



ISRAEL REACTS IN LOW KEY TO SYRIAN UNDOF MANDATE EXTENSION By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 22 (JTA)--Jerusalem has reacted with deliberate restraint to the good news from the United Nations that Syria has agreed to a six-month extension of the UNDOF mandate on the Golan Heights. There was no official comment whatever, and even on an informal level officials were careful to express no reaction that might embarrass the Syrians or other Arab states.

Until the Syrian announcement was made, officials here and in the UN had expected only a two-month extension. Syrian sources had said repeatedly that their aim would be to have the renewed mandate lapse July 24--to coincide with the end of the UNEF mandate in Sinai, which Egypt had renewed in April for only three months.

Observers here suggested that Syria had confounded these expectations partly at least in order to demonstrate that it is "not in Egypt's pocket"--that it takes its own decisions and conducts its own policy. Another theory advanced by some Arabists here is that the Syrian decision was in fact coordinated with Egypt and was taken at Egypt's request--in order to give Egypt a readily available pretext for extending its own mandate once again, when it expires.

Egypt, according to this theory, will want to renew the mandate without too much fuss because the Geneva conference is now tentatively scheduled to resume in the early fall and Egypt will not wish to prevent or hamper its resumption by its failure to renew the mandate. With Syria's mandate now extending till December, Egypt can easily renew its mandate in July without any serious loss of face, the Arabists suggested.

SYRIA, JORDAN CONTINUE PREPARATIONS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 22 (JTA)--Syria and Jordan are continuing their military preparations despite Syria's commitment, announced yesterday, to renew the UNDOF mandate for another six months.

Observers here noted today that the Syrian action did not assure a calm period on the Syrian-Israeli border unless Syria was willing to abide by the disengagement agreement with Israel. They said Israel was prepared for the possibility of military action by Syria despite the UN mandate. They added that Syria has allowed terrorists to go to Israel through the Golan Heights despite the disengagement.

Meanwhile, Austrian troops with the UNDOF Force plan to return to the top of Mt. Hermon after leaving it last weekend. The Austrians manned the post after Syria paved a road to the peak contrary to the disengagement agreement.

Senior observers believe that Syria agreed to extending the UNDOF mandate because of the strong Israeli presence on the Golan; Israel has completed a wide network of fortifications which stresses anti-tank ditches and the mining of all possible areas of Syrian penetration. Because of this the Syrians are concentrating on strengthening their positions, the military ob-

servers believe.

Meanwhile, Jordan continues fortification work in the Jordan Valley and is preparing roads for the fast movement of tanks and other vehicles to the border.

KISSINGER BELIEVES NEW MEDIATION EFFORT IS POSSIBLE IN THE MIDEAST

BONN, May 22 (JTA)--U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger believes that new mediation is possible in the Middle East. In talks with West German leaders in Bonn this week, he said mediation was possible if there were real prospects of success, diplomatic sources here revealed today. Before making any commitment, Kissinger apparently wants to await the outcome of President Ford's talks with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Premier Yitzhak Rabin of Israel. The Middle East featured largely in the Secretary's discussions in West Germany.

RABIN TO VISIT AUSTRIA IN AUGUST

VIENNA, May 22 (JTA)--Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin will pay an official visit to Austria in the second half of August at the invitation of Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, a government spokesman said today. The announcement ended rumors about frictions between Israel and Austria because of Kreisky's alleged pro-Arab stand.

Rabin originally was scheduled to visit Austria in May or June. However, the visit was postponed after Kreisky announced Austria would investigate requests by the Palestine Liberation Organization to open an office in Vienna. Kreisky stressed that these deliberations did not affect Austria's relations with Israel. "I have fairly good personal relations with Rabin," he said. Kreisky will host Egyptian President Anwar Sadat next week, just before the Sadat-Ford summit meeting on the Middle East situation in Salzburg. Rabin will also meet Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschlaeger.

LEVENZON TRIAL DUE MAY 27

NEW YORK, May 22 (JTA)--Sender Levenzon, a plumber of Bendi, who was arrested March 5, will be tried on May 27, the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry reported today. Levenzon is charged with "systematic speculation of currency," and faces a maximum seven-year jail sentence. According to the GNYCSJ, his lawyer has not been allowed access to his file.

