



RABIN: IMMEDIATE TARGET FOR 1976 IS TO THWART SYRIAN-SOVIET MOVES IN THE UN AND PRESS FOR GENEVA TALKS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Rabin declared last night that Israel's immediate target for 1976 must be to thwart the Syrian-Soviet diplomatic offensive at the United Nations and press toward a reconvened Geneva conference in the hope of reaching a general peace settlement with all of Israel's Arab neighbors. But the Premier stressed that as of this moment, no Arab state is ready to negotiate with Israel, least of all Syria and to pretend that there might be a change of heart could only undermine Israel's position.

Rabin addressed a Labor Party forum at Beth Berl near Kfar Saba which filled the main hall of the party's ideological center while hundreds watched the proceedings on closed circuit television in the anterooms. Speakers included some of Labor's leading personalities inside and out of the government, among them former Foreign Minister Abba Eban who chaired the forum, and former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan.

The Premier's remarks were obviously attuned to his forthcoming trip to Washington Jan. 7 and 8 where he will hold meetings with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and possibly with President Ford. Rabin's visit to the U.S. is expected to be crucial to the next round of Middle East peace negotiations and especially the Jan. 12 Security Council debate on the Middle East which Israel announced it would boycott because the PLO has been invited.

Denies Absence of Peace Plan

Rabin vigorously denied charges that his government had no overall peace plan and proceeded to outline what Israel would accept as defensible borders. A true peace must be on the ground, not on paper, he said. He declared that Israel will not relinquish the Golan Heights, but that this did not necessarily mean that the present lines would remain. He said his government was prepared to offer Egypt far-reaching territorial concessions in Sinai but would retain Sharm el-Sheikh at the southern tip of the peninsula.

Rabin said Israel was also prepared for territorial concessions in negotiations with Jordan but that there was no point in drawing maps at this stage because any Israeli pull-backs from the Judea and Samaria regions would have to be approved by a national plebiscite which the government has promised before signing any agreement with Jordan.

The Premier reiterated that Israel would never accept a third state between itself and Jordan. He said that if PLO chief Yassir Arafat ruled such a state, it would bring another intransigent foe close to Israel's vital centers and reduce the prospects of an overall settlement with Israel's other neighbors.

He also repeated Israel's determination not to negotiate with the PLO and insisted that the only real solution of the Palestinian problem would be contained in a settlement with Jordan.

Rabin said Israel recognized the existence of a Palestinian problem and that without its solution the Arab-Israeli conflict could not be resolved. But he did not believe the Palestinian issue was the crux of the Middle East problem of the key to peace.

Neither 'War Nor Peace in 1976

Eban and Dayan, though ideologically far apart, supported the government's position against a third state between Israel and Jordan and against negotiations with the PLO. Dayan said he did not believe 1976 would bring either war or peace to the Middle East because Egypt, Syria, the Soviet Union and, according to the former Defense Minister, the U.S., were seeking the political route of Israel and would not resort to the war option.

But Dayan saw a chance of gaining a renunciation of belligerency from Egypt if the U.S. cooperated in view of its rapprochement with Cairo and Egypt's need for massive economic aid. He called for Jewish settlement on the West Bank in accordance with defense needs and warned that an Israeli withdrawal from the Judea and Samaria regions would be an historic error. Eban proposed an interim settlement approach to the West Bank.

Eban called for a new definition of Israel's position on the Palestinian issue, and while he agreed with the government's decision to boycott the Jan. 12 Security Council debate, warned that Israel's absence from UN peace forums should not become a permanent phenomenon.

EFFORTS MOUNTED TO DEVELOP A NATIONALLY COHESIVE POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM

By Gil Sedan and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Israeli leaders in and out of the government are trying to develop a cohesive national policy with regard to the Palestinian problem, now looming as the major issue in Middle East peace negotiations, and how to deal with the increasingly politicized Arab minority inside Israel.

