



COMMERCE DEPARTMENT, WHITE HOUSE MUM ON ADL SUIT-AGAINST DEPARTMENT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11 (JTA)--Department of Commerce and White House spokesmen declined today to comment on the suit filed yesterday by the B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League charging the Department and Secretary of Commerce Rogers Morton with, in effect, abetting compliance by American firms with the Arab boycott against Israel.

William Rhatigan, director of communications at the Department of Commerce, said Morton would not discuss the suit until the legal papers have been served on him. The White House cited the absence of President Ford, who is visiting New Hampshire today, for withholding comment on the issue.

The ADL suit filed in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, seeks to stop the Commerce Department from distributing Arab bid invitations to American firms containing restrictive trade and boycott provisions. It also asked the court to order Morton to release the names of American companies that have complied with the Arab request for boycott information.

Possible Domestic Boycott Cited

Rhatigan indicated that Morton was unlikely to reconsider his refusal to submit copies of exporters' requests which must be filed with the Department under the Export Administration Act and which are being sought by the House Commerce Committee. He indicated that while Morton would supply Congress with all the information he could, the names of companies that filed the reports would not be disclosed because this could open them to a domestic boycott.

Rhatigan observed that the Export Administration Act provides that information received by the Department of Commerce should remain confidential unless Morton makes a "national interest determination" to the contrary.

He summed up the Department's position when he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that participation in a boycott by American firms is not against the law although it is against United States policy. Ford himself said last February that the Arab boycott was "repugnant" and that the U.S. government opposes it. The President and Morton are known to have discussed the issue before the ADL suit was filed.

STATE DEPARTMENT ASSAILED ON ATTITUDE TOWARD 'HAWK' MISSILES

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11 (JTA)--Sen. Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.), a leading opponent of the transfer by the United States of 14 "Hawk" surface-to-air missile systems to Jordan, declared today that he is "deeply concerned" that the State Department is insisting that the views of the government of Jordan are final in the matter.

This is a "shocking attitude," Case said in a press statement. "It abdicates the responsibility of our Executive branch and it denies Congress its essential role in the making of a highly significant foreign policy decision."

Case's statement followed Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's expression Tuesday that the issue of the missiles is between King Hussein of Jordan and Congress and that the King was insisting on 14 systems.

This was interpreted to mean that the State Department is backing Jordan and refusing to take issue with the Hashemite kingdom on the basis of the views in Congress. It was also reported today to JTA that the Congress is seeking to make the missile systems immobile and thereby convert them into strictly defensive weapons in a stated locale. The State Department is understood to be resisting this position.

Case, the senior Republican member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said that Congress will cooperate with the Administration if the matter is resolved in a way that meets Jordan's "legitimate defense needs" without running "the great risks involved in the program as currently stated." If the Administration does not "respond promptly in the same spirit," Case warned, "we shall have no alternative but to bring the matter to an up or down vote in the Congress."

PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO WIN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR MILITARY, ECONOMIC AID TO ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Sept. 11 (JTA)--The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations is launching a campaign to win broad public support in the United States for military and economic aid to Israel, it was announced today at a press conference here.

Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Presidents Conference, who made the announcement, said that he is confident that the American people will recognize that as a result of the Egyptian-Israeli agreement, the U.S. political interest in the Middle East has grown, while the Soviet Union's influence has been "significantly reduced." For this reason, Miller stated, he believes that the American people will understand that a strong Israel is in the strategic interest of the United States.

"Every American is concerned by the combination of recession and inflation that threatens our economic security," Miller said. "For this reason we must point out that the cost to our country of a Middle East war, or an oil embargo, or a confrontation with the Soviet Union, would be infinitely higher than the cost of foreign aid. We must at the same time make clear that the overwhelming proportion of American assistance to Israel will be spent in the United States for military supplies produced by American working men in American factories."

Miller conceded, however, that he was troubled by reports of "friendly Congressional rumormongering" that the mail they are getting is running against large-scale assistance to Israel. He added that the campaign will aim at changing this attitude and would be directed initially at the Jewish community itself and then through the Presidents Conference's constituent members at the general community.

