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TWO-STAGE SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON SUGGESTED BY VANCE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Israel has indicated its agreement with a proposal advanced by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance that the Syrian troops in the South Lebanese town of Nabatiyeh withdraw in stages, according to reports here today. The idea of a gradual withdrawal was reportedly presented by Vance when he met with Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz two days ago.

According to this approach, the first stage of Syrian withdrawal will take place before Vance leaves for the Middle East Feb. 15 and the second stage will probably take place during his visit to the area. This arrangement is not expected to be formally announced. Even if the withdrawals do not coincide with the general timetable indicated, at least the principle has been formulated and this is a step in the right direction, observers noted. In addition, the Carter Administration has begun to act as mediator in the Mideast situation.

JEWISH BUSINESS LEADERS IN BRITAIN RAPPED FOR NOT BEING AGGRESSIVE ENOUGH IN RESPONSE TO ARAB BOYCOTT By Maurice Samuelson

HEATHROW, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Jewish business leaders were this week accused of not being aggressive enough in reply to the Arab boycott in Britain. The charge was made during a discussion of the activities of the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce at a national "Solidarity with Israel" conference here.

Monty Sumray, a prominent fund-raiser for Israel, said that the Jewish community should boycott companies which succumbed to the Arab boycott of Israel and "shout about it from the roof tops on every possible occasion." The past policy of dealing with it discreetly was not successful, he said.

Lewis Goodman, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, denied that the Chamber's anti-boycott committee was being passive, but said the Jewish community "should not stoop to a counter-boycott."

A spokesman for the anti-boycott committee said that he hoped that the British government would take a stronger line against the boycott under the umbrella of the European Economic Community (EEC) than it had done so far on its own. Jewish business leaders had had talks on the subject with Roy Jenkins, before he took up his post as chairman of the Common Market commissioners and a further approach to the EEC would be made in Brussels in March.

It was also hoped that American businesses would add to the pressure for anti-boycott legislation in Europe, if only to prevent European companies from gaining business switched from the U.S. because of U.S. legislation.

In the past year alone, British companies lost between 40 million Sterling and 50 million Sterling of trade--about one-fifth of British exports to Israel--by subscribing to the Arab boycott. The middle range companies were more affected than giant corporations like Xerox, Trans-World Airways and Hilton Hotels, who ignored the

Arab boycott.

SOME 100 ISRAELI NOTABLES NOMINATE KLARSFELD FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA)--More than 100 ministers, former Cabinet ministers, Knesset members and members of the faculties of four Israeli universities have nominated German-born anti-Nazi activist Beate Klarsfeld for the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize. The nomination, with the appended signatures, was sent to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee in Norway before Feb. 1 as required by the rules.

The nomination cited Mrs. Klarsfeld for her activities over the past 10 years in fighting anti-Semitism and tracking down wanted Nazi war criminals all over the world, often at the risk of her life and liberty. It also cited her actions for Arab-Israeli peace.

The academicians who joined in the nomination include professors of law, philosophy, history and political science on the faculties of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, Bar Ilan University and Haifa University. Among the 56 members of the Knesset were Tourism Minister Moshe Kol, Transport Minister Gad Yacobi, Abba Eban, Menachem Begin, Yosef Burg, Elimelech Rimalt, Zevulun Hammer, Shulamit Aloni, Hillel Seidel, Arye Eliav, Yitzhak Navon and Yitzhak Ben Aharon.

Mrs. Klarsfeld, who is not Jewish, told a press conference yesterday: "As a German, I feel greatly honored by the action of the Israeli parliamentarians and professors....I shall continue in my struggle against neo-Nazism and for Israel-Arab peace." She also said that Israel should be more active in protesting the growing activities of neo-Nazism in Germany.

REPORT BY SOLONS WHO TOURED MIDEAST STRESSES THAT ALL PARTIES EXPECT U.S. TO TAKE LEAD IN PEACEMAKING By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (JTA)--A 12-member Senate group that toured the Middle East in November released a report here yesterday stating that "all parties expect the U.S. to take the lead in the Middle East" and that "not to put forward a plan (for peace) early in 1977 would be to ignore a chance for peace."

