

ATHERTON INDICATES U.S. PRESSING ISRAEL TO RETURN TO 1967 BORDERS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 29 (JTA)—A top Middle East strategist in the Carter Administration virtually conceded yesterday that the United States is pressing Israel to return to its pre-1967 borders because the Arabs are not indicating they will compromise on territories. He also said that Jerusalem "has to be part of the negotiating process."

Alfred L. Atherton, Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs, was responding to a question at the opening session of a two-day national meeting at the State Department of editors and broadcasters to discuss foreign policy.

"I have to say from all our talks with the Arabs I do not see any indication they are prepared to both give up their position of non-acceptance and non-recognition of Israel and to give up the territory beyond the 1967 borders," Atherton said. "One has to see in the perception of the Arabs that is already a territorial compromise—they are giving up a claim of territory in that part of Palestine which has become Israel."

Atherton added: "There are statements on the record and also in our private discussions that their (Arab) objective is to make permanent peace with Israel. We ask no one to take this on faith. That's why we need negotiations to test this." He did not identify the Arab leaders and the State Department spokesman who later was asked to obtain the names said he would look into it.

Statement On Jerusalem

With reference to Jerusalem, Atherton said that "We do not accept Israel's actions" as determining the city's future. But he said "We would find it anomalous and repugnant to go back to the physical division that existed before 1967. Realistically, one has to acknowledge the Palestinian aspect" of the situation. "Nobody's aspirations are going to be totally satisfied if there is to be a settlement," He added, "But at least" the Palestinians will have had "a fair shake."

Atherton described Vice President Walter Mondale's reference to a "Palestinian homeland or entity preferably in relation to Jordan" as being an "example" of a solution. The President, he said, has not defined whether it would be an independent state or not.

Should Israel find itself going under in a war, would the United States become involved militarily to save her, Atherton was asked. He replied, "That would be a major and agonizing decision for an Administration to face." It would have to be a decision, he observed, "reviewed by the President in consultation with Congress and we would have to get the best judgement possible of what the attitude of public opinion in this country was as to how we should act in such circumstances." However, Atherton felt that "happily I don't see this arising in the foreseeable future in light of the military capabilities of both sides."

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, State Department spokesman Hodding Carter and Atherton all said yesterday that the Department's statement Monday suggesting Israel's withdrawal from administered territories had no effect on U.S.-Israel relations.

Their remarks appeared to be an Administration slackening of its pressure on Israel over the issue of land.

Vance mentioned the relationship being unchanged during a breakfast meeting with reporters. Hodding Carter spoke of it at his daily news briefing, reading a section of Mondale's June 17 speech to buttress his point. He could not say whether a peace treaty would have to be negotiated before Israel makes any further withdrawals.

BEGIN: ISRAEL READY TO GO TO GENEVA AS EARLY AS NEXT OCTOBER

No Issue To Be Excluded From Negotiations

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, June 29 (JTA)—Premier Menachem Begin said last night that Israel is ready to enter into peace talks with the Arabs at Geneva as early as October and would exclude no issue from the negotiating process. All sides to the talks can raise any subject they want to raise so long as no formulas are imposed from without, Begin told a closed session of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors meeting here.

Commenting on Monday's State Department statement which said that Israel must withdraw from territories on all fronts to achieve a "true peace" in the Middle East, Begin reiterated that there was no position and no step which could not be negotiated freely. He said that when he goes to Washington next month he hoped to find a common language with President Carter. He expressed the hope that his meetings with Carter July 19-20 would be in preparation for genuine peace talks.

Meanwhile, observers here maintained that both the U.S. and Israel would attempt to soothe the sharp friction generated by the Washington statement and the official reaction in Jerusalem. Most Israeli newspapers, however, took seriously a report by CBS reporter Marvin Kalb to the effect that official U.S. sources said there would be no point to Begin's coming to Washington unless he retreated from his position that the West Bank territories were part of Israel.

Although the State Department has categorically denied the report, Kalb is regarded here as a most reliable journalist and the belief is that he would not have reported what he did unless he had been informed by a very high source in Washington.

Effort To Avoid Friction

The reactions here indicated how sensitive Israelis are to all reports and statements coming out of Washington. It was learned that Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan spent hours yesterday consulting and scanning the State Department statement word-for-word before the Foreign Ministry released its official comment. The statement was considered unprecedented or at least exceedingly rare, since there have been very few past occasions where a U.S. State Department spokesman has read to the press a detailed and formal statement on a delicate phase of foreign policy.

Nevertheless, the mood in Jerusalem appears to be to avoid sharp reactions and comments which might further deteriorate the situation between Israel and the U.S. Israelis are awaiting further

comment from Begin who is expected to refer to the State Department statement when he addresses the Jewish Agency General Assembly here tomorrow night.

Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Simcha Din-itz, arrived from Washington today for consultations in connection with Begin's visit to the U.S. Replying to reporters' questions at Ben Gurion Airport, he said the situation could not be described as a deep confrontation with the U.S. but conceded that both the timing and content of the statement gave cause for concern. He said that while there is no confrontation, there are some basic elements over which Israel and the U.S. hold different points of view.