On the meeting of the Presidents Conference with President Ford and Secretary of State Henry

A. Kissinger last Monday in the White House, Miller said that both Ford and Kissinger expressed the firm belief that the Israeli-Egyptian agreement was a major step on the path to peace, and that approval by Congress by a strong vote for the stationing of American technicians in the Sinai is vital in creating the proper atmosphere of American support and endorsement within which Israel and Egypt may work toward cooperation and accommodation leading to further progress toward peace.

"The Secretary told us further that he believed the Egyptian-Israeli contact called for in the agreement would provide a way of testing the willingness of each side to cooperate with--and thus build trust with--the other," he said. Miller said that the Presidents Conference also discussed with Ford the issue of Soviet Jewry and told him that the harassment of Jews in the USSR has increased recently while emigration has declined.

Kissinger, Miller said, contended that he had never met Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and that the President had never met with Soviet Premier Leonid Brezhnev without raising the issue of Soviet Jewry.

On his recent visit to Rumania, to which he was invited by the Rumanian government, Miller said that he was "deeply impressed" by the active Jewish communal, cultural and religious life. He said he was impressed by Jewish life as expressed in Jewish theater, kosher restaurants, children's chorus and welfare institutions. He had high words of praise for Rabbi Moses Rosen, the Chief Rabbi of Rumania.

GOLAN HEIGHTS SETTLERS CONFUSED, UNCERTAIN ABOUT AREA'S FUTURE By Yitzhak Shargil and Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, Sept. 11 (JTA)--Uncertainty prevails among settlers on the Golan Heights and their supporters over the future of Israeli settlements there should the government be pressed into negotiating a new interim pact with Syria in the wake of the one just concluded with Egypt in Sinai. The confusion is compounded by seemingly contradictory statements emanating from official quarters in recent days and the absence of any authoritative final statement of policy by the government.

Premier Yitzhak Rabin was quoted in his various New Year interviews as saying that an agreement with Syria would not be allowed to jeopardize a single settlement on the Golan. Reports from various foreign sources say an understanding was reached between Israel and the U.S. in the course of the recent Israeli-Egyptian negotiations that there will be negotiations with Syria.

Yediot Achronot quoted Foreign Minister Yigal Allon yesterday as saying that "We did not conquer the Golan to settle there. The settlements there helped the Israeli army in the security effort and they are there to help in the political struggle that will decide the final borders."

Those remarks attributed to Allon seemed to raise a question over the future of the existing settlements on the Heights and the establishment of additional ones there. Golan settlers have called for four more settlements on the Heights but the ministerial settlement committee to which they addressed their proposal has not taken up the problem.

Debate On Issue Due Next Week

The settlers were disturbed Tuesday when the

committee decided to refer the matter of new settlements to the full Cabinet. It acted on the demand of Housing Minister Avraham Ofer, a Labor Party "dove," that the issue be sent to the Cabinet plenary for reconsideration in the light of recent political developments.

It is now likely to come up on the national agenda earlier than expected and the outcome of the debate is uncertain. Up to now, the government has insisted that no Israeli settlement would be removed from the Golan in the event of an interim agreement with Syria. The problem now, however, concerns settlements that are still in the planning stages.

Meanwhile, a quarrel has developed between the opposition Likud which has demanded an extraordinary session of the Knesset this week to debate the Golan problem and Knesset Speaker Yisrael Yeshayahu who rejected the demand on grounds that the Knesset chamber is now undergoing renovation. Likud, which got the required number of signatures for a special session, accused Yeshayahu of arbitrary use of his authority to postpone a debate on issues raised by the opposition. The debate is expected to be held next week.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SETS UP NEW DEPARTMENT TO MAINTAIN LIAISON WITH JEWISH COMMUNITIES ABROAD

JERUSALEM, Sept. 11 (JTA)--The Foreign Ministry has set up a new department "to maintain liaison with the Jewish communities abroad," it was announced here today. The department's first head is Max Varon, a veteran diplomat, former Jewish National Fund official and an experienced fund-raiser. Varon has served as Ambassador to Burma, Cambodia and Sweden, and most recently headed the Ministry's Asia and Oceania division.

