



# daily news bulletin

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## PREDICT LONG IMPASSE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA EVEN IF DAMASCUS AGREES TO UNDOF EXTENSION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Top level government sources predict a prolonged impasse in negotiations with Syria even if Damascus agrees at the last minute—as is expected here—to renew the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observers Force (UNDOF) which expires Nov. 30.

The sources saw little hope for the negotiation of a second interim accord with Syria since Israel could "offer only cosmetic" border changes within the context of an interim agreement and, even in the context of a final peace settlement, would never agree to a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Since Syria rejects both positions, there appears to be no practical value at this time for either interim negotiations or negotiations for an overall peace package, the sources said.

They acknowledged that the United States does not accept Israel's reading of the situation and is vigorously pressing for interim negotiations on the Golan once the UNDOF mandate is renewed. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has made the American position clear on more than one occasion and Washington has been pressing Premier Yitzhak Rabin to make an early visit to the U.S. to explore possibilities for Golan talks. Rabin has eschewed the invitation and is not expected to go to Washington before the latter half of January at the earliest.

### U.S. Committed To Israel

The government sources stressed, however, that the U.S. was committed in writing to continue its support of Israel even if no agreement can be reached on the Golan Heights. The sources said the commitment was part of the American package offered Israel in return for last September's Sinai accord with Egypt—even though it does not appear among the documents "leaked" and later officially confirmed in Washington during recent Congressional hearings on the Sinai pact.

Thus, Israeli sources believe the U.S. will not undertake another "reassessment" of its Middle East policy even if it is disappointed by a Golan failure. American commitments to Israel will remain firm at least until after the 1976 Presidential elections, which means that Israel is in effect assured of U.S. support for its present political positions for another 15 months, the sources said.

The sources did not discount the outbreak of another Mideast war in that period, a risk that obviously falls on Israel. But from the political-strategic viewpoint, Israel would find itself in a comfortable situation if war were to break out, the sources said. They maintained that this was one of the benefits of the Sinai accord with Egypt out of which Israel expects to receive substantial military and economic aid from the U.S.

Israeli optimism that Syria will agree to renew the UNDOF mandate was bolstered by reports that UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim is "hopeful" that his present mission for that purpose will succeed. Waldheim will go to Damas-

cus this week for a meeting with President Hafez Assad. He will visit other Mideast states and is expected in Israel Sunday. There were also reports today that the Soviet Union is trying to persuade Syria to renew the UNDOF mandate.

## WALDHEIM GOING TO THE MIDEAST

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who leaves Thursday for the Middle East, will visit Syria, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, it was announced here today. Waldheim will meet with the heads of state and will discuss with them the Middle East situation. He is expected to try to convince Syria and Israel to extend the mandate of the UN Observer Disengagement Force, which expires Nov. 30.

During his six-day stay in the Middle East, Waldheim will also confer with the chief coordinator and the commanders of the UN forces in the Middle East. Waldheim will be accompanied by Roberto Guyer, Under-Secretary General for Special Political Affairs, and three other assistants.

Sources here said that Waldheim will meet with PLO leader Yasir Arafat while in Damascus. But a UN spokesman said that full details of Waldheim's Mideast trip had not been completed and he could not yet say whether the Secretary General would be meeting PLO representatives. In preparation for his trip, Waldheim conferred today with the Syrian and Lebanese ambassadors to the UN and also met late this afternoon with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

According to reports, the Soviet Union prefers that Waldheim, rather than Kissinger, should undertake the effort to work out an accord between Syria and Israel. The Security Council is tentatively due to meet Nov. 28 to consider the extension of the UNDOF mandate on the Golan Heights.

## STATE DEPARTMENT AFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT OF SAUNDERS' STATEMENT ON THE PLO

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (JTA)--The State Department affirmed that it "stands on" testimony given by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders to a subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee last week which is viewed in Israeli circles as indicating a possible shift of U.S. policy toward the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Department spokesman Robert Funseth told reporters yesterday that Saunders' statement "represented only a re-statement" of U.S. policy and is not a change of position. He said he could not understand why the Israelis were disturbed by it. (See separate stories from Israel on Saunders' statement.)

The Israeli Cabinet issued a statement at its weekly session Sunday saying that a transcript of Saunders' remarks was replete with "errors and misrepresentations" and that Israel's "reservations and qualifications" would be brought "in full" to the attention of the U.S. government.

### Saunders Indicates Co-existence Possible

According to the transcript made available here, Saunders, who is Second Deputy Assistant Secretary for Middle Eastern Affairs, told the International Relations Committee's subcommittee on investigations

that "there are some indications that co-existence between separate Palestinian and Israeli states might be considered" by the PLO.

Saunders also said that "a particularly difficult aspect of the problem is the question of who negotiates for the Palestinians. It has been our belief that Jordan would be a logical negotiator for the Palestinian-related issue" but "the Rabat (Arab) Summit, however, recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization as the 'sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.'"

