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CYPRUS CRISIS MAY HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON ARAB-ISRAELI TALKS

Israeli Public Opinion Tends To Favor Turkey
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 22 (JTA)--"For once there is a Mideast crisis without Israel." This was the reaction of many Israelis toward the events going on in nearby Cyprus. But is this true? Many observers here doubt it. The Cyprus crisis was brought up at the Cabinet meeting yesterday although it chiefly centered on a short review by Foreign Minister Yigal Allon of the efforts being made to evacuate Israelis from the beleaguered island. (See separate story from London)

However, political sources here feel it may have a negative effect on Arab-Israeli negotiations. U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger was scheduled to meet within the next two weeks with the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt and Jordan to work out preparations for the next round of the Geneva talks. But political sources here fear the U.S. may just be too busy trying to solve the immediate Cyprus problem to find time to deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Meanwhile, most Israeli public opinion appears to be in sympathy with Turkey for several reasons: the Greek military regime is not popular here; there is a feeling that the Greeks asked for the Turkish invasion by inciting the coup d'etat which overthrew Archbishop Makarios; and because of Makarios' friendship with the Arab states.

Cyprus Struggle Has Lesson For Israel

Although Turkey is Moslem she is considered more friendly to Israel than is Cyprus. There are charges d'affaires in Israel and Turkey. There is an Israeli Embassy in Cyprus, but no Cypriot representation in Jerusalem. Turkish presence in Cyprus means, Israelis hope, less Soviet and Arab influence on that island. Finally -- as long as the Cyprus crisis is in the headlines, the world spotlight turns away from Israel and the pressure on Israel for a quick decision may be somewhat loosened.

The Likud Knesset faction has asked for an urgent motion to be placed on the agenda, claiming the Cyprus crisis has a lesson for Israel -- that a country cannot depend on the United Nations to secure agreements made between two parties.

Can the situation affect Israel militarily? The army spokesman reacted with "no comment" to the question and would not say whether Israel has reinforced its lines following the Turkish invasion. However, military experts were quoted as saying that due to the belligerent atmosphere in the area, and reports of seven Soviet divisions placed on alert, the Israeli army should be on increased alert. "Israel should now keep a close watch on the movements of the Arab armies," the experts said.

Both the Turkish Charge d'Affaires and the Greek diplomatic representative called on the Foreign Ministry and explained their governments' stand in the issue.

Israel Was World Communications Center

One satisfaction Israelis had from the situation was the fact that Israel had turned during

the weekend into a world communications center. The telephone line between the Jerusalem radio newsroom and the Ledra Palace Hotel in Nicosia was the only link between newsmen in the besieged hotel and the outside world. Thus, dozens of Israeli and foreign newsmen could send their reports via Jerusalem to all parts of the world.

The telephone contact operated only from Jerusalem to Nicosia and not vice-versa. Thus, it was only at 10 a.m. Saturday that Israel Radio could contact the hotel, which is situated on the border between the Greek and Turkish quarters of Nicosia. From then on the telephone lines between the hotel and the radio station was kept open almost constantly.

One Israeli reporter, Ron Ben Yishai of Israel Television, found himself in the middle of the fighting. He was standing on the hotel's roof, watching the fighting, when a bazooka rocket hit the building and killed a Greek soldier standing only 60 feet away from the Israeli reporter.

ISRAELIS ARRIVE FROM CYPRUS

LONDON, July 22 (JTA)--Forty-five Israelis were among the more than 1500 foreign nationals flown out of Cyprus by the British Royal Air Force last night and today and brought to London. The 37 Israelis who arrived last night were met by Gideon Rafael, Israeli Ambassador in London, and Chaim Gomma, the Consul General, who arranged for hotels and took care of their other needs.

A spokesman for the group told the JTA that they, and the rest of the Israelis in Cyprus, had been looked after by the British army. "They could not have been more friendly or more efficient. It was a classical British improvisation in a humanitarian cause."

The spokesman also said that those who arrived here included the members of the Society of Naturalists in Israel (Agudat Hovevei Tevah) who had been touring Cyprus as part of their summer program. The rest of the estimated 250 Israelis on Cyprus will also be brought to England by the RAF. Arrangements are being made by the Consulate to get seats for them on El Al flights to Israel.