ISRAEL THANKS THE SENATORS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 22 (JTA)--Israel expressed thanks and appreciation today to the 76 American Senators who publicly urged President Ford to provide military and political support for Israel. The Foreign Ministry spokesmen here said the Senators' letter was "a clear and unequivocal expression of the deep friendship which the American people and government feels towards Israel and of the sincere concern which they feel for the peace and security of Israel."

(As of this morning 76 Senators had signed the letter. See separate story P. 3 on reaction from the White House and Senators' press conference in Washington.)

The Foreign Ministry statement said the Senators' letter was "especially significant" in view of

current events in the international arena and more especially in the Middle East. This reference was seen here as a deft and veiled hint at the recent failure of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's shuttling mediation effort for which the Ford Administration had sought to blame Israel.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, speaking in the name of "the government and citizens of Israel," added that the Senators' statement had shown clearly that the effort to isolate Israel and drive a wedge between her and the American people and government had not succeeded. The Senators' letter, the spokesman continued, would do much to contribute to strengthening "those factors in the Mideast which are striving for peace."

Officials in the Rabin government said privately they saw the Senators' letter as going a long way to vindicate Premier Yitzhak Rabin's policy in the face of its many critics. They did not hide their hope that the letter would have its effect on the current American Mideast policy "reassessment."

DINITZ HAILS SENATORS' LETTER

WASHINGTON, May 22 (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz today described the letter signed by 76 Senators in support of Israel as a "heartening development" that strengthens the basis for a Middle East peace. Addressing a B'nai B'rith International Council at its annual plenary, Dinitz said the action of the Senators "echoes the sentiments of the American people" and "informs the Arab nations that the friendship between Israel and the United States has not eroded."

The letter "gives notice to the Arabs that they must alter their views regarding U.S. support for Israel," Dinitz said. "It contributes to the stability of the Middle East by affirming that a strong Israel is a pre-condition for any successful negotiations."

The Ambassador said that he had received no indications "either diplomatically or publicly" that the aim of the Administration's Middle East reassessment is to "downgrade relations" with Israel. "Nothing is more dangerous to the cause of peace" than to misinterpret American sentiments and conclude that "the United States is wavering" about Israel, he said.

In response to questions from the press, Dinitz said President Ford's scheduled visits with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin could revive shuttle diplomacy. "It also presents opportunities to explore all avenues toward peace," he said. He called Syria's decision to renew the UN presence on the Golan Heights "a very positive step."

SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH BENSHEMESH By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 22 (JTA)--Despite the uncertainty of the future status of the territories taken by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War, the Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael) is purchasing and developing land in those areas. "In fact it is our policy not to turn down any offer for land purchasing," Shimon Benshemesh, director general of the JNF in Jerusalem said in an interview today with JTA.

"We buy real estate in the administered territories from anyone who is willing to sell them, regardless of the political future of those territories," he said. "Maybe we will have to give up that land in any future settlement without getting anything for it in return. Maybe we will have to

barter this land for another, but for the time being, the JNF buys any available land."

According to Benshemesh the JNF has already purchased and developed land in the West Bank, especially in the vicinity of Jerusalem, the Jordan Valley, the Golan Heights and northern Sinai. "Arab landlords sometimes show surprising willingness to sell land, especially those land-owners who reside abroad," he said.

Benshemesh, who arrived here for a four-week tour of the U.S. and Canada on behalf of the JNF and its planned \$6 million Bicentennial project near Jerusalem, disclosed that contributions this year to the JNF throughout the world will exceed last year's by more than 15 percent. Last year's contributions to the JNF totalled \$12 million, half of it raised in the U.S. Benshemesh said that the world-wide recession did not affect contributions to the JNF because "the economic crisis hit the big contributor and the JNF gets its contributions from small donors."

About his current visit here, Benshemesh said: "I am deeply touched by the love and concern that American Jewry is showing about anything that concerns Israel. I think that the task of the JNF nowadays is to reach as many Jewish households as possible. Not because of the fund-raising aspect, but because this is a bridge between Israel and the diaspora."

