



PERES: DIFFICULT TIMES AHEAD EVEN IF KISSINGER SUCCEEDS IN MISSION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 13 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Shimon Peres, a member of the Israeli negotiating team engaged in talks with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, said last night that he does not yet know what the outcome will be of Kissinger's current efforts to arrange a second stage agreement between Israel and Egypt in Sinai. He said that even if Kissinger's "shuttle" diplomacy is eventually successful, "a difficult period will ensue" and peace would not necessarily follow.

Peres spoke at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba where Israel's outgoing UN Ambassador, Yosef Tekoah, was installed as president yesterday. (See separate story.) He said the basic problem was that peace between Israel and Egypt was not merely a geographical issue but "an exercise in public relations" in which the Egyptian leadership would have to transform the thinking processes of the Egyptian population.

Peres said that Egypt had ample objective motivation to want to reach a peaceful relationship with Israel after 27 years of hot and cold war. He said he was optimistic that in the long run, real peace would finally be achieved. In the meantime, he urged Israelis to "believe in themselves."

Reports from Cairo today quoted Kissinger as saying that he was "making progress" toward a new Israeli-Egyptian disengagement agreement "but very slowly, as expected." The Secretary told reporters that he believed both countries "want an agreement and are working seriously toward it. Whether it is possible to match the requirements of the two sides remains to be seen."

Kissinger met with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Aswan yesterday and today. Between the meetings, Sadat conferred with his top ministers. The Secretary is due to return to Jerusalem tomorrow for further talks with Israeli leaders and is scheduled to go to Damascus and Amman on Saturday. He is expected to be back in Israel Sunday and return to Aswan Monday. By then, sources said, he hopes to have the outline of an agreement that he could present to the Egyptian leaders.

LETTER-BOMB WARNING ISSUED

JERUSALEM, March 13 (JTA) -- The police issued a new letter-bomb warning today. The public was instructed to notify the police immediately on receipt of any mail on which the sender's or addressee's name is not clear or is unknown to the receiver. The police said that, in fact, any suspicious-looking envelope should be referred to the authorities.

The new warning was issued amid reports of a chain of letter-bombs found in Beirut, Lebanon. A senior police official, interviewed today on the radio, disclosed that two types of letter-bombs have arrived in Israel but would not specify when the last one was located here. He said one type

weighed between 70 - 80 grams and had explosives concealed in a hollow notebook. The other type, weighing 50 - 70 grams, resembled normal envelopes and in some cases, airmail envelopes.

STATE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED ABOUT PLO THREATS TO CONTINUE TERROR

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 13 (JTA) -- The State Department affirmed today that it took "very seriously" its responsibility to protect individuals and foreign installations here "including those of the government of Israel" and also took "very seriously" terrorist threats against those targets.

State Department spokesman Robert Funseth gave that assurance in response to reports from Damascus yesterday that the Palestine Liberation Organization will mount more raids on Israel along the lines of the Savoy Hotel attack a week ago and would "strike at any Israeli target wherever we can reach it, in Israel, or in Japan or in the United States."

The threat was issued by Zouheir Mohsen, head of the PLO's military section and of the Syrian-sponsored Al-Saiqa terrorist group. Mohsen was quoted as saying that the raid on Tel Aviv last week was intended to undermine Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's current peace effort which he claimed was aimed at coaxing Egypt into a separate agreement with Israel and splitting it away from Syria and the PLO. Mohsen referred to Kissinger as a "joker and charlatan." Replying to a question by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Funseth said that "The U.S. government takes all such threats very seriously."

Asked what precautions were being taken, he declined to go into specific measures but observed that "Under international law, it is the responsibility of the U.S. government to protect our foreign guests and official foreign installations, including those of the government of Israel. We take this responsibility very seriously and we are very vigilant in carrying this responsibility out," he said. Asked if there has been any contact between the U.S. and the PLO, Funseth said he was not aware of any.

TIME EDITOR OPTIMISTIC ABOUT KISSINGER'S CURRENT EFFORT

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, March 13 (JTA) -- Hedley Donovan, editor-in-chief of Time, Inc., said today that he was optimistic about the chances of success in Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's current effort to negotiate a second-stage agreement between Israel and Egypt and thought the possibilities were better than the 50-50 odds given by Kissinger himself.

Speaking to some 100 persons at a luncheon meeting of the Columbia Business School Club of New York at the Roosevelt Hotel, he said "1975 is quite critical" because the Arab leaders do not expect American diplomatic efforts in a presidential election year. Donovan re-

cently led a group of 53 business executives on a Time magazine news tour of the Middle East which included talks with Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, Syrian President Hafez Assad, and other Arab leaders. He said he was optimistic because of what he sees as a new "reasonableness" on the part of the Arab leaders. But he stressed that "reasonableness" is a relative thing and has to be taken in the context of past Arab policy.