The Cabinet's formula of June, 1974 stating that the Palestinian question can be dealt with only within the framework of peace negotiations with Jordan is generally accepted and there seems to be a growing consensus that Israel must recognize some form of national identity for the Palestinians.

But the framework of Palestinian national expression and how far Israel can safely go in accepting it remains a matter of serious debate. Foreign Minister Yigal Allon stated Israel's dilemma concisely, at a Labor Party meeting at Beit Berl today, when he said "If we return all territories we'll be left without defensible borders; if we keep them all, the result will be a bi-national state."

Allon, however, ruled out a Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan, which, he said, could turn out to be a PLO state. He reiterated that the Palestinian problem must be solved in the Jordanian context and said Israel would never sign a peace agreement with Jordan unless it contained a solution of the Palestinian question.

Steps For Solution Outlined

Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, who addressed the American Professors for Peace in the Middle East in Tel Aviv Thursday night, agreed that a Palestinian solution should be sought in negotiations with either Jordan or Lebanon or both. But he advocated Israel's withdrawal from most of the Arab territories it occupied in the Six-Day War with only slight changes in the pre-June, 1967 map which would take into account human and population considerations rather than stretches of land.

Eban said that in exchange for a genuine peace pact, Israel should be ready to give up most of the Golan Heights, part of the West Bank, excluding East Jerusalem, part of the Jordan Valley and most of Sinai up to the Rafah salient. According to Eban, the "one-sided" approach of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has "run out of gas." He said the time has come for a mutual Israeli-American position opposed to the Syrian-Soviet attitude.

Eban warned that Israel must embark on a diplomatic offensive aimed at the Geneva conference where an overall settlement with the Arabs would have to be worked out. The present piecemeal approach of Kissinger only weakens Israel, he said.

ILP's Views Stated

The Independent Liberal Party, a partner in Premier Yitzhak Rabin's coalition government, approved a resolution at a party executive meeting in Tel Aviv calling on the government to recognize the rights of Palestinians on the West Bank to national self-determination. ILP leader Moshe Kol, the Minister of Tourism, in Rabin's Cabinet, proposed round-table talks between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians of the West Bank.

The resolution made it clear that the objective of such talks should be a resolution involving territory on both banks of the Jordan and that the negotiating partners, in addition to Jordan, should be any recognized Palestinian leadership that accepts the existence of Israel. Another section of the resolution urged some type of confederation between Israel and Jordan.

Rules Out Talks With PLO

Defense Minister Shimon Peres has also been speaking of late of offering extensive autonomy to West Bank Arabs. But in an interview published yesterday in the mass circulation Paris newspaper France Soir, Peres ruled out Israeli negotiations with the PLO under any circumstances.

He maintained that even if PLO chief Yasser Arafat recognized Israel and agreed to negotiate with it directly, Arafat was in no position to speak in the name of the PLO, which, according to Peres, embraced extremist terrorist groups headed by George Habisah, Natf Hawatme and Ahmed Jibril who demand nothing less than the dismemberment of Israel. "We cannot enter into relations with an organization whose aim is still the liquidation of the Jewish State," Peres said.

Peres reiterated in France Soir his earlier proposals to place local government administration on the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the hands of local Arab leaders elected by the population of those areas. He even envisaged a "European formula" embracing a "common market" and open frontiers between Israel and

a semi-autonomous West Bank and Gaza Strip. But he adamantly ruled out a Palestinian national state between Israel and Jordan which, he claimed, would be open to Soviet influence close to the vital centers of Israel.

To Review Israeli Arabs' Situation

Meanwhile, Labor Party Secretary General Meir Zarmi announced that he would shortly convene a meeting of the Labor Party bureau for an in-depth review of policy toward Israel's Arab population. Zarmi took a very serious view of the Dec. 9 municipal elections in Nazareth, the largest Arab city in Israel, where a Communist-backed slate headed by Tewfik Zaid won a landslide victory over the Labor Party candidate.