Meeting with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan later today, Dinitz said he does not expect further deterioration in U.S.-Israel relations. He reportedly told Dayan that in spite of the Administration's tendency to make official statements as the one made by the State Department Monday, he expects Begin will find upon his arrival in Washington "a comfortable atmosphere."

RABIN TERMS U.S. STATEMENT RUDE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 29 (JTA)--Former Premier Yitzhak Rabin last night called the Carter Administration's statement Monday on the Middle East rude and said that never before had such a statement been issued prior to a visit of an Israeli Premier to Washington.

Interviewed on Israeli Television, Rabin said that the American attitude on the Middle East had eroded since his visit to Washington in March although he did not know whether this was a tactical move on the part of the Carter Administration or a real change in policy. He said this will be better known after Premier Menachem Begin visits Washington July 19-20.

Rabin said that Israeli-American relations were not a partisan issue. He said he had worked many years to foster these relations which were important to Israel's aims for living in peace with defensible borders and would do nothing to harm them by partisan considerations.

The former Premier said he considers the statement issued this week totally divergent from what he was told by Carter at the White House in March and what the President repeated at a press conference at the time. He said Carter at that time talked of a full peace and now the statement talks of normalization of relations. He also said the President was opposed to any negotiations with the Palestine terrorist organization and to the creation of a Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan.

GOLDMANN NOT SURPRISED BY U.S. MOVE

TEL AVIV, June 29 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, said here yesterday that he was not surprised by Monday's formal statement by the State Department that Israel would have to withdraw from territories on all fronts to achieve a true peace in the Middle East. He said the statement was the same that "I have heard and heard again from people in the American Administration when I visited Washington just a month ago."

Goldmann arrived here after a series of meetings with leaders in the U.S. and other countries. These included a recent talk with Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's National Security Advisor. He said he would not divulge the contents of that talk until he briefed Premier Menachem Begin. But Goldmann predicted that Israel will face a very difficult period in the months ahead and that Begin

will have a very hard time trying to persuade President Carter to accept his approach.

He said Carter is known to be a strong personality who stands firmly by his ideas and will doubtlessly try to convince Begin that his way is the best for Israel and peace. He said that while Begin's image in the U.S. was improving, many Americans believe he is too rigid.

Goldmann said that many Americans support Carter's Middle East diplomacy and agree with the President that now is the best time to reach a Middle East peace settlement and that failure to do so could lead to a new and terrible war. But Goldmann is convinced that the Geneva conference cannot take place before this fall. It is necessary to agree on the general framework of a peace conference and Carter, Israel and the Arabs cannot reach such an agreement, at least before the fall, he said.

Goldmann said that Carter's recent gesture approving the sale of some military items to Israel was intended to establish a more amicable atmosphere for his talks with Begin next month and that further similar gestures by the President could be expected before Begin arrives in the U.S.

EBAN ANGERED BY PARTY'S MOVE

JERUSALEM, June 29 (JTA)--Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban left the Knesset in a huff Monday evening after learning that his Labor Alignment colleagues failed to elect him to a seat on the key Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Later, Labor Party leader Shimon Peres reportedly offered to yield his seat to Eban but other party members balked on grounds that it would be unseemly for the opposition leader not to be a member of one of the Knesset's most important bodies.

Eban, who was slated to be Foreign Minister had Labor won the May 17 elections, was one of 13 candidates for the seven seats on the committee allotted to the Labor Alignment. When the Alignment Executive met Monday morning, it was unable to reach a consensus. A secret ballot was taken instead and the winners were Peres, former Premier Yitzhak Rabin, former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, former Justice Minister Haim Zadok, former Minister of Commerce and Industry Haim Barlev, Yitzhak Navon and Meir Talmi of Mapam.

When Eban heard the results, he left the building and "slammed the door," sources reported. Some party circles believe that the Alignment's Knesset faction will eventually agree to let Peres resign from the committee in favor of Eban. To do otherwise would be sending Eban into political exile, they said.

YOM KIPPUR IN CHILE

WASHINGTON, June 29 (JTA)--The Ministry of Education of the Chilean government and the Rector of the state university in Chile have arranged alternate dates for the examination of university admissions this year in Chile because the scheduled date falls on Yom Kippur. No examinations will be given on that day. Rabbi Seymour Siegel, of the Georgetown University faculty, reported today that Rabbi Angel Kreiman of Santiago, Chile's Chief Rabbi, intervened with the Chilean authorities to arrange the change. Kreiman, he said, has been serving in Chile for five years and conducts a full program of religious and educational activities, including a summer camp, Hebrew schools and social meetings.

EXAM THEFT GETS FAILING MARKS

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, June 29 (JTA)--The theft and sale of a matriculation mathematics exam that was to be given nationally next Monday had the Knesset in an uproar today, set in motion a police investigation and seriously embarrassed the Ministry of Education only just taken over by the National Religious Party (NRP).