Israel's view is understood to be that despite the Rabat decision, the U.S. position has not veered from having Jordan negotiate for the Palestinians, but Saunders' use of the past tense—when he said "it has been our belief that Jordan would be the logical negotiator"—and his reminder to the Congressmen of the Rabat decision—apparently indicated to the Israelis that the U.S. no longer considers Jordan in that role.

Saunders concluded his prepared statement by saying that "We are prepared to consider any reasonable proposal from any quarter and we will expect other parties to the negotiations to be equally open-minded." That was viewed in some quarters here and in Israel as a public call on Jerusalem to back off from its opposition to the PLO.

Saunders' remark that "co-existence" might be considered by the PLO was also regarded as contrary to the facts. The PLO has never spoken of co-existence but has insisted on the establishment of a "secular democratic state" embracing all of Palestine, including that part which is now the State of Israel.

#### SAUNDERS' STATEMENT NOT SEEN AS DEPARTURE FROM U.S. POLICY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 18 (JTA)--High government sources conceded today that the so-called "Saunders papers" did not represent any real departure by the U.S. from its established policy toward the Palestine Liberation Organization. The sources were referring to testimony last week by Second Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs Harold Saunders.

A transcript of Saunders' testimony, discussed at Sunday's Cabinet meeting, brought an angry response from the Cabinet which issued an unusual communique charging that it contained "errors and misrepresentations." But the government sources said today that the U.S. has been saying for some time that it would favor negotiations with the PLO if the latter met the stipulated conditions, Israel, for its part, has ruled out any contacts with the PLO under any conditions.

The sources would not formulate a position based on the "hypothetical question" of whether Israel would negotiate with the PLO if it accepted Israel's sovereignty and the UN resolutions. They admitted, however, that Israel was completely isolated in its position but there was no need now for an "agonizing reappraisal" by the government.

#### Israeli Press, Public Termed 'Hysterical'

The sources described as "hysterical" the reaction of the Israeli press and public to the disclosure of Saunders' remarks. They said the wisest course would be to allow the furor to subside. They said the U.S. itself had no desire to dwell on the Palestinian issue at this time and while the timing of Saunders' testimony was un-

fortunate, it was dictated by the House subcommittee's timetable and not by any intention of the Administration to prepare American opinion for a shift in the U.S. position on the PLO, as charged by some circles in Israel.

The sources did not explain, however, why the Cabinet issued its sharp attack on the Saunders' testimony Sunday if the government's desire was to let the matter blow over. Some officials believe the answer to that question may be domestic political pressures.

#### CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT IN JUDAISM MOVES TOWARD AFFILIATION WITH WZO

KAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., Nov. 18 (JTA)--The Conservative movement in Judaism moved today toward formal affiliation with the World Zionist Organization "as a repudiation of the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism," it was disclosed here at the biennial convention of the United Synagogue of America, the congregational arm of Conservative Judaism representing more than 1.5 million Jews in 830 affiliated synagogues in the United States and Canada.

Declaring that "Zionism is Judaism and Judaism is Zionism," Arthur J. Levine, president of the United Synagogue of America, said that affiliation would be effected through the World Council of Synagogues, the international organization of Conservative congregations which has its headquarters in Jerusalem. The Council's president, Samuel Rothstein, disclosed that its board of directors has held a policy meeting here on affiliation with the WZO and will take final action in December.

#### Affiliation Move Explained

Rabbi Bernard Segal, executive vice-president of the United Synagogue of America, who disclosed the plans, explained why the Conservative movement had refrained from formal affiliation with the WZO since it was founded 60 years ago and why it was taking the step at this time.

Rabbi Segal said that since its inception in 1913, Conservative Judaism has been "unequivocally committed to Zionism and there has never been any room in its ranks for anti-Zionism. As a result," he said, "we have over the years, repeatedly declined to seek formal affiliation with the WZO as a way of demonstrating that Zionism is an integral part of Judaism and thus affiliation was not necessary." He continued, "The time has therefore arrived for the Conservative movement to identify itself formally with the WZO and thus reaffirm the indivisibility of the land of Israel and Judaism."

A committee has been formed to negotiate affiliation with WZO officials. It consists of Dr. Gershon D. Cohen, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America; Levine; Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the rabbinical branch of Conservative Judaism; and Rothstein. Others who will participate are Mrs. M. Milton Perry, president of the Womens League for Conservative Judaism and Abraham A. Silver, president of the National Federation of Jewish Mens Clubs.

#### KAHANE DENIES CHARGES THAT HE AND JDL'S PRESENCE IN BORO PARK IS HEATING UP JEWISH-HISPANIC TENSIONS

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Rabbi Meir Kahane, the founder and head of the Jewish Defense League, vigorously denied today that the presence of the JDL and himself in Borough Park has increased tensions in that Brooklyn area between the largely Orthodox

Jewish population and Hispanic residents. He said that tensions have long existed in the area and that the JDL entered Borough Park in response to pleas from Jews because of what he claimed was a high rate of crime against Jews in that area.

Kahane made his remarks at a press conference in a wake of a charge by New York City Human Rights Commissioner Eleanor Holmes Norton that by leading 300 persons in a demonstration through Borough Park's Hispanic area, Nov. 9, the JDL leader "incited inter-ethnic tensions." Following Kahane's demonstration two synagogues, the homes of two Hasidic rabbis and a Jewish school, were firebombed.