Labor Party experts on Arab affairs view the Nazareth results as having serious national implications. The Communist slate clearly benefitted from burgeoning nationalist sentiments among the Israeli Arab population which had been docile and more or less apolitical until the Yom Kippur War.

Labor's main concern is the effect the Nazareth elections will have on Israel's national elections in 1977. Israeli Arabs comprise nine percent of the electorate and if they vote en bloc, could elect 11 MKs out of 120 making them a potential power greater than that of the National Religious Party in the Knesset.

Unlikely That Attitudes Will Change

Samuel Toledano, Premier Rabin's advisor on Arab affairs, did not think it likely that Israeli would change their attitude toward the Arab minority under the present political circumstances. He said the attitude of the Jewish population was beyond the government's control and was affected by Palestinian nationalism across the borders which Israel sees as the greatest threat confronting the State.

The newly elected Nazareth City Council held its first meeting Friday under the chairmanship of Mayor Zaid. He reportedly invited the six minority Labor and NRP council members to join him in an all-faction coalition but local observers doubted that his invitation would be accepted.

POLICE CHIEF CONCEDES COPS ARE UNABLE TO CURB PROTECTION RACKET

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Police Minister Shlomo Hillel has admitted that the police were powerless to curb the protection racket that is flourishing in the major cities and "increasing along with other forms of crime." He said the reason was that extortion victims were afraid to testify against the extortionists. He also cited reductions or pending reductions in the police budget. He said Arab terrorism and armed robbery topped the police priority list.

Hillel spoke several days ago in the Knesset in reply to two agenda motions on the rising incidence of crime in Israel. He said it was virtually impossible to obtain convictions in extortion cases because under the present judicial requirements the complainant must appear in court to testify against the suspect. Many dare not expose themselves for fear of retribution, he said.

Hillel was sharply criticized in Israel's two mass circulation dailies. Yediot Achronot attributed the rise in crime to "the absence of government in this country" a condition "that

additional funds will not help," Maariv said in an editorial that "The bitter reality is that the police is not very efficient... It is the police's failure that the underworld is so strong, that a person prefers to pay (extortion) rather than complain to the police."

POLLACK URGES ZIONIST MOVEMENT TO BECOME MORE DEMOCRATIC AND TRULY RESPONSIVE TO ITS CONSTITUENCY

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- A member of the World Zionist Organization Executive urged the Zionist movement "to mobilize the American Jewish community to fight to make it more democratic and truly responsive to its constituency." Dr. Allen Pollack, who is also a member of the Labor Zionist Alliance executive committee, spoke of that "great challenge" to the Zionist movement in the course of an ideological symposium at the LZA's 23rd national convention here this weekend.

"Only such a truly representative American Jewish community can meet the great offensive which the Arab world and its Soviet and Third World allies have launched upon the Jewish people," Pollack said. He warned that Israel and Jewry are facing "the greatest challenge since the time of the holocaust."

Jacob Katzman, executive vice-president of the LZA, asserted that "ideology is not dead. Young people are seeking ideological paths to shape their lives" he said, and "one of the primary functions of Labor Zionism is to refine the ideology that combines the interests of the individual Jew as a Jew and a human being -- the national and the universal in a comprehensive program." Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, LZA president, said that "in a world which has changed radically, American Jews must build an unknown future most likely to ensure Jewish continuity and survival."

Dr. Ben Halpern, a professor of Jewish history at Brandeis University, told the symposium that "There is no proof that the Arabs want peace with Israel." He charged that the Arabs "have destroyed the Geneva conference and the step-by-step approach. The proof that they want peace with Israel would be if they sit down and talk with Israel," Halpern said. But, he said, the United Nations anti-Zionist resolutions "tore away the veil" of Arab intentions and revealed that "They really want to destroy Israel."

The LZA convention called for a strong, democratic American Jewish community, intensive Jewish education, closer ties with Israel and active support for the Jewish state; Shapiro was reelected president, Katzman, after 43 years of service to the Labor Zionist movement, retired as executive vice-president and was elected honorary president.