The group, headed by Sens. Abraham Ribicoff (D.Conn.) and Howard H. Baker (R.Tenn.), now Republican Minority Leader in the Senate, said it found a readiness on the part of Egypt and Jordan to recognize Israel's right to exist but not to establish formal diplomatic ties or open borders with the Jewish State. It found Israeli leaders unconvinced of Arab readiness to accept Israel but nevertheless hopeful that once negotiations started, progress would be made.

The 12 Senators visited Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Iran. They met with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy, King Hussein of Jordan and Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin and other leaders. They stressed in their report that "the prospects for worsening economic situations in Egypt and Israel argue both for serious concessions in moving toward a peace settlement and for a strong American effort to take the lead."

The report was released less than a week before Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance leaves for a one-week tour of the Middle East that will take him to Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Israel. The Senators, in their Mid-east tour, did not go to Lebanon, Syria or Saudi Arabia and had no meeting with President Assad of Syria, one of the key confrontation countries. They did not meet any representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Israel's Policy Outlined

The report said "The predominant apprehension in Israel is a sense of insecurity and fear of continued hostility and attack from terrorists or from Israel's neighbors. In the context of the World War II Holocaust and Israel's involvement in four wars since then, insecurity is a fact of life," the report said.

It stated that "Israeli officials repeat in different ways that Arab nations are not prepared to recognize Israel's right to exist as a nation. Terrorist attacks and statements that Israel should be destroyed contribute to an outlook skeptical of compromise and lowering of the guard."

The Senators reported that Rabin told them that Israel's policy was first to move toward peace through negotiations, and secondly, to strive for intermediate steps if a real peace cannot be achieved. According to the report, Rabin said "An impediment to beneficial negotiations is that no Arab country will deal directly with Israel."

He said, with respect to the Palestinian issue, that reconciliation was necessary for peace, but that no third country could be established between Israel and Jordan, that not all occupied territories would be returned and "Jerusalem will never revert to Arab control." Rabin defended Israeli settlements in occupied territory as "indispensable" to "Israel's strategic system." He said the settlements were confined to deserts and strategic belts.

Rabin noted that the Arab concept was total withdrawal from the territories without a prior settlement, agreement or reconciliation, the Senators reported. The Premier also held that the "key to the practical implications" of a peace settlement was open boundaries allowing free movement of people and goods between Israel and its neighbors.

Arab Views Presented

In contrast, the Senators reported, Sadat saw open borders as "not practical and not essential" to a settlement. However, they emphasized that "perhaps the most important factor" in discussion with the Egyptian leadership "is that for the first time Arab leaders are willing to recognize the right of Israel to exist as an independent and secure Jewish State." But Sadat, they added, insisted that "normal diplomatic relations or joint ventures with Israel would require more time and could be done in future years."

The Senators said they were told by Hussein that "Jordan is eager to reclaim the territory it lost in 1967" and "if peace is approached in terms of the return of territory along the lines of (UN) Resolutions 242 and 338 with the political recognition of Israel, there would be no limit to what could be agreed." According to the report, Hussein said that if Jordan recovered the West Bank it would place the area under international auspices and hold a referendum. "He saw the

future leadership of the PLO as an open question," the report said.

The report took into account Israel's worsening economic situation and the food riots in Egypt subsequent to the group's visit. It noted that as a result, Sadat's "room to maneuver has been restricted." The report warned that "The continuation of a no-war-no-peace situation prevents Israel, Egypt and other countries from concentrating attention and resources on their economies."

\$7000 GRANT TO AID RUSSIAN IMMIGRANTS, ELDERLY IN BROOKLYN

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (JTA)--A grant of \$7000 to Project ARI (Action for Russian Immigrants) to provide a cultural program at a Brighton Beach public school for Soviet immigrants and senior citizens in the area was announced today by New York State Parks and Recreation Commissioner Orin Lehman.