CABINET STATEMENT ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE SEEN AS PAVING THE WAY FOR PEACE TALKS WITH JORDAN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 22 (JTA)--The statement issued here yesterday after a six-hour debate in the Cabinet on "the Palestine question" hardly marked a new departure in Israel's policy toward the Palestinians. Nevertheless, the statement contained a significant sentence which might well in the course of time prove to have marked an historic watershed. "The government," the statement said, "will work towards negotiations for a peace agreement with Jordan."

This sentence, coupled with the total absence in the Cabinet statement of any mention of future talks with Egypt, has led many observers here to the conclusion that Israel now seeks negotiations with King Hussein on the future of the West Bank as the next stage of the Geneva peace process.

One minister told me privately that his reading of the statement and his assessment of the Cabinet debate was that there was now a "Cabinet

consensus" that talks with Jordan were as desirable at this time as talks with Egypt. The previous preference, often voiced in recent weeks by Premier Yitzhak Rabin and other ministers, for another round of talks with Egypt and another partial Sinai settlement before any talks with Jordan was no longer Israel policy, this minister said.

If this construction of the Cabinet statement is correct, then it is significant indeed. And its significance is inevitably enhanced if it is seen in juxtaposition with the joint Cairo communique of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and King Hussein of Jordan last week recognizing Jordan as the representative of the Palestinians residing in Jordan (the great majority of Palestinians) with the Palestine Liberation Organization representing only those living elsewhere.

More Than A Coincidence

Some seasoned observers here attach a more than coincidental reading to the time-proximity of the Sadat-Hussein and the Israel Cabinet statements. It is as if Hussein, immeasurably strengthened by Sadat's recognition of his claim to represent the Palestinians, is now further boosted by Israel's firm restatement of its long-held belief that he and only he is a legitimate and practical partner for negotiations on the twin issues of the West Bank and the Palestinian problem.

Some observers here would even claim to detect some form of coordination between the two statements of position. However that may be, there is no doubt that the Cairo statement greatly influenced the Israel Cabinet debate. For someone like Information Minister Aharon Yariv, who only 10 days earlier had declared that Israel would negotiate with Palestinian organizations were they to recognize Israel and disavow terrorism, the Cairo communique was apparently enough to change his mind.

Yariv voted with the majority--rejecting any possibility of talks with Palestinian organizations under any circumstances. Any talks, as the majority statement said, would be held "between Israel and Jordan." Yariv explained to newsmen later that this position definitely ruled out any separate talks ever with Palestinian organizations. It did not necessarily rule out talks with a Palestinian grouping which might appear in Geneva as part of the Jordanian delegation. That problem would have to be examined by the Cabinet if and when it arose, he said.

That problem, in fact, was the core of the difference between the Cabinet majority and the proponents of the minority draft offered by Tourism Minister Moshe Kol (Independent Liberal Party) and Health Minister Victor Shemtov (Mamap.) One of the minority proponents stressed later that the draft certainly did not urge separate talks with Palestinian groups, but only advocated talks with such Palestinians as would recognize Israel and disavow their aim of destroying it within the framework of talks with Jordan.

Only Two States Possible

The minority, this proponent explained, sought a positive instead of a negative statement of Israel's position. They felt that to say Israel would talk with certain Palestinians, under certain conditions, within the framework of negotiations with Jordan, was preferable from the standpoint of image and information efforts than the blanket declaration that Israel would not negotiate with terror groups and would negotiate solely with Jordan.

The majority, however, felt otherwise. Its main concern was that the statement should make clear beyond doubt that Israel would not hold separate talks with the Palestinians. This, the majority believed, followed from the basic premise, to which the Cabinet unanimously subscribed, that there was no possibility of a third, independent, Palestinian state in addition to Israel and Jordan.

The envisaged peace, the statement stresses--and to this all ministers agreed--"will be founded on the existence of two independent states only: Israel, with its capital United Jerusalem, and a Jordanian-Palestinian Arab state.... This state will provide for expression of identity of the Jordanians and the Palestinians...."

In recognizing the existence of a Palestinian "identity" the Rabin Cabinet had adopted a slightly new tone in comparison with Golda Meir's Palestinian policy. But its insistence on two states only, and on talks with Jordan only, represents a continuation of the previous government's basic positions on the Palestinian issue.