FRENCH POLICE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT MAN WHO LED ATTACK ON OPEC HQ IS WANTED INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- French police confirmed last Friday that they were in possession of a letter which could prove that the man who led last Sunday's attack against the headquarters of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna, was in fact the international terrorist known as Carlos here and in London.

The leader of the Vienna group, who bragged he was the same man who shot down two French counter-espionage agents and a Lebanese informer, Michel Moukharbil, here last summer, handed a letter to one of the hostages, Venezuelan Mining Minister Valentin Hernandez Acosta. A copy of this letter, which was addressed to Carlos' mother, is now in the hands of French police following a stopover here by the Venezuelan Minister.

A comparison between the handwriting of the letter and that found on documents seized by French and British police after Carlos killed the security agents in cold blood will serve to confirm whether the man who staged the OPEC operation was in fact the Venezuelan-born terrorist, French police said.

Carlos, whose real name is Ilitch Sanchez Ramirez, is believed to have been involved in several terror attacks in Western Europe. Carlos has sought asylum in Algeria and it is doubtful that Algerian authorities will answer positively to demands for his extradition from France and Austria.

Meanwhile, the French state security court yesterday released on provisional liberty a young Colombian woman who was jailed last July in connection with Carlos' activities. Ms. Amparo Silva Masmela, 28, faces charges of possession of arms and explosives as well as complicity with agents of a foreign power.

Ms. Masmela, who worked as a secretary in a British bank here, was arrested together with a British woman, Angela Armstrong, shortly after Carlos shot the French agents last June. The Colombian woman said during questioning that she helped Carlos because she loved him.

SNAG DEVELOPS IN IMPLEMENTING INTERIM ACCORD TERMS IN SINAI

TEL AVIV, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- The first snag has developed in implementing the terms of the second Israeli-Egyptian agreement in Sinai. A dispute over the location of the Egyptian advance warning surveillance station in the Gidi Pass region prevented the scheduled arrival there today of 200 Egyptian technicians and workers who will build the electronic listening post.

Israeli and Egyptian officers will meet later this week in the United Nations buffer zone to try to settle the dispute over the location of the Egyptian station. Attempts by UN officials to do so failed and the arrival of the 17-truck convoy of Egyptian personnel was postponed until agreement is reached. The dispute arose from discrepancies in the maps of the area.

The Israeli and Egyptian maps each show a different site for the location of the surveillance station on a ridge south of the Gidi Pass road. The American map shows still another site. Israeli circles are also upset by Egypt's insistence that it needs an area of six square kilometers for its radar post. The Israelis say there is no reason for so large a stretch of land unless the Egyptian intention is to establish an enclave that could be used for military purposes against Israel should hostilities break out. It was learned, meanwhile, that Israeli forces will withdraw within the next two weeks from some 60 square kilometers south-west of the Mitla Pass, adjacent to the UN buffer zone.

SOME 8,000 SOVIET JEWS WILL HAVE IMMIGRATED TO ISRAEL BY YEAR-END By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel via Vienna is expected to total slightly more than 8,000 this year according to statistics from American sources made available to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The figure does not include Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union whose destinations are countries other than Israel, notably Western Europe and North America.

According to the figures received by the JTA, Jewish emigrants from the USSR via Vienna who are going to Israel totalled 7,460 in the first 11 months of 1975. Based on the monthly average of 678 persons, the overall total for the year should be about 8,138. The relatively small number of Soviet Jews who pass through Rome en route to Israel were not included in the statistics.

No figures have been made available on the number of Jews leaving the USSR for countries other than Israel. This number has been growing steadily since the 1973 Yom Kippur War and is estimated to amount to about 40 percent of all Jews leaving the USSR via Vienna, according to American sources. At that rate, the total number of Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union this year would be in the neighborhood of 11,300.