Mrs. Pauline Bilus, director of Project ARI, a subsidiary of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, said the state grant will allow Project ARI to use the facilities of PS 225 in Brighton Beach in the evening for a cultural program for some 3000 Soviet Jewish immigrants in the Brighton Beach area as well as the many senior citizens who live in that section of Brooklyn. Project ARI presently rents facilities at the school during the day for social services to the Soviet immigrants.

Mrs. Bilus said that many of the Soviet immigrants have talents in music, art and cinematography which they would like to display. She said one of the major projects planned is a Russian orchestra. Mrs. Bilus also noted that the program will help bring the Russian immigrants together with the largely-elderly population of the Brighton Beach area. In addition, she said there will be programs for young people since the Soviet immigrants include about 500-700 young people.

The Project ARI grant, one of two announced by Lehman, aims to encourage the use of public schools at night in areas of New York City where they are either shut down or underutilized. He noted that once Project ARI's program gets underway other groups in the community may be encouraged to join them in using school facilities and thus sharing the expenses. Lehman also announced two other city-wide programs aimed at recreational improvements in the city.

JNF GROVE FOR ARGENTINE HEROINE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund recently dedicated a grove named in honor of the Argentine heroine, Mariquita Sanchez de Thompson. It is in the International Women's Forest in Galilee. De Thompson ran a literary and political salon at her home at the beginning of the 19th Century, and it was there that preparations were made to help aid the independence revolution of Argentina. The grove was planted at the request of the Women's Zionist Organization in Argentina.

The ceremony was attended by Argentina's Ambassador to Israel Enrique Jorge Ros; the director general of the JNF, Shimon Ben Shemesh; a delegation of the Women's Zionist Organization of Argentina, headed by Mrs. Catalina Epstein; and a group of olim from Argentina.

CARTER ENDORSES FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO COMBAT ARAB BOYCOTT METHODS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (JTA)--President Carter has strongly endorsed federal legislation to combat Arab boycott methods that discriminate against American companies doing business with Israel or those owned by Jews or which have Jews in management positions. Carter, who had stated in his election campaign that he opposed boycotts directed against American citizens, elaborated on his views yesterday during a tour of the Department of Commerce.

The President stressed the need for federal legislation in the interests of uniformity. He pointed out that while New York has a "strong" anti-boycott law, New Jersey has "a weak one" so "when the Arab countries want to come and trade, they just bypass New York, come into New Jersey and can discriminate against Jewish citizens accordingly."

Carter made clear the distinction between a primary boycott and secondary and tertiary boycotts. According to the official White House transcript of his remarks, he said that "primary boycott is perfectly acceptable in international affairs."

He noted that the U.S. has a primary boycott against Cuba and "it is perfectly alright for the Arab countries to say we are not going to trade with Israel. But it does create a problem that I hope to eliminate (which) is for the Arab countries to say to us 'you cannot trade with Israel' and also trade with us' or 'you cannot trade with us, the Arab countries, if you have Jews on your board of directors,'" Carter said.

Praises Anti-Boycott Efforts

He declared that "This, in my opinion, violates the Constitutional rights of Jewish citizens. It also is completely obnoxious to me in a society like our own" built on principles of non-discrimination in race, religion or sex.

The President noted that "We now have several bills that have been introduced in the House and Senate" and "we have a cohesive group of businessmen and labor leaders, many of whom happen to be Jewish, who are working on the principles that ought to be included in an anti-boycott law."

He was apparently referring to The Business Roundtable, an organization composed of chief executives of 170 major American corporations headed by Irving S. Shapiro who is chairman of the board of the DuPont Co. The organization met recently with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith for the purpose of exchanging views on efforts to reach a mutual accommodation with respect to Arab boycott issues.

The President said "I will support those (groups). I think it is time for us to root out the concept of the secondary and tertiary boycott, never permit a foreign nation to discriminate against any of our citizens who happen to be Jewish with legal permission from our own government. And we also need to have, as a last thing, uniformity among the different states of the nation in dealing with the anti-boycott legislation."

