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CABINET ENDORSES RABIN POLICIES ON EVE OF DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 9 (JTA)--The Cabinet gave its unanimous endorsement this morning to the policies of Premier Yitzhak Rabin as he prepared for his trip to Washington later this week for fateful talks with President Ford. In a statement released at 2:15 a.m. local time, after a marathon debate that began yesterday and continued well past midnight, the Cabinet made it clear that Israel stands fast on its position of last March toward a second-stage interim agreement with Egypt, and would re-examine its position only if "parallel changes were forthcoming in the Egyptian position."

The statement indicated that Israel favored a resumption of the step-by-step approach of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger as the most "realistic" method of advancing toward an interim settlement under present conditions, but also stated that Israel was prepared to reach peace agreements with all of its Arab neighbors "whether within the Geneva framework or outside it, whether through the means of peace treaties or through interim settlements."

'Doves' Platform Published

The Cabinet overwhelmingly rejected a proposal by "doves" elements of Mapam and the Independent Liberal Party urging the government to draft an overall peace plan now—something Rabin has rejected in the past as unrealistic and uncalled for at this time. (See separate story) But the Mapam-ILP peace proposal was in a rare move—published this morning alongside the official Cabinet statement. The four ministers who voted for it nevertheless cast their votes for the final draft of the Cabinet statement to make it unanimous. Herut leader Menachem Beigin of the Likud opposition, also expressed approval of the government's position on the eve of Rabin's departure for Washington. (See separate story)

The Cabinet statement said that Rabin would be guided in his presentation to the Ford Administration of Israel's position on overall or interim peace settlements "by the Cabinet's basic guidelines and by its decisions and statements as approved by the Knesset." The formulation was in accord with Premier Rabin's request that the Cabinet not tie his hands with detailed decisions before his talks in Washington.

Israel Not Aware Of Changes By Egypt

The Premier said, and most of his ministers agreed, that the time for crucial decision-making by Israel would come after his return from the U.S. when he would have clear and authoritative information on what Egypt is prepared to offer in exchange for further Israeli offers. The Cabinet statement implied that Israel has not as yet been authoritatively informed of any meaningful changes in Egypt's position and therefore has no reason to change its own position delineated last March.

The Cabinet statement said: "At this stage, because of the Arab positions on overall peace, the Israel government sees as the realistic

method of advancing toward peace, the method of partial settlements with Egypt through the good offices of the United States. The government's decision not to accept the terms proposed by Egypt in the March talks remains valid. The government will be in a position to re-examine its position if parallel changes are forthcoming in the Egyptian position. In contacts with the U.S. President, Secretary of State and Administration, Israel will seek to reach understanding and agreement on the furtherance of the political process toward peace if and when an interim agreement with Egypt is attained."

The Cabinet also declared that "Israel desires negotiations for peace within defensible borders with each one of its neighbors. In his discussions with the U.S. President, when he puts forward the Israel position on peace...as well as on the interim settlement, the Premier will be guided by the Cabinet's basic guidelines and by its decisions and statements as approved by the Knesset. During negotiations...the Cabinet will take detailed decisions, as is its right, with reference to each of the neighboring states."

'DOVES' WANT RABIN TO TELL FORD ISRAEL READY FOR OVERALL PEACE SETTLEMENT

JERUSALEM, June 9 (JTA)--The Cabinet's "doves" called on Premier Yitzhak Rabin today to tell President Ford that Israel wished to embark on overall peace negotiations with the Arab states. That was the essence of what was, in effect, a "minority report" by four Mapam and Independent Liberal Party ministers released this morning along with the Cabinet's unanimous endorsement of the Premier's policies and Israel's present stance. The "doves'" platform stated that negotiations for an overall peace settlement could embrace "peace in stages" but must include a discussion of the final components of peace, security, mutual recognition and good, neighborly relations between Israel and the Arab states. It was signed by Victor Shemtov and Shlomo Rosen of Mapam and Moshe Kol and Gideon Hausner of the ILP.

