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STATE DEPARTMENT POLICY STATEMENT TAKES ISRAELIS BY SURPRISE

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, June 28 (JTA)--The U.S. State Department's formal statement yesterday asserting that Israeli withdrawal from territories on all fronts, including the West Bank, was necessary for a "true peace" in the Middle East, took official circles here by surprise. One immediate reaction was that there is a "devaluation" in the meaning of the term "true peace" by the Carter Administration. Premier Menachem Begin is expected to make an official, public response to the statement, probably when he addresses the Jewish Agency's sixth annual General Assembly Thursday.

Official circles described the statement as "blunt" and indicated that they were disturbed by its timing--less than a month before Begin's scheduled visit to Washington for talks with President Carter. According to these circles, the statement appeared to contradict the American Administration's desire to mute points of disagreement with Israel in order to establish a "comfortable" atmosphere for the Carter-Begin meeting.

They were especially upset by the statement's stress on Israeli withdrawal, its reiteration of the term "homeland" for the Palestinians and its failure to elaborate on the relations necessary between Israel and its neighbors to assure peace between them.

No Foundation For U.S. View

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, in an official comment this afternoon, said there was no foundation for the argument that Israel has excluded any territories from the negotiating process. The spokesman said that according to the guidelines of the government, everything is open to discussion and negotiation. He referred to Begin's speech to the Zionist General Council meeting here last week in which he said that Israel does not present ultimatums and the term "not negotiable" does not exist in any Israeli dictionary.

The spokesman said that other matters referred to in the State Department's statement, such as the definition of "real peace" were subjects to be discussed between Carter and Begin.

TOTH: CHARGE OF TREASON AGAINST SHARANSKY IS 'A LOT OF BALONEY'

NEW YORK, June 28 (JTA)--Robert C. Toth, who recently returned to the United States after three years as the Moscow bureau chief of the Los Angeles Times, said today that Soviet officials do not realize the depth of support for Jewish activist Anatoly Sharansky in the U.S., especially among American Jews. He said that if the USSR carries out its threat to try Sharansky for treason and espionage "they will turn him into the first Jewish martyr in the Soviet Union since the Stalin era."

Toth, who was questioned for nearly 14 hours by the KGB on charges of collecting secret political and military information and later about Sharansky, answered questions about his experiences to more than 100 persons in the auditorium of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League headquarters. The meeting was sponsored by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and was attended by newsmen and members of the Conference and chaired by Eugene

Gold, Conference chairman, and Jerry Goodman, its executive director.

Calling Sharansky a "marvelous person," Toth said the Jewish activist's "only purpose was to get out and help other Jews to get out of the Soviet Union (and go to Israel). All this nonsense about espionage and treason was just a lot of baloney."

Says Sharansky Acted Legally

He said that everything Sharansky did was legal and aimed at helping himself and other Jews emigrate to Israel. Toth said that all of his dealings with Sharansky were held out in the open as were Sharansky's meetings with other Western correspondents.

Toth said when he was first arrested by the KGB it was on a charge of illegally obtaining a document on parapsychology. He said the KGB first said he was questioned on the charge of collecting secret information but later the questioning turned to Sharansky and other Jewish activists and Soviet dissidents.

The newsmen, whose next assignment will be in Washington, said he had expected to be held for at least a month. But he believed the public reaction by the American press and government as well as the strong pressure by the U.S. government convinced the Soviets to let him go.

While acknowledging that his interrogation may worry Western correspondents still in Moscow, he said he believes they will be more aggressive now because they are angry. At the same time, he said the dissidents and Jewish activists, while still able to meet with correspondents, will have less latitude and will be more easily subject to arrest.

Toth said the Soviets are not so much concerned about the information given newsmen concerning the dissident and emigration movements but about information dealing with general conditions in the USSR which correspondents learn from the dissidents and Jewish activists. He noted that all unofficial information is considered illegal in the USSR. The newsmen said the "outrageous" behavior of the Soviet authorities has resulted in a climate in the United States in which the Jackson Amendment could not be repealed. He expressed doubts that Congress would approve at present a SALT agreement if one was reached.