WALDHEIM RECEIVED COOLY IN ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA)--United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim arrived here today to a courteous but cool reception. Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, who greeted him at Atarot

Airport, said only a few days ago that Israel rejected a UN mediating role in the Middle East conflict. The Secretary General's two-day visit to Israel, part of a tour of Middle East countries, is considered to be of little importance here and is overshadowed by the approaching visit of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance.

Israelis feel that Waldheim has already displayed insensitivity by beginning his Mideast tour with a meeting with PLO chief Yasser Arafat in Damascus and with another PLO representative, Farouk Kaddumi this week. The fact that he chose to land at Atarot Airport, in what was formerly Jordanian territory, rather than at Ben Gurion Airport, has also offended some sensibilities.

Waldheim insisted, however, that his choice of a landing field had no political significance and was merely a matter of convenience. In addition to Allon he was greeted at the airport by Gen. Ensis Silasvuo, commander of UN peace-keeping forces in the Mideast. Later in the day Waldheim met with Premier Yitzhak Rabin.

Waldheim said on his arrival that he did not come here as a mediator but rather as the UN Secretary General. He said it was important to talk to all parties in the region in an attempt to effect a renewal of negotiations for a peace settlement. Israel, however, has ruled out a UN role in this process and has said that the U.S. is the only country that can serve as a mediator.

DOBELLE NAMED PROTOCOL CHIEF

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Evan S. Dobelle, whose grandparents on both sides were Jewish emigrants from Lithuania, is the new Chief of Protocol at the State Department with responsibilities which include being host to all foreign dignitaries to the White House. Dobelle, 31, has served twice as the Mayor of Pittsfield, Mass., and has taught government at Harvard, the University of Massachusetts and California State University at Los Angeles.

Although a Republican who was serving as Commissioner of Environmental Management in Boston, President Carter tapped Dobelle for the protocol post vacated by Ambassador Shirley Temple Black. Dobelle and his wife became close friends of President and Mrs. Carter during the election campaign.

Dobelle told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he had his Bar Mitzvah in 1958 at Temple Israel in West Palm Beach, Fla., and was president from 1974-76 of the Adullam Lodge of B'nai B'rith in Pittsfield. His first major assignment will be to welcome Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo, when he comes to Washington next week to visit Carter.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--The government is expected to agree to a Histadrut-initiated economic emergency plan that would freeze wages, prices and taxes for a three-month period in an effort to avert a wave of crippling strikes by public employees. The plan was presented during a protracted meeting Thursday between Premier Yitzhak Rabin and his advisors and top Histadrut officials headed by secretary general Yeruham Meshel. But the freeze has run into opposition from the Manufacturers Association. Strong opposition can also be expected in the Knesset where the government no longer has a majority.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA THE ISRAEL CONNECTION

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (JTA)--"By emphasizing Israel's needs and Israel's well-being, as we have ever since the State was born, and almost totally ignoring what an extended Israel experience or even aliya can do to meet the needs of American Jews, we have done ourselves a grave disservice," according to Mordechai Bar-On, head of the World Zionist Organization's youth and Reichalutz department.

Meeting with WZO department heads in New York as a first step in his nine-month mission to the United States, Bar-On explained that the abandonment of the classical rationale for an Israel experience has led to a "pragmatic approach, which weighs economic and physical aspects of these programs against what is perceived as Israel's need but leaves out of the equation the spiritual gains accruing to the participant."

According to Bar-On, Israeli emissaries have an important role to play on the American scene, but they cannot stimulate aliya from the United States. His own mission is to double the number of American Jews--4000 last year--who go on half-year (or longer) programs to Israel: "Twenty percent of these visitors become olim," he said, "and those who return to the States return feeling more Jewish."