YA'AD HOLDS FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 22 (JTA)--Israel's new left of center political faction, "Ya'ad" (Destination) chose the new development town of Shlomi near the Lebanese border for its first official meeting Tuesday night. The choice of locale was symbolic in that it is remote from the center of established political power in Israel and its very newness could be said to signify a new political and social era for Israel which is Ya'ad's stated aim.

The 300 delegates attending the gathering represented a majority of Shulamit Aloni's Civil Rights Party and a minority of two other dissident movements, Libun and Shinoo. The former was an ideological discussion group within the Labor Party made up primarily of left-leaning "doves" headed by Arye Ellav who defected from Labor last March.

Shinoo, made up of intellectuals and academicians opposed to the government's policies, split on the issue of merging with Ya'ad. Its leader, Prof. Amnon Rubinstein and a majority of his followers, refused to join the new faction on grounds that its orientation was too far to the left.

But Ellav, a former Secretary General of the Labor Party, did not seem disturbed by the splits and predicted that Ya'ad would become an alternative to the existing regime. Referring to remarks by the Labor Party's current Secretary General Meir Zarmi, that the movement was a splinter among splinters, Ellav waxed almost poetical.

"We promise ourselves and the people," he said, "that we shall plant splinters throughout the country. Each splinter will grow into a pearl and all the pearls will become a necklace on Israel's throat."

Aloni, who quit the Cabinet of Premier Yitzhak Rabin when the National Religious Party joined his coalition, declared that Ya'ad was an historical must for Israel. "In a society where might is right, where there are compromise agreements between Yitzhak Rabin and Yitzhak Rafael (of the NRP), we are the new light," she said.

Gen. (Res.) Mattityahu Peled, who decided to join Ya'ad only shortly before its establishment,

said he had believed in the past that it was possible to change the system by working within the existing political framework. Now, he said, he has come to the conclusion that "it was silly to believe this."

A committee of young Arab political activists in Israel sent a telegram of congratulations to the new movement and said they would join it.

WHITE HOUSE SAYS FORD WILL CONSIDER SENATORS' LETTER

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 22 (JTA)--The White House said today that President Ford will "consider the letter" sent to him by 76 Senators from 46 states calling for a firm recommitment of U.S. military and economic assistance to Israel. Presidential Press Secretary Ron Nessen told reporters that "the President believes it is valuable to have a wide range of views" and that the President "welcomes all suggestions from all sources" in his consideration of the reassessment of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Nessen said, in reply to a question, that the President had not asked for the letter from the Senators. He said, "Of course, the U.S. is dedicated to the survival of a free and independent Israel," adding that "the best assurance" for Israel and other countries in the Middle East is peace.

Nessen said Ford did not plan to meet with the Senators who signed the letter and that he has already been in consultation with members of both Houses of Congress on the Middle East. Asked if Ford or his advisors felt that the letter might prove awkward, difficult or a handicap in the President's meeting with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt in Salzburg, Austria June 1-2, Nessen replied emphatically, "No."

The White House spokesman strongly denied that the Administration's delay in presenting its foreign aid program to Congress was "directed at anyone or holding out the prospect of using American aid in a punitive" way. He was responding to charges made by several Senators at a press conference on Capitol Hill this morning --all of them signers of the letter to Ford--that the delay was a form of pressure on Israel.

Review Due This Summer

Nessen told the reporters at the White House that the new aid levels for Israel and other Middle Eastern countries have not yet been determined. He said American aid "will be determined on the basis of our interests and our commitment to the survival of Israel."

Nessen supplied the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's reporter with a copy of a letter Ford sent to Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller, as President of the Senate, and to House Speaker Carl Albert (D.Okla.) on May 15 which stated in part that "the review of our policy in the Middle East which I initiated last month will not be complete until later this summer. I have therefore also omitted specific requests for assistance to the four major Middle East aid recipients until this review is completed." The letter did not name the four recipients but they are known to be Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

Nessen said the reassessment was not expected to be completed until the summer. He said it consisted of consultations with members of Congress, outside groups, private organizations and individuals, American ambassadors to Middle Eastern countries and the still ongoing study by the National Security Council being conducted under the direction of Undersecretary of State

Joseph J. Sisco.