Claims Arab Views Have Changed

Donovan noted that Sadat has based his policy on reaching an agreement through American diplomacy and he must show some results within the next few months. Donovan said that Sadat told the Time group that he understood the special relationship between the United States and Israel but also wanted to be friendly with the U.S. He said Sadat would not have said it when the Time group visited him last year and the late President Nasser, who Donovan interviewed five or six years ago, would "certainly" have never said this.

He said while Assad would not go this far, the Syrian president was ready to discuss the demilitarization of the Golan Heights -- an issue which he would not discuss with the Time group last year.

In Israel, Donovan said that he found tough talk, almost "intransigence," but believed this may have been only a tough line prior to negotiations. He said more and more Israelis are beginning to see that they cannot rely on borders and military strength alone.

Says Crisis Must Be Solved By Trust

Donovan said the Middle East crisis must be solved by trust. He said for Israel this means giving up territory on the trust that this will continue the momentum for peace even though there is no assurance it will happen. He said the Arabs also have to accept not only the State of Israel but its existence as a strong state.

Illustrating his talk with a map of the Middle East, Donovan said reaching an agreement on the Sinai is the easiest of the Mideast problems. He said negotiations on the Golan Heights would be tougher, and if that problem was solved the real hard issues would then come next -- the issue of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and the question of Jerusalem.

Donovan said he found a tremendous reservoir of good feelings toward the United States in the Arab countries. "For one reason or another they like us better than any other big country," he said. Looking back over the past 25 years of U.S. Mideast policy, Donovan said he would not have changed American sympathy and admiration for Israel but would have sought more insight and knowledge of the Arab world. Although the Time group met with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Donovan did not mention the PLO in his presentation.

TEKOAH INSTALLED AS BEN GURION UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT; CONFIRMS HERZOG WILL REPLACE HIM AT UN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 13 (JTA) -- Yosef Tekoah, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations for the past seven years, was installed as president of the Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba yesterday amid speculation that he intends to participate in political as well

as academic affairs. Tekoah was officially voted in as president by the university board of governors. In his acceptance speech he confirmed unofficial reports that his successor at the UN will be Brig. Gen. Haim Herzog, former chief of Israel's military intelligence and a well known military commentator.

Tekoah said that he and his family would move to Beersheba shortly. Political pundits raised the possibility that he will use his position at Ben Gurion University to establish a personal political base in the Negev capital, especially among the academic community which is comprised of many new immigrants from the West and from the Soviet Union. Tekoah, an accomplished orator, is known to lean toward the former Rafi faction of the Labor Party whose leader is ex-Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. Political observers are convinced that he intends to enter the political arena on both the local and national level.

Tekoah succeeded Prof. Moshe Prywes who resigned from the presidency of Ben Gurion University to become dean of its medical faculty and active in the Central Negev Kupat Holim Hospital.

Harry T. Dozor, of Philadelphia, who was yesterday elected deputy chairman of the Ben Gurion University Board of Governors, announced a five-year pledge of \$500,000 for the "Shirley and Harry Dozor Preparatory School." Boris and Selma Margolin, of New York, endowed a \$50,000 student scholarship at the university for graduate technical students. The Abrahams-Curiel family of London inaugurated the Abrahams-Curiel Lecture Hall toward which they contributed 50,000 Pounds Sterling.

RESOLUTION ON THE HOLOCAUST

WASHINGTON, March 13 (JTA) -- A resolution authorizing President Ford to proclaim April 8 as a day commemorating the 30th anniversary of the liberation of the survivors of the Buchenwald concentration camp, the first camp liberated by the Allies, has been introduced in the House and Senate.

The resolution, introduced by Sen. Jacob Javits (R, NY) and Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R, NY), called for a national day of observance with appropriate ceremonies and activities to serve "as a reminder to all people of the free world that some six million people of the Jewish faith were slaughtered by Hitler and the forces of the Third Reich."

Gilman's resolution stated that such presidential action would "be an expression of American humanitarian concern, and a reaffirmation of our belief in liberty, justice and equality." Gilman previously introduced in the House a resolution calling for a stamp to be issued on the Holocaust. He is also planning to sponsor a resolution making education of the Holocaust mandatory in American public schools.

JEWS, NON-JEWS URGE GOVERNMENT TO RESIST ARAB BOYCOTT DEMANDS

WASHINGTON, March 13 (JTA) -- Black, Italian, Polish and Jewish leaders in the Philadelphia area have joined a statement urging the U.S. government to resist Arab demands that governmental agencies and American business firms comply with their discriminatory boycott of Jews and American companies that

do business with Israel. A statement calling on the President and Congress to consider legislation banning foreign investments that require American firms to practice discrimination or maintain third party boycotts based on principles "clearly contrary to American law and foreign policy" was inserted into the Congressional Record yesterday by Rep. Joshua Ellberg (D, Pa).