Toth observed that the Soviet Union's crack-down on dissidents and Jewish activists is partially based on President Carter's strong advocacy of human rights in the USSR. He said it may also be due to a belief that by cracking down on dissidents in the USSR it will discourage the rising number of dissidents in the East European countries. Toth said that the USSR may be willing to see a year or two setback in detente caused by its actions against dissidents rather than see a much longer setback caused by its sending tanks into East Europe to end dissension there. (By David Friedman)

U.S. LOOKING FORWARD TO BEGIN VISIT By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 28 (JTA)--The Carter Administration, officially and publicly said today that it will welcome Israeli Premier Menachem Begin to Washington and is looking forward to

hearing his views on a Middle East settlement.

The State Department also said that National Security Affairs Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski telephoned Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz to this effect last night. Dinitz leaves today for Jerusalem for a week of consultations in Jerusalem in preparation for Begin's scheduled talks with President Carter here July 19-20.

The Brzezinski call of reassurance came after reports filtered privately and unofficially to reporters that the Administration would have no point in meeting with Begin if he did not retreat from his position of maintaining that Judea and Samaria, commonly known as the West Bank, are parts of Israel. However, Begin has repeatedly said that UN Security Council Resolution 242 is negotiable in all its parts, although he would not say categorically that Israel will leave the territories occupied in the Six-Day War.

The State Department took public dissent from this view yesterday with a statement specifically suggesting that Israel must withdraw from territories as a factor in the negotiations for a settlement. In some U.S. quarters there was a view that things would go much better if Begin and the Likud Party disappeared from the scene and new elections brought more tractable leaders to the helm in Israel.

No Material Changes Seen

Meanwhile, Dinitz and Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, both asserted late yesterday that no material changes have taken place in the U.S. and Israeli positions as a result of the Department's detailed statement. Both also emphasized that they are seeking to preserve harmony in Israeli-American relations.

Comments by Dinitz and Schindler were made at the State Department where they were met by reporters after they held separate half-hour meetings with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. Earlier, Dinitz also met with Brzezinski at the White House.

Dinitz was asked by reporters whether there are differences in Israeli and American policies. "There is no secret," the Ambassador replied, "that we had differences of opinion on some items before. I don't think as a result of this statement any of the differences were either resolved or augmented. I think basically it was a restatement of American policy. I don't think there was any material change."

Dinitz emphasized that "our government has said it is prepared to negotiate on all three fronts with all our three neighbors. This has been our policy based on Security Council Resolution 242. It has been publicly enunciated by our Prime Minister and we stand by this."

Asked whether American and Israeli policies are in harmony, Dinitz replied "Our aim and our effort all the time is to keep it in harmony but that does not mean we do not have, here and there, differences of opinion which we express with candor and with friendship, the same way the U.S. government expresses them to us." He said he was carrying "several messages of goodwill" to Israel.

Meeting With Carter July 6

Schindler disclosed after meeting Vance that he and other Jewish communal leaders will meet with Carter at the White House July 6 in the climax of a series of meetings he and other American Jewish leaders have been having with Administration officials. Schindler has already conferred with Vice-President Walter Mondale, Vance, Brzezinski, Undersecretary of State Philip Habib and Hamilton Jordan, Robert Lipshutz and Stuart Eizenstat of the

President's inner circle of advisors.

Schindler and Yehuda Hellman, the Presidents Conference executive director who accompanied him to the Vance meeting, stressed that Vance denied the Department statement represented a "diminution" of U.S. relations with Israel. "The statement has to be read in its entirety," Schindler pointed out to reporters.

"Secretary Vance convinced us by saying categorically that the State Department statement absolutely represents no retreat of the Presidential definition of peace—none whatsoever," Schindler said. "There is no retreat and no diminution in his definition of peace and the nature of peace." Schindler said he was "perturbed about the escalation of rhetoric" in advance of the Carter-Begin meetings. "This applies to both sides," he said.

ZOA OFFICIAL SAYS U.S., ISRAEL ARE ENGAGED IN A WAR OF NERVES

TEL AVIV, June 28 (JTA)—An official of the Zionist Organization of America said here today that a war of nerves is in progress between Israel and the United States. Jacques Torczyner, chairman of the National Convention Committee of the ZOA whose 80th jubilee convention will open in Jerusalem next week, addressed a press conference hours after the State Department issued its formal statement in Washington stressing the need for Israeli withdrawal from territories, including the West Bank, in order to achieve a real peace in the Middle East.