Ms. Norton made her charge in a letter to Federal Judge Jack B. Weinstein, who had sentenced Kahane to serve a year in prison at a Manhattan federal detention center. She said that Kahane abused the privileges Weinstein gave him in allowing him to leave the detention center three times a day for meals and prayers. Last week Weinstein ordered that Kahane be accompanied by deputy federal marshalls during his trips outside.

The JDL leader said today that Ms. Norton should be told that human rights includes first the right to live in peace which he said is even more important than the right to go to school.

Kahane said that criminals prey on Jewish areas because Jews have been "putuses" for 2000 years and have not fought back. He said criminals do not go into an area such as Brooklyn's Bay Ridge section because it has a heavy Italian and Slovak population and criminals know these people will protect themselves. For this reason, Kahane said, every Jew should purchase a legal rifle or shotgun. He also urged Jewish activists to join a civilian crime patrol that is being organized in Borough Park.

When it was noted that in addition to Ms. Norton, some Jewish leaders and residents of the area had accused him of inciting tensions, Kahane said he went to Borough Park after numerous requests from residents for protection. When the Jewish Telegraphic Agency asked whether in view of his "Democracy in Jewish Life" movement—electing Jewish leaders—he should have polled the Jewish residents to find out if they wanted the JDL's help, Kahane said that before the election would be held in that area "the Messiah would come."

#### STATE DEP'T, SAYS SAUDIA MAY USE U.S. ARMS IN REGIONAL MILITARY OPERATIONS WITHOUT VIOLATING ANY U.S. LAWS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (JTA)--The State Department acknowledged today that Saudi Arabia may use the vast quantities of military equipment it has purchased in the United States in regional military operations without violating the terms of the U.S. Military Sales Act.

Department spokesman Robert Funseth said, in reply to a question by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, that the military "exercises" just conducted by a Saudian brigade in Syria which employed American F-5 jets based at a Jordanian airfield, was proper under the terms of the Act and of the Saudian-American mutual defense agreement signed 24 years ago.

Funseth said that under the Military Sales Act, the recipient of American equipment can use it for internal security, "legitimate self-defense" and to "participate in regional or col-

lective arrangements or measures consistent with the United Nations Charter."

Asked whether American equipment supplied the Saudian brigade in Syria was used by the Saudis alone or by Syrian forces as well, Funseth said he understood that the maneuvers have been completed and that about 15 F-5 jets in Saudian hands were used in "the annual training cycle" of the brigade which has been stationed in Syria since the Yom Kippur War.

#### No Confirmation Of Soviet MIGs

Funseth said the aircraft were staged "through Jordan with planes landing and taking off in Jordan. He did not know what airfield in Jordan was used and said Israel was not advised of the use of U.S. planes by the Saudis in Syria.

He added, "To the best of our knowledge, the maneuver was entirely Saudi" and did "not constitute a violation of the end use of the restriction imposed by U.S. law under the Military Sales Act." Jordan and Syria have established a unified command and the use of a Jordanian base for Saudian planes maneuvering in Syria was viewed by observers here as a form of psychological warfare against Israel by the combined Saudian-Syrian-Jordanian forces.

Funseth said he had no confirmation of reports attributed to U.S. intelligence sources that the Soviet Union has sent a squadron of advanced MIG-25 jets to Syria. He said, however, that it is "well-known Syria has received sophisticated equipment" from the Soviet Union. According to the report, the MIG-25 squadron is piloted by Russians.

#### CALIFORNIAN JOB PLAN TO BE PROBED

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18 (JTA)--Rep. John Heinz III (R., Pa.) called on Attorney General Charles Levi today for an opinion on the constitutionality of a California plan that would abet Saudi Arabian discrimination against Jews and others. Heinz told Congress yesterday that California "has been put in the position of literally ignoring and possibly violating our own civil rights laws to accede to the divisivory whims of a country that only recently had clothed itself in moralistic robes and led the fight to declare Zionism racist."

The Pennsylvania legislator was referring to a project announced by the California State Department of Transportation to help unemployed members of that department get jobs building roads in Saudi Arabia. The state officials reportedly said that such jobs would not be open to Jews, Blacks or women because they are unacceptable to the Saudi government.

Gov. Edmund Brown, Jr. of California, who assailed the plan, has meanwhile ordered a halt to job negotiations with the Saudians until they promise no discrimination against Jews, Blacks or women. A spokesman for the State Transportation Department said today it was complying with the Governor's orders. He said a cable would be sent to Saudi Arabia demanding "affirmative assurance" that there will be no discrimination in hiring highway engineers and technicians. The California state agency is faced with the prospect of laying off 2800 employes by next July because of a cutback in highway construction.

Heinz said that if the Justice Department does not see the California plan as violating any Civil Rights Act provisions, he would offer legislation that would make such actions illegal. "We must not allow the hypocrisy of other nations to soil our own hard-won civil rights gains," Heinz told Congress.