SEPARATE FUNERALS TO BE HELD FOR YOM KIPPUR WAR DEAD

TEL AVIV, July 22 (JTA)--In complying with requests of bereaved families and the Bereaved Parents Association, the army has decided to hold separate funerals for each of the 3000 Israelis who died in the Yom Kippur War now buried in temporary cemeteries. There will be seven funerals a day--with four funerals on Friday--at each of the large central military cemeteries. The funerals will start Aug. 6 and are expected to be concluded towards the beginning of Oct. The army chaplainship has made arrangements for carrying out the reburial services throughout the country.

JAABARI SAYS PEACE NOW POSSIBLE

TEL AVIV, July 22 (JTA)--A West Bank leader, Hebron Mayor Sheikh Ali Jaabari, expressed the view yesterday that chances of peace are now better than ever and noted that if Israelis and Palestinians permitted logic instead of emotions to guide their policies, peace would be achieved more rapidly and with a minimum of violence. The West Bank notable made this comment during a visit to Haifa Mayor Joseph Almog who is recovering at home after injuring a shoulder following a fall.

Sheikh Jaabari said that in the forthcoming Geneva peace talks Palestinians should be represented by West Bank and Gaza Strip leaders as well as by the Palestine Liberation Organization. He added that Israel has been holding the occupied territories for seven years and should have had enough time to come up with some positive approach to the Palestinian question much earlier.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--A record number of flights and passengers were set Monday by El Al as it continued to be the only airline servicing Ben Gurion Airport because of the continued fighting in Cyprus. El Al registered 19 take-offs and 14 landings, carrying 4000 persons out of the country and 3000 in. All scheduled flights were maintained except for those going to Turkey and Iran. Other airlines may resume flights Monday night if the ceasefire in Cyprus goes into effect.

SOFIA (JTA)--The Union of Bulgarian Writers and the Council of the Dimitrov Department of Sofia recently held a reception in honor of the Bulgarian Jewish poet Salis Tagger on the occasion of his 50th birthday. Ivan Spassov, a literary critic, paid homage to the life and works of the Jewish poet.

EGYPTIAN WRITER IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, July 22 (JTA)—Sana Hassan, an Egyptian writer and journalist, arrived here yesterday, the first Egyptian journalist to visit Israel since the Six-Day War. Ms. Hassan, a Ph.D. candidate in government at Harvard, the daughter of a former Egyptian Ambassador to the United States and a wife of a senior Egyptian official, has written frequently on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

During the American Jewish Committee's annual meeting in New York last May, Ms. Hassan debated the Arab-Israeli issue with Arie Eliav, a leading Labor Party dove. Mrs. Suzy Eban, wife of former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, attended the meeting and was instrumental in getting Ms. Hassan her visa from the Israeli consulate in Boston.

"I want to look and see and listen with open eyes and open ears to try to understand," Ms. Hassan said, explaining she plans to stay for three months meeting Israelis in order to write on "Israel in the eyes of an Egyptian." She noted that "since not every Egyptian can meet Israelis, it is important for journalists to lay the foundations for a true peace since they can relay a true picture to the other side of what goes on in the other country."

Ms. Hassan said that the first place she went to see was Dizengoff Street of which she has heard so much and it immediately reminded her of Alexandria with its modern houses, cafes and restaurants, verandas, heat, and smell of the sea. A book written by Ms. Hassan and the Israeli journalist Amos Elon is scheduled to be published next month. She arrived here accompanied by the French-Jewish artist, Marc Halter, and his wife, Clara, editor of the Movement for Peace in the Middle East.

RABBI, PRIEST APPEAL TO ASSAD
ON BEHALF OF TWO SYRIAN JEWS
WHOSE TRIAL REOPENS THURSDAY

BRUSSELS, July 22 (JTA)—Two Belgian religious leaders, a chief rabbi and a Catholic priest, have appealed to Syrian President Hafez Assad on behalf of the two young Jews whose trial reopens in Damascus Thursday. They are charged in connection with the murder earlier this year of four young Jewish women attempting to escape Syria.

In a telegram, Belgian Chief Rabbi Robert Dreyfuss appealed to the Syrian leader in the name of the Central Israelite Consistory of Belgium. He demanded that Assad "respond immediately to all those who have placed their hopes in his humanity and justice" regarding the fate of the two young Jewish men.

In a separate telegram, Monsigneur Georges de Jardin called on Assad to use his authority to see that the two are released. The Christian leader further urged that Syrian Jews be granted the freedoms they are entitled to under the convention of human rights to which Syria is a signatory. These freedoms include the right to emigrate.