Senators Explain Letter's Purpose

More than half a dozen Senators who signed the letter to President Ford briefed newsmen at the Capitol as to their purpose in sending their communication urging a re-affirmation of U.S. support for Israel. Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R.NY), the original sponsor of the letter, summed up the views of his fellow legislators when he said that "if Israel's people feel secure, they will be more relaxed on concessions rather than being up tight."

Sen. Birch Bayh (D.Ind.) declared that "it is imperative to let everybody know" that "American support for Israel is undiminished" and that there should be "no miscalculation." Sen. Richard Stone (D.Fla.), one of the 10 freshman Senators who signed the letter, said "By supporting Israel we make chances for peace greater and the need felt by Israel for (defensible) borders less severe."

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D.Minn.) said the letter represented the "firm determination by the Senate that reassessment will not mean U.S. retreat, capitulation or weakening of our assistance to Israel." It was Humphrey who charged that the delay in submitting the Administration's foreign aid program was "a means of pressure on Israel" and said "it won't be condoned."

Humphrey said that hearings on foreign aid would begin June 17 whether or not the Senate receives a program from the President by then.

Twenty-three Senators who did not sign the letter included Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D.Mont.) who expressed concern that it might lead to a confrontation between the Administration and Congress and Sen. Charles Percy (R.Ill.). The latter sent a separate letter to Ford saying that while he concurred with his 76 colleagues, he felt that the views of all parties in the Middle East should be considered.

JEWISH CEMETERY IN USSR DESTROYED

NEW YORK, May 22 (JTA)--The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry learned today that another Jewish cemetery in the Soviet Union has been destroyed. Malcolm Hoenlein, Conference executive director, said that the cemetery in Sarin in the Ukraine has been turned into a garbage dump with few gravestones still standing. Earlier a road had been paved through the cemetery for use by a nearby military installation. The cemetery had been in relatively good condition until a year ago.

Hoenlein also reported that nearby to the cemetery are three mass graves where 12,000 Sarin Jews, murdered by the Nazis, are buried. The fences put around the graves after World War II have been removed and the only marker, a large gravestone in the center grave, has been destroyed.

Hoenlein said that "these government authorized acts are another step in the campaign to eradicate any vestige of Jewish identity, any link to the past--even the martyrdom of those who perished at the hands of the Nazis." Efforts are underway to secure protection of these cemeteries, "as a matter of human decency we must maintain this elemental respect for the dead."

GENEVA (JTA)--Swiss-Jewish financier Tibor Rosenbaum was released from custody Wednesday after friends posted bail of 5 million Swiss Francs (about \$2 million). Rosenbaum, 52, was arrested on April 30 as he was about to leave Switzerland. He is charged with mismanaging the affairs of his International Credit Bank which was closed by Swiss authorities last October.

SUPREME COURT DECISION ON PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS DRAWS ANGRY RESPONSE FROM TWO ORTHODOX GROUPS

NEW YORK, May 22 (JTA)--A Supreme Court ruling that a Pennsylvania law providing various auxiliary services to parochial and other non-public schools was unconstitutional, drew an angry response from two Orthodox Jewish groups here today.

Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky, national director of Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools, said "The Supreme Court has made a mockery of our democracy by declaring millions of children in genuine need as second class citizens." Rabbi Moshe Sherer, executive president of the Agudath Israel of America, claimed that the Supreme Court decision "smashes the hopes of children in religious schools to be treated as equals in society."

The ruling, handed down May 19, invalidated the provision to non-public schools by the state of services, such as counseling, testing and speech and hearing therapy. It did not affect the loaning of secular textbooks to parochial schools.

Cruel Act of Discrimination

According to Dr. Kaminetsky, whose organization is affiliated with 500 Hebrew day schools in 34 states with a combined enrollment of 92,200 students, the Supreme Court decision will deny millions of disadvantaged children with serious learning handicaps the remedial assistance financed by taxes paid by their parents.