The initial reaction here was that the statement represented an erosion and deterioration in U.S.-Israeli relations. Torczyner, apparently subscribing to that view, spoke of a war of nerves in which Israeli leaders—Premier Menachem Begin, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan—make statements and "so do the American leaders."

But Torczyner rejected reports in the U.S. quoting American officials to the effect that Begin's visit to Washington next month for talks with Carter would be superfluous unless he moderated his statements. According to Torczyner, Carter and Begin want to meet and talk to each other. He predicted that Begin's address to the 1000 delegates attending the ZOA convention will be of special significance since it will be Begin's last public statement before he leaves for Washington.

The ZOA convention also will be addressed by Sen. Robert Dole (R., Kan.) who was President Ford's Vice-Presidential running mate in last year's elections. In addition, top Israeli leaders, present and former, will speak at the convention to be held July 6-13. These include in addition to Begin, Weizman and Dayan, and former Defense Minister Shimon Peres, leader of the Labor Alignment.

JDL TO DEAL WITH NAZI RALLY

By Nancy Chanin

NEW YORK, June 28 (JTA)—Between 800 and 1000 Jewish Defense League (JDL) members plan to prevent the National Socialist Party (NSP) march from taking place on July 4 in Skokie, a heavily Jewish-populated Chicago suburb, Bonnie Pechter, JDL national director, said today. She told a press conference here that the NSP "will not get past the first step and however they have to be stopped, they will be stopped." "We will use whatever kind of violence" is necessary "to stop the march; if it means taking a baseball bat," said Ms. Pechter as she picked up one of several bats which had JDL stickers on

them. She described the JDL members who are to participate in the protest as "strong, experienced fighters." She said the JDL will have "effective" weapons, but "we will avoid illegal things."

JDL members throughout the United States will be in Skokie to protest the march, Ms. Pechter said. When asked how many non-members would be participating, she said that between 220 and 230 persons had called the JDL about the march, but she did not know of any other Jewish organizations that would be in Skokie, while "a variety of Nazi groups amounting to several hundred" persons would be marching. Ms. Pechter said it was "the greatest tragedy and beyond the realm of comprehension" that Jewish groups could unite on "non-Jewish issues" such as abortion and gay rights. "If they could just unite on something Jewish," she said.

"The JDL believes in the First Amendment but Nazis have no rights," because they deny others freedom of speech and "espouse genocide," Ms. Pechter said. She said the NSP's decision to march in Skokie, where 7000 concentration camp survivors live, was an "obscenity." Referring to the existence of the NSP, Ms. Pechter said it was not only a Jewish problem, as the NSP is against all minorities.

ZIM MAY AVOID DJIBOUTI CALLS

PARIS, June 28 (JTA)--The Zim Lines, Israel's national shipping company, is planning to re-route its vessels serving East African ports to avoid calls at Djibouti if that newly established Moslem state bans Israel-flag ships. Djibouti, formerly French Somaliland, became independent on Sunday and immediately applied for and was admitted to membership in the Arab League which administers the boycott of Israel.

Although there was no immediate notification that Djibouti will close its harbor to Israeli shipping, the leaders of the new Arabic-speaking republic have hinted strongly that they would. Zim closed its office there and the last Israeli personnel have departed by sea. A decision by Djibouti to refuse docking facilities to Israeli ships would be in line with conditions set by Saudi Arabia when it offered financial assistance to the impoverished 9000 square mile former colony.

Djibouti is strategically located near the Straits of Bab el-Mandeb which link the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. It is an important fueling port for ships enroute to Israel's Red Sea port of Eilat. Israeli ships can still use the nearby Ethiopian port of Massawa which, like Djibouti, is only four days' steaming from Eilat. But if the Ethiopian authorities decided to ban Israeli ships, the nearest fueling port to Eilat would be Mombasa, Kenya, 14 days away.

HOPES FOR DMC, LIKUD TALKS FADING

TEL AVIV, June 28 (JTA)--Hopes for an early decision by the Democratic Movement for Change to resume negotiations with Likud on joining its coalition government faded today. The possibility remains open but following a meeting yesterday between Premier Menachem Begin and DMC leader Yigael Yadin, new problems appeared to arise indicating further delay.