The two young Jews were originally charged with murdering the young girls, but Syrian authorities have withdrawn the murder charge according to Israeli Supreme Court Judge Haim Cohen. Protests from world public opinion reportedly prompted the Syrian decision. The two are now charged with complicity to help the four women escape Syria illegally. If convicted, they face a possible five-year prison sentence.

AMERICAN STUDENTS DETAINED,
RELEASED BY SOVIET POLICE

NEW YORK, July 22 (JTA)—Soviet security police detained two American students in Kiev on July 11 after attending a party given by a local Jewish film director who was leaving the next day for Israel, according to sources who released the report today.

Sheldon Benjamin, 18, of Canton, Ohio, and Miriam Rosenblum, 20, of Columbus, Ohio, both students at the University of Cincinnati, were searched and threatened with prosecution for theft, sources said. During the two-and-a-half hours they were detained the two were not allowed to telephone the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. They were released and allowed to rejoin their tour group which left the Soviet Union yesterday for London, according to the sources. Both are on their way to Israel to work in kibbutzim.

Security police produced an alleged statement from another guest claiming that several documents, a camera and a ring had disappeared during the party. The students refused to answer any questions and were freed after being searched, the sources said. Sources attributed this incident to Soviet efforts to reduce contacts between Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate to Israel and foreigners.

TERRORISTS GET STIFF JAIL TERMS

TEL AVIV, July 22 (JTA)—Terrorists caught in Israel recently have received prison terms from 8 years to life imprisonment. Two brothers, Kemal and Basem Dardouk, members of a terrorist gang in Samaria, were sentenced to life imprisonment for killing an Israeli soldier shortly after the Yom Kippur War. Nine other members of the group, headed by Kemal Dardouk, received prison terms of eight to 50 years.

The soldier, Ali Luppou, a paratrooper in his 20s, was murdered after he accepted a lift from a pickup truck as he was trying to go home from Samaria. The murder weapons, an ax and an iron rod, were found in the home of the Dardouk brothers.

An Arab terrorist who participated in the attack on the El Al office in Istanbul in 1970 was sentenced to 12 years in prison after he was captured in Jerusalem when he came there as a summer visitor to see his relatives.

The terrorist, Ali el-Shami, 27, of East Jerusalem, was sentenced to four years for being a member of a terrorist group and collecting information with the intention of violating Israel's security. He received an additional eight years for participating in the Istanbul attack. Under a recently adopted law, Israeli courts can try terrorists for acts of terror committed outside Israel.

According to authorities, Shami left East Jerusalem for Jordan in 1968 and joined a terrorist group known as "The Popular Struggle Front," of which he was a member until 1971. In 1970 he and two others were sent to Istanbul where they placed a bomb which exploded near the El Al office, shattering the windows but not injuring anyone. Shami then returned to Jordan and apparently thought that enough time had elapsed to make it safe for him to visit his relatives in Jerusalem last month. There was no disclosure as to how he was recognized and identified. His trial was held in June but details were not released until a few days ago.

TEL AVIV (JTA)—Pinhas Sapir, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, left for a six-week visit of Europe, the U.S. and Latin America, declaring that he will concentrate on "aliya and aid for Israel."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

TRANSFORMING JORDAN'S ARMY

By Ehud Yaari

JERUSALEM, July 22 (JTA)--Israel's Chief of Staff, Gen. Mordechai Gur, said recently that Jordan's participation in a future war must be looked upon as a serious possibility. In fact, Israeli planners tend to believe that another war--if and when it occurs--will not be limited only to the Egyptian and Syrian fronts. In view of these considerations, careful attention is given to King Hussein's efforts to modernize his army. These efforts, with American aid, could transform the Jordanian army into an important military factor, enjoying an offensive option along the longest and most sensitive border of Israel.

Only two Jordanian tank brigades took part in the Yom Kippur War on the Syrian front. These covered the "hole" in Syria's defenses on the southern flank of the Israeli counter-attack across the "purple line." One brigade lost over 20 tanks in the one battle it waged and suffered some casualties. But Hussein regarded its performance as satisfactory, since it blocked, in his evaluation, the Israeli advance to the main Amman-Damascus road, which could have cut Jordan off from Syria.

After the war, the King argued that he was unable to launch an offensive across the Jordan River, as suggested to him by Syria's President Hafez Assad at the time, because he lacked air cover and fire power. Recently, he has conceived and began to implement a new and far-reaching plan to overcome these deficiencies. In the Six-Day War, Jordan had a small army of 54,000 men which increased slowly to 80,000 men by 1973, organized in four divisions--two armored divisions, one mechanized and one division of unmechanized infantry.