"The decision severely limits the right of parents to exercise free choice in education and disregards the health, welfare and needs of the disadvantaged child," Dr. Kaminetsky said, "It punishes the child simply because the parent opted for free choice in education, thus making the option a privilege for the rich only."

Rabbi Sherer labeled the ruling "a cruel act of discrimination against medically deprived children." He expressed hope that a future Supreme Court will nullify it.

RABIN LAUNCHES NATION-WIDE CASH PROGRAM FOR ISRAEL BONDS

NEW YORK, May 22 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin, speaking by telephone yesterday to Jewish leaders in 48 communities across the country and Canada, declared that "the condition and health of our economy hold the keys to our ability to defend ourselves as well as our ability to achieve a sound and fair peace settlement." Addressing a coast-to-coast telephone conference, Rabin officially launched a special cash collection program of the Israel Bond campaign dedicated to mobilizing all-out support for Israel's economy.

The Premier, who is scheduled to meet with President Ford next month, stated that from the beginning of Israel's existence 27 years ago, "we have learned from experience that economic stability is a vital and indispensable part of our security, of our capacity to protect ourselves and preserve our independence." He said that the war against Israel has taken various forms and it is being fought on various fronts, "Whatever the form of this warfare, its objective is the same. Our enemies seek the complete isolation of Israel economically, politically and militarily."

Rabin declared that the Arabs "have mounted a world-wide campaign of economic warfare against us which also involves the blacklisting of business organizations, Jewish and non-Jewish, in the United States and in Europe which have any

connection with Israel. The boycott represents a serious threat not only to us, but to the Jewish people as a whole. It is a situation that calls for positive action on the part of world Jewry."

Rabin told his audience that "all these attempts to weaken us, to gain by economic and political pressures what the Arabs could not achieve by the use of force, will fail. They will fail because you understand our position and you recognize the extent of the need for your full support morally and financially." He said that in the present circumstances, Israel turns "to you, to the Jewish communities, to help us meet our difficult financial situation." He added, "I feel confident that you will do your utmost to stand by us in this critical period."

Urgency Of Campaign Emphasized

In introducing Rabin, Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, emphasized the urgency of the campaign, declaring that "our efforts must be concentrated on maximum coverage of every segment of the community to relieve the critical financial situation in Israel resulting from a tremendous trade deficit, record high defense expenditures, an extraordinary rate of inflation, and the Arab boycott." Michael Arnon, president of the Israel Bond Organization, expressed confidence that the communities would intensify their campaign activities in the coming weeks.

Following Rabin's talk, Rothberg called upon the Bond leaders and volunteers to explore all avenues of possible support within and outside the Jewish community. He emphasized that the financial and business community would welcome the opportunity to participate actively in the Israel Bond drive as a "constructive and meaningful way" of demonstrating their repudiation of the Arab economic boycott and blacklist of organizations and individuals in the U.S. and elsewhere who do business with Israel.

ISRAEL'S NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM IN 8-GAME U.S. TOUR

NEW YORK, May 22 (JTA)--Israel's National Soccer team will make its first New York appearance in five years tonight when it plays the New York Cosmos at the Randall's Island Stadium. The contest is the second of an eight-game U.S. tour by the Israeli eleven which began Tuesday against the Philadelphia Atoms in Philadelphia.

The Israeli footballers will play the Miami Toros in Miami, May 25; the Chicago Stings in Chicago, May 27; the American All-Stars in Los Angeles, June 1; the Dallas Tornados in Dallas, June 3; and the Cleveland Cobras in Cleveland, June 5. The final game of the tour will be played against the U.S. Olympic Soccer team June 8 at Hofstra College, New York.

The tour was arranged by the United States Soccer Federation, the Israel Soccer Federation and the United States Committee Sports for Israel. It follows the recent U.S. visit of the Israel National Basketball team and is in reciprocity for the appearance of the United States National Soccer team in Israel in November, 1973, right after the Yom Kippur War. The U.S. Olympic Soccer team trained in Israel last January.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Police are investigating an explosion that set fire to a car parked on a lot near Independence Park in the center of Jerusalem Thursday. Police described the charge as a small one.

REMINDER: No Bulletin dated May 26.