Jewish leader says “we are not waving a big stick. Our attitude is: ‘What can we do to help?’ and the Agency officials themselves accept our interest and advice in this spirit.” He added that “if we see there is no response, we will report back to the Board of Governors but we hope for progress.” Adelman hinted he was pinning high hopes on the new chairman of the Jewish Agency executive and of its aliya and absorption department, Pinhas Sapir, who has a reputation for getting things done.

Committee Does Not Mince Words

The committee did not mince words in its resolutions submitted to the Assembly. The first resolution began with a harsh preamble: “Since many of the problems confronting immigrants are not dealt with adequately...”, and the words “inadequate” and “not adequate” reappeared in the second and third resolutions dealing with housing and employment for newcomers. The committee called forcefully for closer coordination between the Agency and the various government ministries. “...in order to establish the most effective means for delivering comprehensive, coordinated and dignified services to aid immigrants.”

Adelman’s 80-member committee detected widespread apathy in Israel towards aliya and devised a revolutionary approach to counter this phenomenon. The committee urged that “immigration and absorption” become “a new interdisciplinary academic specialty (in the universities) occupying the same stature as economics, political science or sociology.... A special task force should be developed by the Jewish Agency to develop such a program.”

Nation-Wide Campaign Proposed

Further, and on a more general level, the committee recommended “a national public effort and educational campaign to mobilize opinion in Israel” on the importance of aliya to the State and its people. Here, too, the committee envisaged a leading role for the Jewish Agency, which “should take the initiative...to mount such an expanded effort.” The media, schools, women’s groups, professional organizations and youth movements should all be encompassed in this massive new effort, the committee urged.

Adelman explained his committee’s sensitivity awareness, in fact expertise in aliya and absorption matters by its composition and by the work which its five sub-committees put in on a year-round basis. Recent olim, from Russia and from the West and the East, are among the committee’s membership. They are drawn from a broad cross-section and are able to depict graphically the various problems confronting the young, the aged, the single, the professional and all the various categories of immigrants.

Adelman, a member of the Board of the Jewish

Telegraphic Agency, was appointed chairman last January and the sub-committees were set up in March. Working under his coordination, they prepared detailed and accurate reports, based on expert evidence and their own observations in the field, on such aspects of klita as social services, klita of the elderly, absorption centers, loans for olim, etc., which the full committee was able to study in advance of the June Assembly meeting. The severely practical and relevant resolutions were the result—and Adelman sees these as “only the beginning.” The committee will now continue, with follow-up and constant re-examination of the problems and suggested solutions.

GOREN TELLS ORTHODOX RABBIS JEWISH ZPG ‘CRITICAL THREAT’ TO ISRAEL AND WORLD JEWRY

MIAMI BEACH, June 27 (JTA)—Rabbi Shlomo Goren, Israel’s Chief Ashkenazic Rabbi, warned today that the zero population growth of the Jewish people posed “a critical threat” to Israel’s physical security. Speaking to some 500 rabbis at the 38th annual convention of the Rabbinical Council of America, Rabbi Goren stressed that this condition “jeopardizes the spiritual and cultural existence of Jewish communities the world over, particularly in the United States.”

Israel’s need for an increased population must be met either by aliya or by an increase in the birthrate, Rabbi Goren said. He said that an increased birthrate would remove “complete dependence on immigration.” He noted that he had been pressing the Israeli government for greater benefits for families “blessed with many children.”

Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld, the Orthodox group’s new president, said that unless the Jewish communities pay serious attention to this problem their “very existence may be endangered.” Rabbi Yitzchak Sladowsky, co-chairman of the convention, and Rabbi Morris A. Gorelik, chairman of the resolutions committee, said the Jewish people still had not replaced the six million lost in the Nazi holocaust.

The delegation adopted a series of resolutions dealing with Jewish education at the closing session today in which they called on Jewish Federations and welfare funds throughout the country to increase their allocations to all-day Jewish schools which the resolution said “have proved themselves to be the most effective weapon for the transmission of moral and religious values.” In another resolution, the delegates went on record as strongly opposed to the introduction of potential nuclear weaponry into the Middle East, stressing that the Mideast “is the most volatile” area in the world and that “the presence of nuclear weapons there endangers the existence of our entire world.”

At yesterday’s session, the rabbis admitted that they had failed to capture the imagination of young Jewish intellectuals for Orthodox Judaism. Rabbi Schonfeld said Orthodoxy has failed to develop new methods to underscore Jewish precepts to youth, resulting in Jewish youth pursuing “all sorts of new ideologies such as the exotic and the adoption of radical leftist philosophies.”

Rabbi Walter S. Wurtzbarger, editor of the RCA’s journal, Tradition, noting that nine out of 10 Jewish youth go to college, said “they expect those who wish to communicate with them” to use the type of “intellectual concepts” in which today’s youth express their ideas. But Rabbi Rafael S. Grossman of Memphis, Tenn., said the obsession by youth with sex and freedom from discipline posed a grave threat to the future of the Jewish community, particularly Orthodoxy.