The DMC Secretariate which heard Yadin's report of the meeting, debated all day yesterday and today. The outcome was a request for further clarification from Likud. The stumbling block now is not only Likud's foreign policy approach but political matters. The DMC wants to know exactly where Likud stands on its demand for electoral reforms. The DMC also says Likud's offer of Cabinet portfolios was vague.

Before he formed his government, Begin said all portfolios were negotiable. Now, with most of them filled, the DMC wants to know if there is anything to negotiate about. Begin did leave three ministries vacant--Justice, Welfare and Transportation and Communications--which he said were reserved for the DMC. But it is not known whether these were acceptable to it. The DMC Secretariate will meet again Thursday when it may decide whether or not conditions are suitable to resume talks with Likud.

ITZIK MANGER AWARDS PRESENTED

TEL AVIV, June 28 (JTA)--The Itzik Manger Awards for 1977 for Yiddish prose and poetry were awarded last night in a festive ceremony at Habimah Hall. The recipients were Hirsh Osherowitz for his writings in Israel, Yehuda Elberg of Canada for his Yiddish writings abroad and Yaacov Tzvi Shargal for his poems written in Yiddish in Israel as an Israeli.

The ceremony was attended by President Ephraim Katzir who is honorary president of the Itzik Manger Awards Committee. Katzir delivered an address in Yiddish which received a thunderous acclaim by the audience which filled the hall to capacity. Mrs. Golda Meir awarded the prizes to the winners. Maariv editor Shalom Rosenfeld, chairman of the Awards Committee, was also chairman of the event.

RE-BURIAL SERVICES FOR NAZI VICTIMS

AMSTERDAM, June 28 (JTA)--Re-burial services were held Saturday near the Russian village of Uryce for more than 125 Jewish victims of Nazi mass murders there 36 years ago. The remains, including the bones of children and infants, were exhumed last week from a mass grave in connection with the war crimes trial here of Pieter Menten, charged with responsibility for the murders on August 27, 1941 when he was an officer in an SS unit in the Lemberg area of what was then Polish territory.

The services were attended by a four-member delegation from the Amsterdam Public Prosecutor's office. But although the victims were Jews the re-burial was without Jewish content. It was held on Saturday which is contrary to Jewish religious law. No rabbi was present and in fact there are no longer any Jewish inhabitants in the region some 150 kilometers south of Lwow. Soviet officials spoke at the grave site but they dealt with political matters rather than the Jewish victims.

The remains of nearly 100 adults were buried in 24 coffins and those of some 25 children believed by pathologists to have been under two years of age when they were killed were contained in six coffins. An infant's feeding bottle found in the mass grave was re-buried as a symbol of the enormity of the crime.

REPUBLICANS ASSAIL CARTER

WASHINGTON, June 28 (JTA)--The Republican National Committee said today in a statement that President Carter "has now dictated the terms for a Middle East settlement and has seriously undermined the negotiating position of the Israeli government with its neighbors." Former Sen. William Brock of Tennessee, the committee's chairman, said "the reversal of President Carter's strong support of the State of Israel as he outlined it in the 1976 Presidential campaign is the most serious promise he has broken since his election." Carter, Brock said, "must give the new leaders (of Israel) time to establish their own negotiating positions."

ACTIVITIES OF JEWISH AGENCY PROBED AT ITS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM; June 28 (JTA)--The controversy over the parallel activities of the Absorption Ministry and the Jewish Agency in the field of immigrant absorption dominated the sixth annual Jewish Agency General Assembly here yesterday. Discussion centered around implementation of the Horev Commission's report last year which recommended the establishment of a new authority headed by the chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives to replace both the ministry and the Agency's aliya department.

David Levi, the Absorption Minister in the new Likud-led government, urged the Assembly yesterday to make no decisions regarding his ministry's future until the government discussed the issues and arrived at a solution embodying the best possible form of cooperation between the ministry and the Agency. The Assembly endorsed his request. It also discussed at length the problem of drop-outs -- Jewish emigres from the Soviet Union who opt to settle in countries other than Israel.