Prior to his foreign service work, he served with the JNF and has carried out fund-raising missions for the United Jewish Appeal, Israel Bonds and other organizations. He is well-known in Jewish communities abroad. Among his department's roles will be increasing cooperation between the government, World Zionist Organization and Jewish organizations abroad.

The department's creation, according to an official statement, "reflects the recognition that Israel's needs and struggles have deepened the 'centrality of Israel' in the consciousness and the lives of Jewish communities...especially since the Yom Kippur War."

BLACK GROUP SUPPORTS ISRAEL, DENOUNCES ARAB BOYCOTT ACTIONS

NEW YORK, Sept. 11 (JTA)--The newly formed Black Americans to Support Israel Committee (BASIC) expressed "admiration" for Israel's "democratic values" and "her impressive social achievements" in a statement of principles issued here today. The statement, endorsed by the more than 100 Black Americans prominent in many fields who comprise the Committee's initial membership, condemned the anti-Jewish "blacklist," affirmed that "Blacks and Jews have common interest in democracy and justice" and supported "democratic Israel's right to exist."

Formation of the pro-Israel committee was announced at a press conference here today by civil rights leader Bayard Rustin, its director. The committee's initiator, veteran labor leader A. Phillip Randolph is chairman.

Others in the committee include NAACP ex-

Executive director Roy Wilkins; New York City Human Rights Commissioner Eleanor Holmes Norton; Congresswoman Barbara Jordan (D, Tex.); Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles; Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D, N.Y.); Rep. Andrew Young (D, Ga.); tennis champion Arthur Ashe; Hank Aaron, who holds the major league baseball home run record; jazz musician Lionel Hampton who is the treasurer of BASIC; author Ralph Ellison; and Urban League director Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

Israel Is The Only Free Mideast Country

The statement of principles led off with a condemnation of the Arab blacklist, declaring: "We have fought too long and too hard to root out discrimination from our land to sit idly while foreign interests import bigotry into America. Having suffered so greatly from prejudice, we consider most repugnant efforts by the Arab states to use the economic power of their newly acquired oil wealth to boycott business firms that deal with Israel or that have Jewish owners, directors or executives, and to impose anti-Jewish preconditions for investment in this country."

The statement explained its support for Israel on grounds that "Only in Israel, among the nations of the Middle East, are political freedoms and civil liberties secure. All religions are free and secure in their observance. Education is free and universal. Social welfare is highly advanced. Her communal farms (kibbutzim) are models of social idealism, creative innovation and cooperative spirit."

The statement noted that "Arab oil policies have had disastrous effects upon Blacks in America and in Africa." It asserted that "the impact of the massive increases in the price of oil has fallen disproportionately on the shoulders of Black Americans" and no less on "millions of men, women and children in Black Africa" who "face starvation because the economies of their countries, already crippled by drought, were further weakened because of oil price increases."

Peace Through Mutual Recognition

With regard to the Middle East conflict, the statement supported "peace through mutual recognition." It observed that "We have learned from our struggle here in America that the only way to resolve a conflict of nationalities is through mutual acceptance and reconciliation. The Arabs have refused to accept the legitimacy of the State of Israel. Israel has consistently demonstrated the desire to make concessions in the interests of peace with her Arab neighbors. But she has refused to accept conditions that would threaten her existence as an independent, sovereign nation."

BASIC said it supported "the rights of the Palestinians to genuine self-determination, but not at the expense of the rights of Jews to independence and statehood, and not at the command of economic blackmailers or of terrorists who would force their own 'solution' at the point of a gun." In that connection the statement denounced the Palestine Liberation Organization which, "like all terrorist groups, have turned their unbridled violence against anyone who gets in their way, including Palestinians who disagree with them."