The new modernization plans aim at complete mechanization of the units by late 1975, so that all divisions will be able to move flexibly. Hundreds of armored carriers will be bought in the U.S., so that by 1975 the number of modernized infantry battalions will be sixfold their number in 1968. The number of tank battalions will be more than doubled in comparison with the situation in 1967.

Other Significant Features

Apart from mechanization of the infantry, the modernization plan has other significant features:

By the end of 1975 Jordan will have an airforce of 100 planes, mainly American "F-5." New airfields and concrete hangars are being built. In terms of manpower the Jordanian airforce is already now eight times its 1967 strength and has been equipped with a sophisticated radar system. The armored brigades are getting the American "M-60A" tanks to replace the "M-48" and "Centurions."

Several battalions of "Tow" anti-tank missiles are organized to tackle the problem of Israeli superiority in tanks and maneuvering capability. More battalions of artillery are being organized in order to give sufficient fire cover to the tank brigades along the Jordan front. The number of self-propelled artillery battalions is threefold compared with 1967. Commando units have increased tenfold since 1967.

Multiplying Anti-Aircraft Guns

In view of Israeli air superiority, the Jordanians are multiplying by five the number of anti-aircraft guns compared with 1967 and they

want to purchase American Hawk missiles. Hussein asked the oil-rich Arab states to give him financial aid to buy these expensive missiles (\$100 million per battalion). All Jordanian soldiers will get the American "M-16" rifle.

Even when this plan is completed, the Jordanian army will be considerably weaker than that of Egypt and Syria. But fighting in alliance with the other two "confrontation states," Jordan's military contribution could put a significantly heavier burden on Israel.

\$1 M IN ISRAEL BONDS PURCHASED IN HONOR OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

MARQUETTE, Mich., July 22 (JTA)--An impressive total of \$1 million in Israel Bonds was purchased at a testimonial dinner in honor of Dr. John X. Jamrich, president of Northern Michigan University, it was announced here last night by Sam M. Cohodas, chairman of the Upper Michigan Peninsula Committee for Israel Bonds. More than 300 prominent civic, business, education and religious leaders attended the event to pay tribute to Dr. Jamrich, who received the City of Peace-Jerusalem Award "in recognition of his long record of sensitive understanding of Israel's political and economic problems."

Dr. Jamrich, one of America's outstanding consultants and administrators in the field of higher education, became the first head of a university to receive this award, which "is presented to individuals who have distinguished themselves in their profession and who stand with Israel in her quest for survival as a free nation," according to Mr. Cohodas, who presided at the dinner.

Governor William Milliken of Michigan, who extended greetings to the assembled group on behalf of the state, praised Dr. Jamrich for the important role he is playing in furthering the cause of education in the United States. He also congratulated him for participating in an effort which strengthens the fibers of Israel and its people.

Dr. William Haber, president of the World ORT Organization and professor emeritus of the University of Michigan, was the principal speaker and also made the award presentation to Dr. Jamrich. Referring to the guest of honor's Czechoslovakian heritage, Dr. Haber asserted that there is a philosophical bridge of empathy and understanding in Dr. Jamrich's deep-rooted interest in Israel. "He saw the candle of freedom go out in his parents' homeland in 1948 when the Communists took over the government," he said. "That was the same year of the rebirth of the State of Israel."

An ardent supporter of Israel since its establishment, Dr. Jamrich visited the Jewish State in 1973 as a consultant on higher education to the Ministry of Education. During his stay in Israel, he met with many of the government leaders, members of the business and education communities, and with scores of chief municipal executives.

MRS. EPELMAN GIVEN EXIT VISA

NEW YORK, July 22 (JTA)--Paulina Epelman, a Jewish pharmacist in the Soviet Union who has been seeking permission to emigrate since April, 1972, was recently granted that permission, according to information provided to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. Mrs. Epelman, whose husband, Michael, left in 1972, will leave the USSR soon with her 11-year-old daughter, Julia. The 33-year-old woman and her daughter have been subjected to repeated harassment by Soviet authorities, said the SSSJ, and her daughter even developed severe nervous symptoms from the pressures of that harassment. Mrs. Epelman's husband is now a professor of mathematics at the University of the Negev.