The alternative report stated that Israel would not return to its pre-June 1967 borders but would prepare "peace maps" for presentation at the Geneva conference indicating what it regarded as secure and defensible future boundaries. It also called for recognition by Israel of "the existence of the Palestinian problem" and an undertaking to negotiate a solution of that problem "with Jordan and with the authorized representation of Palestinians who would recognize Israel and sign a peace treaty with her." The "doves" urged expanded autonomy for West Bank residents. They stressed that Jerusalem must remain a united city and Israel's capital but would accord municipal autonomy to the Arab sections of the city and "special status" for the holy places.

BEIGIN SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUED REJECTION OF EGYPTIAN TERMS IN SINAI

By Yitzhak Shargil and Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, June 9 (JTA)--Menachem Beigin, leader of the Herut wing of Likud, expressed approval today of the Cabinet's statement re-affirming Israel's position of last March toward an interim agreement with Egypt. He said in a radio interview that he was encouraged by the govern-

ment's refusal to accept now the terms offered by Egypt which it rejected three months ago and observed that, judging from his recent visits abroad, Israel's unity on this position was essential.

Beigin chose to ignore that portion of this morning's Cabinet statement which said that Israel was prepared to re-examine its position on an interim accord if parallel changes in the Egyptian position developed. Beigin, who was asked what benediction he would give Premier Yitzhak Rabin prior to his meeting with President Ford later this week, replied, "My prayers and blessings are that there will be no change in the position set by the majority of the House (Knesset) to reject the Egyptian diotates."

Likud Split Over 'Frozen' Positions

Likud, however, is by no means united over the question of an interim agreement which, in whatever form it takes, would result inevitably in further Israeli pullbacks in Sinai. The gap between Likud's Liberal Party wing and Herut was evident at last night's meeting of Likud's executive to discuss political problems. While Beigin stressed Likud's promise at the time the last national elections (Dec. 31, 1973) were held, that there would be no withdrawal from Sinai before a final peace settlement is reached, Liberal leader Elimelech Rimalt expressed a different view.

He said he could not be a party to "frozen" positions that took no cognizance of changed conditions and circumstances. He urged Likud to revise its attitude toward an interim accord since a full settlement could be achieved now only if Israel were to return to its pre-June 1967 borders, a condition to which no one agrees.

RABIN WILL MEET JEWISH LEADERS IN WASHINGTON FRIDAY AFTER TALKS WITH FORD, KISSINGER

NEW YORK, June 9 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin of Israel will meet privately with a delegation of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations at Blair House in Washington Friday it was disclosed today by Rabbi Israel Miller, Conference chairman. Rabbi Miller said one representative of each of the 32 constituent bodies in the Presidents Conference would be invited to meet with the Israeli leader who is expected to brief them on his meetings with President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger this Wednesday and Thursday. Rabbi Miller made the announcement in releasing the text of a cable to Premier Rabin from the Presidents Conference on the eve of Rabin's departure for the United States. The message to Rabin stated in part:

"Your visit comes at a moment when the American people are especially sensitive to Israel's efforts to achieve peace. The unilateral withdrawal of troops, tanks and artillery from Israel's forward positions near the Suez Canal was welcomed here as a significant gesture of Israel's peaceful intentions. The statement of 76 Senators urging the President to submit an economic and military aid request responsive to Israel's needs bespeaks the American people's commitment to Israel's security as it does their understanding of Israel's need for secure, recognized and defensible borders."

Rabin To Meet With UJA-Federation Leaders

Frank R. Lautenberg, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, announced today that Rabin would meet with 400 leaders of the UJA

and Federations and Welfare Funds in Washington Friday following his meetings with Ford and Kissinger. Lautenberg noted that the gathering with Rabin "coincides with the climax of our Total Mobilization drive to greatly accelerate our efforts on behalf of the people of Israel."

FORD TO MEET WITH SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER JUNE 20

WASHINGTON, June 9 (JTA)--The State Department announced today that Syria's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Abdallah Khadam, will confer here with President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger June 20. According to Department spokesman Robert Funseth, the meeting, to take place nine days after Ford and Kissinger meet with Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin, will be part of the Administration's ongoing reassessment of American Middle East policy. He said that as far as he knew, no other meetings with visiting foreign diplomats were planned as part of the reassessment process.

President Ford met with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Salzburg, Austria June 1-2 and will confer here with Premier Rabin June 11-12. Funseth volunteered the statement that in the President's talks with Rabin this week, the U.S. will take a "constructive attitude" and was "confident that the Prime Minister (Rabin) is approaching the meeting with the same attitude."