In an address to the Assembly's opening session Sunday night, Max Fisher of Detroit, chairman of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors, urged depoliticization of the Agency in order to increase the involvement of diaspora Jews in its activities. By this he meant freeing the Agency from its present political orientation to the various political parties and factions in Israel. Fisher said that with a new government in office in Israel the Assembly delegates have a chance to forge new directions. He said the Jewish Agency would be more accountable through greater participation by Jews abroad in its activities and decision-making processes.

Yosef Almog, chairman of the WZO and Jewish Agency Executives, told the 600 delegates from 90 countries that he favored implementation of the Horev Commission's recommendations. These have been strongly opposed by Levi who has asserted recently that the Absorption Ministry's functions were vital to Israel's national interests and should be administered by the government alone.

Varying Views Expressed

Not all Assembly delegates shared Levi's view. Jerold Hoffberger, an American member of the Board of Governors, said yesterday that too much time has passed since the Horev report was published. He demanded that the government give its recommendations "prompt attention." Rabbi Richard Hirsch, who was a member of the Horev panel, said a compromise could be reached between the rival authorities with the State fulfilling those functions it was best equipped to handle and the Agency doing the same under the aegis of the single authority proposed by the Horev commission.

But Menachem Sherman, Director General of the Absorption Ministry, declared that a change of organization structure would provide no miracle cure. Any authority in charge needs wide powers and sufficient resources to take care of immigrants, he said.

On the problem of drop-outs, Dr. Judith Elitzur of the Hebrew University's Communication Institute, cited a recent report which indicated that the drop-out rate might reach 75 percent of all Russian Jews reaching Vienna. She said the Jewish Agency must make a speedy decision on how to cope with the problem. An Israel Radio report said today that the government will discuss the issue. According to the report, the Committee of Ten which was appointed a year ago to find a solution, sus-

pending its work because it was impossible to reach an agreement.

SENATE URGED TO WITHHOLD FURTHER MFN TREATMENT FOR RUMANIA

WASHINGTON, June 28 (JTA)--Representatives of American Jewish organizations urged the Senate yesterday to withhold continuation of most-favored-nation treatment of Rumania for a third year pending a further examination of that country's emigration policies. They said they were "greatly disturbed" by the fall-off of Jewish emigration from Rumania.

Testifying before the Senate Finance Committee's subcommittee on international trade were William Korey, representing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Jacob Birnbaum, national director of the Center for Russian and East European Jewry, who also represents the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. Also testifying was Matthew Nimetz, a State Department counsellor, who urged continuation of MFN status for Rumania as a means of bolstering President Carter's initiatives to reduce East-West tensions.

Korey said, "We are encouraged by President Carter's intention to monitor closely Rumanian compliance" with the provisions of the Trade Reform Act that links emigration practices with U.S. trade benefits, and that if Rumania's performance is not in accord with the act in the coming 12 months he will reconsider his recommendation of waiver for Rumania.

Korey added that while the American Jewish community recognized "the extensive religious and cultural liberty which the Rumanian Jewish community has enjoyed, we are greatly disturbed, however, by the decrease in Jewish emigration." He said that was in "sharp contradiction to the large number of Jews who have indicated they want to leave Rumania to reunite with their families in Israel."

Birnbaum, who was asked what is wanted from Rumania, replied, "Early permission to leave for those waiting for more than a year; cessation of the varied harassments; and steady growth in the emigration flows to the United States and a reversion of the flow to Israel to the 1973-74 levels of between 300-400 monthly."

Ribicoff Disappointed With Rumanians

Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D.Conn.), a subcommittee member, said he was "disappointed" with the Rumanians. He noted that while emigration rates to several countries, including the United States, have dropped significantly, it has been lower to Israel. He noted that during the last five years an average of 2800 people were able to emigrate to Israel each year and in 1976 the number was 2000. This year, the emigration rate is down by almost half from last year.

"The significant decline in emigration to Israel is very disturbing," Ribicoff said. "Not only have emigration trends to that country differed sharply from the trends in other countries, but the decline of emigration to Israel represents a serious falling off in the rate of Jewish emigration." He observed that Rumania's application procedures "discourage" a great many people.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Pierre Cardin, the world famous Paris-based fashion designer, is expected now to renew his contract with Israel's Bagir fashion house that is franchised to manufacture men's apparel according to Cardin designs. The contract expires in January, 1978.