EXTREME ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED BY IPU

LONDON, Sept. 11 (JTA)--The plenum of the Interparliamentary Union Conference will vote at

its final session tomorrow on an extreme anti-Israel resolution adopted by the Soviet-Arab-Third World majority in the Conference's political committee today. Tomorrow's vote is expected to be a mere formality and passage seems virtually assured.

The anti-Israel resolution was adopted by a vote of 27-9 with three abstentions. It was taken after many delegates had left the political committee meeting to attend cocktail parties and banquets. The Soviet bloc defected from the Arabs only when it came to voting on a Belgian amendment welcoming the new Israeli-Egyptian interim agreement in Sinai. Egypt and Tunisia joined the Western bloc and Israel in voting for the amendment. But a Dutch attempt to speak of each Middle Eastern state's right to secure and recognized borders was stifled by the Soviet-Arab steamroller.

The political committee ignored the warning of former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, head of the Israeli delegation, that "by adopting the most extreme line in the Arab world you turn the IPU into a rubber stamp for the Arabs." Eban observed that "soon there will be no need for international conferences; all they will need is to ask the Arabs for their views." Halid el Hassan, spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organization, said a vote for the Arab motion "will help us to become moderates. If you don't vote you will make us extremists."

Lord Janner, a leader of the Anglo-Jewish community, and of the British IPU delegation, commenting on the vote, stated: "This is the end of the IPU as a true representative of parliamentary democracy."

POLICE UNITS GUARDING OIL FIELDS

TEL AVIV, Sept. 11 (JTA)--A special border police unit has been dispatched to the Abu Rodeis oilfields in southwestern Sinai to prevent irresponsible parties from interfering with the orderly transfer of the equipment and installations to Egypt, it was disclosed today. The oilfields are expected to be the first area evacuated by Israel under terms of the interim accord with Egypt signed last month. Israeli and Egyptian teams are currently at work in Geneva to draft the detailed military protocols that will implement the agreement.

The dispatch of the special unit with strict instructions followed top level consultations in Jerusalem on means to avoid a repetition of incidents in which unauthorized parties destroyed property that should have been transferred to Syria under the terms of the 1971 Israeli-Syrian disengagement agreement on the Golan Heights.

It was in that context that Premier Yitzhak Rabin said over the weekend that he does not wish a repetition of Kuneitra, the Golan Heights town evacuated by Israel last year. Although initially denied by Israel, it was learned subsequently that destruction of property occurred in Kuneitra without the authorization or knowledge of the Israeli authorities.

It was learned, meanwhile, that Israel plans to test Egypt's undertaking to permit its cargoes to pass through the Suez Canal shortly. But shipping companies have been instructed by the authorities to avoid publicizing that event should it occur. Sources said that at the moment there is no foreign-flag ship bound for Israel with cargo from the Far East or East Africa which could be used to test the Egyptian undertaking.

ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN TEAMS IN GENEVA DESCRIBED AS 'WORKING MEN ENGAGED IN A WORKING SESSION'

By Edwin Eylan

GENEVA, Sept. 11 (JTA)--The Israeli and Egyptian working teams met twice a day this week at the United Nations headquarters here to draw up the detailed military protocols to implement the interim accord in Sinai which both sides signed here last week.

The working atmosphere was termed as "correct and business-like" and the head of the Israeli delegation, Ambassador Mordechai Gazit, summed up the spirit of the activities when he said, "We are all working men engaged in a working session." The teams are expected to conclude their work within two weeks.

Cordial, Relaxed Atmosphere

The first face-to-face meeting between Israelis and Egyptians in more than a year was far more cordial and relaxed than had been expected after the icy atmosphere which prevailed Sept. 6 when the two sides formally signed the basic Sinai Interim accord.

The participants, four Israelis, four Egyptians and three UN representatives, all speak English, but the Egyptians do not stand on protocol and often address the Israelis directly in the heat of a discussion.