It was issued by Solomon Fisher, of the American Jewish Committee; Andrew Freedman, of the National Urban League; Judge Frank J. Montemuro, of the Sons of Italy; Philadelphia City Councilman Joseph Lazozny, of the Polish-American Citizens League of Pennsylvania; and The Rev. William L. Bentley, of the Interfaith-Interracial Council of the Clergy.

In another statement entered into the Record, Rep. William Lehman (D, Fla) said "It is vitally important" that the President's condemnation of the discriminatory practices "be followed up with action by the Executive branch and by the Congress if necessary to insure that our government never again agrees to participate in or close its eyes to discrimination against its citizens by foreign nations."

Black Newspaper Denounces Boycott

Meanwhile, the Philadelphia Tribune, one of the oldest and largest Black newspapers in the U.S., published an editorial this week sharply denouncing the recently disclosed "pressure from Arab countries, particularly Saudi Arabia" that "has caused our federal government and several large corporations to impose a pattern of anti-Semitism on their policies" which is "a disgusting development that is diametrically opposed to everything this country is supposed to stand for."

The editorial declared that "if some of our leaders are so morally bankrupt that they will throw away the U.S. Constitution for fear of losing some oil money, then they should be immediately fired and prosecuted for breaking the law." The Philadelphia Tribune said it condemned discrimination against minorities because it is immoral and illegal and also because, "from a purely practical point of view, we should keep in mind that if discriminatory practices against other minorities are successful, it won't be long before Blacks are similarly victimized."

As a possible example, the editorial asked: "What would happen... if the Sudan, which has been waging a particularly vicious campaign against its Black Christian minority for almost 15 years, told U.S. firms doing business with them that they must refuse to hire Black Christians? If they see that Saudi Arabia is successful in its campaign against U.S. Jews; there's no reason why the Sudanese government should not think it could wage a similarly successful campaign against U.S. Blacks."

STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS BOYCOTT HAS NOT BEEN HARMING ISRAEL, BUT ITS STRENGTH IS POTENTIALLY EFFECTIVE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 13 (JTA) -- A State Department official told a Congressional group today that while the Arab boycott has not been harming Israel to a great extent, "we recognize however that the rapidly increasing economic strength of certain Arab countries has enhanced the Arab boycott as a potentially effective weapon against Israel." Sidney Sober,

Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, made those remarks in an appearance before the House Foreign Affairs Committee's subcommittee on international trade and commerce. He reiterated that the most effective way to deal with the boycott is "our present diplomatic approach."

He stressed that the State Department opposes boycotts and will "continue to oppose any efforts to discriminate against American firms or individuals on the basis of religion or ethnic background." He said "It is our conviction that in the attainment of peace (in the Middle East) lies the fundamental basis for resolution of the boycott issue." He concluded, however, that "the growing attractiveness of commerce with certain Arab countries will place greater pressure on some foreign firms not to deal with Israel because of the boycott."

Justice Department's View

Antonin Scalia, Assistant Attorney General, said in his testimony that "the crucial question" in the hiring of Jews for services in countries that prohibit Jews from entering is whether a company refuses to hire a person because he is Jewish or because he does not have a visa to go to the area of employment. This view was offered by Scalia in response to a question by Rep. Jonathan Bingham (D, NY) about Jewish employment by a firm having an Arab contract.

The Justice Department official said in his prepared statement that the "ultimate purpose of the boycott is not to injure any United States firm" and that the "boycott is ultimately a political rather than a commercial phenomenon."

He added: "There is a question whether a boycott of this sort, which, in effect, requires an American company to choose whether it wishes to have certain types of business relations with Israel or to have dealings with the Arab countries, has a sufficient impact upon U.S. foreign commerce to come within the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. The act only proscribes activity which has a 'material adverse affect' upon our foreign commerce."

Sober told the Congressmen that the initial boycott, set up by the Arab League Council in 1946 to prevent the entry of certain products into Arab countries from what is now the State of Israel, does not appear to have done any particular harm to Israel whose economic growth rate, he pointed out, has been about 10 percent annually.

He said that the secondary boycott, introduced in 1951 to inhibit third parties from assisting in Israel's development is the "boycott that affects American economic relations with a number of Middle Eastern countries" and its scope, he added, "has been broadened through the years."

33,706 TREES PLANTED IN 1974

JERUSALEM, March 13 (JTA) -- Despite the substantial drop in tourism to the country in the last year, those who do arrive in the country find their way to the barren hills and valleys -- to plant Jewish National Fund trees, according to a JNF communique. Some 33,706 trees were planted during 1974 by tourists as part of the "plant a tree with your own hands" project. According to the JNF, this was only a slight drop in the number of planters, in comparison with previous years. The planters, Jews and non-Jews, came from 37 countries.