Emigration statistics for 1975 showed that the greatest numbers of Jews leave the USSR in the cold weather months. Last January and February, the exit totals were 870 and 809, respectively. In November, 1975, the last month for which figures are available, the total was 870. The lowest monthly departure figures were last May and July when emigrants numbered 470 and 490, respectively. But last June the departures totalled 710.

Jewish immigration to Israel via Vienna was 14,000 in 1971 and 31,500 in 1972. In the latter year, only 500 Soviet Jews went to countries other than Israel. Emigration from the USSR reached a peak in 1973 when 33,500 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel and about 2,700 went elsewhere. In 1974, 24,360 Soviet Jews passed through Vienna, of whom about 17,000 went to Israel.

HEAD OF UJA'S IEF DONATES IL 5 M FOR COMMUNITY CENTER IN MAALOT

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- An IL 5 million community center, donated by Alexander Grass of Harrisburg, Pa., was dedicated last week at Maalot, the northern border township. Grass, who was on hand for the ceremony, is chairman of the United Jewish Appeal's "Israel Education Fund" which raises large gifts for schools and kindergartens, mainly in border areas.

Visibly moved, Maalot's mayor, Eli Ben Yacov told Grass how the township had dreamed of and planned a community center to give local people the opportunity to develop latent talents and abilities that previously have had no means of outlet or expression. Maalot was the scene last year of a terrorist massacre of high school children. The country, and Jews abroad, were jolted into the realization that border towns such as Maalot were neglected and that their mainly Oriental residents were disadvantaged.

Prior to the dedication ceremony, a wreath was laid at monument commemorating the vic-

times of the Maalot massacre. Afterwards, Jewish Agency representative, Dr. Chaim Teichman, told the Grass family, "Next to the monument for the dead, you have helped build a monument for the living." In response, Grass said: "This building is a beautiful building. But more important than that, it has been built for a beautiful people -- the people of Maalot."

RABBI IN STABLE CONDITION IN HOSPITAL FOLLOWING SHOOTING

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- Rabbi Meyer Friedman of Brooklyn, 66, who was shot three times by two assailants early Friday morning near his home in the Williamsburg section, was reported by Beth Israel hospital today to be in stable condition. Police said the assailants fired at the rabbi while seated in their car and then fled. An intensive hunt for them was underway today, police said.

The Orthodox rabbi was struck in the head and stomach in what police said may have been a robbery attempt in which the assailants were frightened off. Rabbi Friedman had left his home to go to Congregation Kehilath Yacov two blocks away. There have been sporadic clashes in recent years between Hasidic Jews and other ethnic groups in the section but no recent difficulties, police said.

OIL FROM ALGAE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28 (JTA) -- A team of Hebrew University scientists believes that Israel may be able to synthesize a high grade of oil from a certain type of algae that thrives in sunlight and meet its oil requirements through this process by 1980 if the project is undertaken immediately. An announcement by the University said the team, headed by Prof. Ben Zlon Glinzburg, proposed the mass construction of "solar ponds" covering 1,000 kilometers of unarable desert areas that enjoy virtually year-round sunshine.

According to the announcement, Glinzburg and his associates have already produced a high grade of oil from the algae that grows abundantly in salt water under strong sunlight. The oil is of such quality that it requires little further processing, the announcement said.

The Hebrew University scientists based their experiments on a 40 year-old discovery that the hyper-saline waters of the Dead Sea contained "salt-hungry" microorganisms, both bacteria and algae. The latter can yield oil in commercial quantities. The experiments were partially funded by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Glinzburg said that while the construction of the "solar ponds" was expensive in the initial stages, the investment was cheap compared to the cost of drilling for oil that may or may not exist. Furthermore, the ponds would exploit desert areas unfit for food production and would be non-pollutant. He said that if the system was developed successfully vast stretches of the world's desert areas could be made to yield oil from solar energy.

NEW YORK, (JTA) -- The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry confirmed Sunday that Jewish activists throughout the USSR staged a hunger strike last week to mark the fifth anniversary of the first Leningrad Trial of 1970.