The Israeli "who comes and sets up an aliya office in an American city is viewed as a stranger by the Jewish community," says Bar-On. Therefore, the local and national organizations themselves must initiate Israel-experience and aliya information programs. Eight major national organizations, including all of the synagogue groups and the Jewish Welfare Board, which runs all Jewish community centers in the country, are becoming involved in the promotion of these personal-contact programs.

Bar-On, a former chief education officer of the Israel Army, says he doesn't hope to change the mood of American Jewry in just nine months. "But I'll try to help those organizations that are willing to make the effort."

Advocates Community Shlichah

In addition to the six localities he visited on a previous trip, Bar-On intends to travel to 30 centers during his new assignment, visiting one Jewish organization and facility after another. Support of the Jewish federations which collect funds and run various Jewish services, is essential to the success of his mission, he feels. "I will need their support, their cooperation and their blessing," says Bar-On, adding: "We must transform their previous passivity--their benign neglect--into at least benign support."

Bar-On sees Israeli emissaries as important resources for education, information and inspiration, and advocates sending a "community shlichah" to every Jewish community of reasonable size. "There must be an Israeli presence among Jews, emissaries who are respected and who are properly utilized--which will be possible only if the American Jewish community itself undertakes the promotion of personal contact programs." Ideally, they should be chosen by tender and remain for two or three years, their salaries paid partly by the community.

Bar-On is meeting with Zionist and major communal organization leaders for full discussion of his mission.

SENATE HEARINGS DUE ON BOYCOTT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Senate hearings on legislation to combat the Arab boycott of American companies doing business with Israel have been re-scheduled to follow Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance's one-week trip to the Middle East beginning Feb. 15. The hearings on measures proposed by Sens. Adlai Stevenson (D.Ill.) and William Proxmire (D.Wis.) had been tentatively scheduled for early this month.

Vance suggested to the Senators that they postpone them until he returns from his trip and they are now scheduled for Feb. 21-22 and Feb. 28. A report yesterday by columnists Evans and Novak said that President Carter's policy on anti-boycott legislation is to "delay Congress as long as possible in hope that real progress toward a Mideast settlement will be made." They said the requested delay indicated "a surprising hint of flexibility on U.S. moves against the Arab boycott of Israel."

This was characterized as "nonsense" by reliable Capitol Hill sources. They pointed out that the two-week postponement of the hearings neither weakens the substance of the proposed legislation or support for it. During the election campaign, Carter described the Arab boycott as "not a matter of diplomacy or trade" but "a matter of morality."

Nature Of The Two Bills

Two bills will be aired at the Senate's hearings to be conducted by the Senate Banking Committee chaired by Proxmire and its Subcommittee on International Finance led by Stevenson. One measure, by Stevenson, is identical to the compromise bill that was agreed upon in informal Senate-House conference when Congress adjourned Oct. 2.

This measure, originally written by Stevenson and J. Harrison Williams (D.NJ) and Reps. Jonathan Bingham and Benjamin Rosenthal, both New York Democrats, would prevent U.S. firms from refusing to do business with any firm blacklisted by the Arab governments or agreeing to refuse to do business with Israel.

The second measure, by Proxmire, agrees with the Stevenson bill except that it prohibits the issuance of a negative certificate of origin, such as naming goods made in Israel. It also eliminates intent as an element of wrongdoing. Thus a company cannot give ignorance or good intention as an excuse for not doing business with Israel. Whether a company intends to violate the law or not, it still would be in violation under the Proxmire legislation.

In the House, Bingham has introduced companion legislation to the Stevenson bill. The Proxmire additions have not yet been put in bill form. Hearings are not yet scheduled. They will be once the Senate gets its measures well underway.

MEXICO CITY (JTA)--About 400 Orthodox rabbis and religious laymen from the U.S. and Canada will spend the Passover week in the resort town of Acapulco, it was announced by Rabbi Abraham Hersberg, president of the Latin American Board of Rabbis. They have been invited by former President Miguel Aleman, currently president of the Mexican Tourist Council, as part of the government's policy to encourage tourism. Hersberg said the Mexican government has granted the rabbis permission to bring Passover foods into the country duty-free.