EXPLOSIVES FOUND AT SCENE OF GRENADE ATTACK

TEL AVIV, June 9 (JTA)--An explosive charge concealed in an iron pipe was found by police today in the area where Israeli soldiers killed a grenade-throwing terrorist yesterday. The device, attached to a detonator and a watch, was dismantled safely. The soldiers had been waiting at the Beth-Lid road junction to hitch rides to Netanya when they were attacked with two hand grenades and small arms fire. The grenades failed to explode and the soldiers killed the assailant. Today, police detained the driver of a car suspected of having brought the terrorist to the road junction from Shakwa, a village near the West Bank town of Tulkarem. Two members of the terrorist's family were also detained.

EGYPTIANS ADMIT SPY MISSION IN SINAI

TEL AVIV, June 9 (JTA)--Three Egyptian soldiers who were returned by Israel to Egypt yesterday admitted that they were on an intelligence mission when they were captured by Israeli troops in the Suez Canal area the night of June 3-4. The officer and two soldiers said they were checking the deployment of Israeli troops and weapons on the eve of the reopening of the canal.

The officer, a Lt. Gamal, said in a television interview that Egypt wanted peace and with the opening of the canal the chances for peace have doubled. The lieutenant said he was an agricultural engineer who was serving three years in the reserves. All three Egyptians said they received good treatment in Israel. It is believed here that their prompt return was intended to set an example for Egypt to treat captured Israelis the same way.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Memorial services were held at the Israeli Consulate Monday for Dr. Shlomo Levin, the Consul in charge of religious affairs, who died last month at the age of 44. The services marked the close of the "shloshim," the traditional 30-day mourning period. David Rivlin, the Consul General of Israel, delivered the eulogy.

CONFRONTATION LOOMS BETWEEN RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR COURTS IN ISRAEL

By Gili Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 9 (JTA)--The makings of a bitter and possibly decisive confrontation between the religious and secular courts in Israel took shape today in the wake of a Supreme Court ruling last week that a divorce document, though issued by a rabbinical court, was secular in nature and subject to judicial review. Israel's "dayanim" (religious court justices) angrily denounced the ruling and proclaimed today that they would not accept directives in halachic matters from any but halachic authorities.

Under the system prevailing in Israel, the populace, though largely non-Orthodox or non-religious, is governed by Orthodox rabbinical courts with regard to family matters such as marriage and divorce. The outcome of the latest dispute may determine whether halachic or national law is the final arbiter.

The Supreme Court ruling, issued by Justice Joel Sussman, stated that the rabbinate could not insert into the divorce certificate--as distinct from the "get" which is the divorce instrument itself--the fact that the woman receiving the divorce was adulterous and forbidden, by religious law, to have relations with either her former husband or her lover. The case in question involved a Beersheba woman whose divorce document was delayed for three years by a local rabbinical court. According to the "dayanim" the case was purely halachic and thus exclusive within the jurisdiction of the rabbinical court which renders its judgements only on the basis of Torah law. They accused the Supreme Court of violating Torah law by intervening in matters of halacha.

Meanwhile, two Knesset members of the National Religious Party introduced a private members bill in the Knesset yesterday calling for the establishment of a special court to rule in jurisdictional disputes between the secular and rabbinical courts. The measure proposed by Ze'evulun Hammer and Yehuda Ben Meir, would clearly limit the authority of the Supreme Court in such cases. They suggested that the special court be composed of two civil court justices and one religious court judge, the latter to be appointed by the Minister of Religious Affairs. The two civil court members would be appointed by the Justice Minister "after consulting with the Religious Minister." The special court thus would be clearly religious oriented which is the aim of the two NRP MKs. Their bill mentioned that a similar court functioned during the period of the British Mandate in Palestine.

MORE POSITIVE ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP WITH WASHINGTON SEEN ON EVE OF RABIN'S ARRIVAL

WASHINGTON, June 9 (JTA)--Qualified sources here said today that a much more positive and healthier relationship exists between Jerusalem and Washington now than when Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's efforts to negotiate an Israeli-Egyptian second-stage agreement were suspended last March 22. The sources said the change was reflected in Kissinger's reports after his meetings with members of Congress and that, in view of the letter signed by 76 Senators urging continued American economic and military assistance to Israel, the Ford Administration cannot return to blaming Israel for the breakdown of the talks.