The two sides are trying to draw up a detailed timetable for the implementation of the accord. The first Israeli withdrawal, prescribed by the accord, will be from the Abu Rodeis oilfields in southwestern Sinai. The immediate problem for the teams is to fix exact schedules for each side to use the only available road to the fields.

All concerned say both the Israelis and the Egyptians are manifesting goodwill and are anxious to conclude their work by the deadline set in the accord, Sept. 23. The Soviet Union is boycotting the meetings and the U.S., for diplomatic reasons, has decided to be absent as well.

U.S. Maintaining Watch

Nevertheless, an American representative, Harold Saunders, Deputy Undersecretary of State, maintained a watch on the proceedings from the sidelines. Max Kraus, a U.S. spokesman, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Saunders' task is "to be available on the spot should difficulties unexpectedly crop up." Saunders was part of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's party during his latest Mideast shuttle.

Although Saunders never comes near the marble "Palace of Nations" where the talks are being conducted, he has been in practically constant touch with the heads of both delegations. Only the Soviet Union continues to be absent.

Some diplomats here fear that this continued boycott may torpedo the talks before they are completed. Others, however, say this absence may herald a new chapter in the history of the Middle East.

HEAD OF U.S. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE WARNS EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UN WOULD BE BLOW TO WORLD BODY

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11 (JTA)--Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Cincinnati, president of the United States Catholic Conference (USCC) warned in a statement released here today that the expulsion or suspension of Israel from the United Nations would be "unjustified and unwise" and a blow to the UN itself.

The statement, issued after a meeting of the USCC's executive committee, declared that "the right of Israel, as well as of the other parties to the (Mideast) dispute, to present a case at the United Nations is clear. Any efforts to deprive Israel of this right should be strongly opposed."

The statement observed: "In the Middle East dispute all parties possess certain just claims; no single party has all of the justice claims on its side. In 1973, the U.S. Catholic Conference defined its position on the dispute in a statement which sought to acknowledge the legitimate claims of each party."

"These include the right of Israel to exist as a sovereign state within secure boundaries; and the right of the Palestinian Arabs to inclusion in any negotiations, the right to a sovereign state and to compensation for past losses. Furthermore, at that time we supported UN Resolution 242 as the basis for a negotiated settlement. We still believe this resolution supplies the basic requirements for a just and peaceful settlement of this tragic situation."

JOSEPH ROSENSAFT DEAD AT 64

LONDON, Sept. 11 (JTA)--Joseph Rosensaft, president of the World Federation of Bergen-Belsen Survivors Associations, died today while on a visit to London. He was 64. The body will be flown tomorrow to New York where a funeral ceremony will be held on Sunday. Mr. Rosensaft, a business executive, was born in Bendin, Poland and immigrated to the United States in 1952. He was a member of the board of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, and was the author of a book, "Holocaust and Rebirth," published in 1965.

DISMISSED NYC POLICEMEN OFFERED JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Sept. 11 (JTA)--Recently laid-off city policemen have been offered an opportunity to seek employment as police officers in Israel. At a meeting Tuesday jointly sponsored by the Shomrim Society, an association of Jewish police officers, and B'nai B'rith, alternative job options were outlined to out of work policemen.

Yitzhak Friedman, director of employment services of the Israel Ality Center, which is sponsored by the World Zionist Organization, informed the gathering of Jewish policemen that approximately 200 job openings exist in Israel's police departments. He also spoke about the many other career opportunities available for those officers who wish to retrain for new professions in Israel.

A representative who speaks for various law enforcement agencies in Israel is in New York to interview prospective candidates. A special program to absorb American policemen into the Israeli law enforcement field has been developed, Friedman said.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--AFL-CIO President George Meany today urged the House to support an amendment to the foreign aid appropriations bill that would eliminate U.S. funds to UNESCO and the International Labor Organization or to any UN development program activity administered by either of those groups. Both agencies have sought to oust Israel.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Israel Air Force planes attacked terrorist targets in the vicinity of Tyre in southern Lebanon late Thursday, in a mission to prevent terrorist attacks on Israel.