The Administration is no longer able, the

source said, to pass the word that support for Israel has eroded in Congress, the media and the American people. The sources observed that while the differences have not disappeared, the atmosphere has improved because Egypt has not asked for additional concessions from Israel and the Ford Administration, perhaps reluctantly, is moving away from its fault-finding into a more friendly approach to the situation.

The assessment of the situation was made on the eve of Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin's arrival here tomorrow for meetings with President Ford and Secretary Kissinger beginning Wednesday. The sources indicated that progress toward a Middle East settlement would depend on whether Egypt re-examines its position toward an interim accord with Israel and the extent of a general understanding of American support for Israel's security to be reached at the Ford-Rabin meetings.

BRITISH JEWS DEMAND 'MORE TEETH' IN RACE RELATIONS ACT

LONDON, June 9 (JTA)--The circulation of anti-Semitic pamphlets by a neo-Fascist group in Britain has aroused demands by the Board of Deputies of British Jews to "put more teeth" into the Race Relations Act. The pamphlet, titled "Did Six Million Really Die?" accuses Jews of lying about the number of Nazi victims "to gain pity and money." It is being sent, unsolicited, to schools by a movement headed by a man surnamed MacLaughlin.

The shortcomings of the Race Relations Act in dealing with this type of activity was demonstrated when the pamphlet first appeared a year ago and was sent to Attorney General Sam Silken by Martin Savitt, chairman of the Board of Deputies' defense and group relations committee. Silken's response was that while the author of the pamphlet "substantially ignored evidence contrary to his case, it would be difficult to prove that (he) intended (in the words of the Race Relations Act) 'to stir up hatred against any section of the public in Great Britain distinguished by color, race or ethnic or national origin.'" Silken pointed out that "intent" was "essential as an ingredient" if an offense under the Act is established.

Savitt confirmed that the Board of Deputies' legal committee has drafted a memorandum to the Home Secretary seeking to remove the "intent" clause from the Act.

KNESSET DELEGATION GREETED BY WEST GERMAN PARLIAMENT

BONN, June 9 (JTA)--The President of the Bundestag assured a visiting Knesset delegation today that Israel can rely upon West German support and that West Germany shares Israel's anxieties concerning the situation in the Middle East. Annemarie Renger described the thinning out of Israeli forces in Sinai as a demonstration of good faith and expressed hope for an appropriate Arab move towards rapprochement. She spoke at a plenary session of the Bundestag which greeted the Knesset delegation with a standing ovation.

The six-man delegation, headed by Knesset Speaker Yisrael Yeshe'yahu, was received here by President Walter Scheel and in West Berlin by Mayor Klaus Schuetz. The delegates will visit the site of the former Nazi concentration camp at Dachau and will also visit Munich, Speyer and Worms. The latter two cities were among the oldest centers of Judaism in Germany. The visit is Yeshe'yahu's first to West Germany and is expected to be returned by the Bundestag Speaker.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES VITAL DECISIONS BY ISRAEL EXPECTED AFTER RABIN-FORD TALKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 9 (JTA)--Officials here labored over the weekend to counter a wave of upbeat reporting that has emanated from Salzburg and Washington following the Ford-Sadat meeting in Salzburg June 1-2. The officials indicated that much of this reporting may be officially inspired in a deliberate effort to create an atmosphere of "imminent agreement"--itself a persuasive form of pressure. Many reports from the U.S. have claimed that Egypt is now ready to offer a substantial concession on the crucial time element of an accord, by agreeing to a three-five year period of duration. Some reports said President Anwar Sadat would now actually agree to have the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) mandate in Sinai renewed for an entire three-year stretch. (See separate story on Cabinet meeting.)

But in Jerusalem, officials pointed out that if these are Egypt's intentions they have not been officially communicated to Israel. At Kissinger's meeting with Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinits in Washington last Wednesday, the Secretary of State apparently told the envoy that in the American view Salzburg had opened the path to resumed interim talks, but he did not point specifically to precise Egyptian concessions. Some observers here believe Egypt is unlikely to agree to a one-shot three-year UNEF renewal. They feel, though, that Egypt might now be ready to undertake in promises to the U.S. or to Israel that the provisions of an accord would remain valid for at least three-five years, with periodic UNEF renewals to occur automatically. Some discussion--and differences--was expected at last night's Cabinet meeting on whether such assurances could be acceptable to Israel.

Egyptian 'Package' Offer Possible

Egypt is also apparently prepared to go further than it was in March towards satisfying Israel's demands on the "elements of non-belligerency" such as a reduction of hostile propaganda and diplomatic warfare and diminution of the Arab economic boycott. Israel's leaders will have to decide whether such concessions should be met in return with an Israeli willingness to forego the earlier demand for a non-belligerency pact in which both sides would formally announce the termination of the state of war. Last March Israel insisted on such a pact as its condition for ceding the strategic Mitla and Gidi passes. Egypt still insists that no accord is possible unless those passes are ceded and still rejects the non-belligerency demand. The problem facing the Israeli leadership is whether a package of Egyptian concessions on "time" and on "elements" could persuade Israel to waive the non-belligerency demand, settle for a "non-use of force formula" and cede the passes.

Some of the more "hawkish" ministers are believed to be urging that the government slow the pace of the negotiations, and not conclude any agreement until after July 24, the date on which the present three-month UNEF mandate expires. These ministers are said to feel that Sadat's decision to renew the mandate in May for only three months instead of six months as heretofore must not be rewarded with the spectacle of Israel negotiating under the pressure of the July 24 time limit. Rather, Egypt should be asked to renew the mandate for a further six months as a

sign of its sincere intent to progress towards a settlement, these ministers contend.

American Peace Plan?

There is a growing feeling among some observers here that Rabin and Israel may be forced to grapple with the question of final peace sooner than they would prefer as a result of renewed American interest in the subject, especially on the part of President Ford. These observers anticipate with some misgivings that the U.S. Mideast policy "re-assessment" may well lead to the formulation of a new American peace plan. This would certainly involve Jerusalem in long and arduous arguments with Washington. There are no illusions here as to the disparity between America's and Israel's visions of a final settlement.

The key question is whether Sadat and/or Ford, for their own various reasons, will seek now to interpose the issues of an overall settlement into the resumed negotiations. If they do, some veteran observers here feel, it could prejudice the chances of concluding an interim accord which have otherwise begun to look relatively brighter. Premier Rabin will know the answer to this key question only after he confers with President Ford later this week.

BAR MITZVAH RATES FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT IN ALASKA'S CAPITAL

WASHINGTON, June 9 (JTA)--The Southeast Alaska Empire, Juneau's daily newspaper, headlined this week what it claimed to be the first Bar Mitzvah ever performed in Alaska. The paper published a front page photograph of 13-year-old Alan Gross and his parents with Rabbi Morris Hershman, of San Francisco, who officiated. Alan's mother, Belle Simpson Gross, was the first Jewish woman born in Juneau, according to the paper.

The Jewish community in the capital of the 50th state numbers less than 100. The only synagogue in Alaska is located in Anchorage which has a Jewish population of 300. Alan's Bar Mitzvah was held at the Baranof Hotel in Juneau, according to the newspaper account mailed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Washington Bureau.

ADM. ZUMWALT WARNS U.S. 'HOSTAGE' TO ARAB OIL NATIONS

WASHINGTON, June 9 (JTA)--A new organization called "Americans for Energy Independence" emerged here over the weekend with retired Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt, former Chief of U.S. Naval Operations accepting its presidency. In accepting the post, Zumwalt warned that "the United States has become hostage to the foreign policy of Arab nations" and urged "immediate" and "decisive" action toward energy independence.

Dr. Hans Bethé, Nobel Laureate, is chairman of the new organization's board and Robert R. Nathan, a Washington economist is its vice-chairman. Former Gov. Endicott Peabody of Massachusetts is secretary and Harold Greenwald, a New York lawyer is treasurer.

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA)--Tourism from Brazil to Israel has increased 63 percent during the first four months of 1978 compared to the same period a year earlier, according to Yeshayahu Shay, head of the Israel Government Tourist Offices for Latin America. Shay told Brazilian travel agents here that the number of tourists going to Israel from both Brazil and Argentina this year is expected to exceed 30,000. He said that a third of them would be Christian pilgrims.