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer humbly admitted to a shocked Knesset chamber that the exam had been stolen and was being sold widely for a high price. He said it has been withdrawn and that a new exam was under preparation and would be ready by Monday. Hammer's admission came after MK Charlie Biton of the Rakah-Democratic Front faction, a former Black Panther, produced a copy of the exam in the Knesset.

He said it had been purchased for IL 4500, about \$450. Biton claimed the same price was being paid for stolen English exams and that anyone could buy a purloined physics exam for IL2000 and a Talmud exam for only IL1000. He said he was led to the source by a student who promised to tell all to the police if he was granted immunity.

Eliezer Shmueli, Director General of the Education Ministry, compared the "leak" to the theft of the Pentagon papers. One MK demanded that Shmueli resign and if he refused, "it is the Minister's duty to fire him."

An official complaint was filed with the police today. Top officials of the Education Ministry, including three mathematics teachers who were involved in preparing the exam, are expected to be questioned. Students have been asked to disclose any information they may have about the theft.

MISS ISRAEL IN NEW YORK VISIT

By Nancy Chanin

NEW YORK, June 29 (JTA)--The Miss Universe contestants, dressed in their native costumes, were greeted today by Mayor Beame at City Hall. Declaring today "Miss Universe Day," the Mayor presented a proclamation to Rina Messinger, last year's Miss Universe from Israel. Among the 49 contestants, who are enroute to the Dominican Republic where the Miss Universe Pageant will take place July 16, was the slim and attractive Zahava Vardy, 21 years old; who is Miss Israel. Ms. Vardy is from Kiryat Bialik, a city near Haifa with a population of some 15,000.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, while sitting in a bus enroute to City Hall, Ms. Vardy, who is currently living and studying in Haifa, said she plans to teach children between the ages of five to seven when she graduates in two years. Speaking English clearly and distinctly, Ms. Vardy said she was quite familiar with young children as she has a six-year-old brother and a 17-year-old sister. Her father, who is from Morocco, is a police officer and her mother, from Rumania, works in a bank.

For two years Ms. Vardy was a secretary for the armed forces in Jerusalem, an experience she said she enjoyed a great deal. Although she has travelled within Israel, this is her first trip outside of her country.

Impressed By The 'Big Apple'

As she looked out of the bus window, Ms. Vardy said that she could not believe how tall the buildings were and wondered how people could actually live here. Although she was particularly impressed by the way the streets were laid out, she said she preferred the trees of Kiryat Bialik. As the bus

passed through Chinatown, Ms. Vardy mentioned that she had seen the movie "Chinatown" but does not like Chinese food.

When asked about the new Israeli government, Ms. Vardy said it was "very good; we are a democratic country," and the government is "what the people wanted."

A relatively serious and down to earth young woman, the brown-haired and brown-eyed contestant said she was not nervous about the Miss Universe Pageant. Depending on what she wears, her eyes are sometimes tinged with green and yellow, she said. In today's dress, which Ms. Vardy said was not really a native costume, her eyes did indeed have flecks of green and yellow.

Shortly before the bus arrived at City Hall, she introduced the JTA reporter to Miss Lebanon, without being asked to do so. Miss Lebanon, who sat across the aisle from Miss Israel, occasionally spoke French with some of the other contestants but was quiet during most of the bus trip.

ISRAEL'S AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC WILL HELP AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 29 (JTA)--The government of Israel Investment Authority in the United States announced here yesterday that as a result of Israel's trade agreement with the European Economic Community (EEC), which goes into effect Friday, the world's largest duty-free market will open up to U.S. manufacturers. Israeli officials said that Israel can provide access to American manufacturers to the EEC duty-free market because she is the only country in the world to have duty-free agreements with both the United States and the EEC.

Since Jan. 1, Israel has enjoyed eligibility for the U.S. Generalized System of Preference, which allows tariff-free access to the U.S. for over 2700 Israel-made product categories. Beginning Friday, all duties on Israel-made products entering the EEC market will be eliminated.

"The implication of this to American manufacturers is considerable," the Israel Investment Authority said in a statement distributed at a press conference of the American Jewish Committee headquarters. "U.S. companies will be able to significantly expand their activities in the 270,000,000-person Common Market, and do so on a much more competitive basis than is now possible. All they need do is manufacture their goods from export to the Common Market in Israel," the Investment Authority said.

Hanan Bar On, Minister at the Embassy of Israel in Washington, told the press conference that Israel expects that with the Common Market agreement becoming effective, many American companies will seize the opportunity to expand their markets by opening manufacturing facilities in Israel. The Investment Authority statement also noted that the U.S. currently exports a wide variety of products to the EEC totalling up to \$25 billion a year.

According to the Investment Authority, the combination of duty-free access to the EEC and the United States would be especially attractive to companies in chemicals, pharmaceuticals, plastics, textiles, metals, machinery, electric goods and instruments. . . .

GENEVA (JTA)--A spokesman for the International Committee for European Migration attached to the UN here said that the ICEM and the High Commissioner for Refugees would finance the 66 Vietnamese refugees' resettlement in Israel.

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE PROGRAM TO PREPARE ISRAELIS FOR ORDINATION AS RABBIS IN THE REFORM MOVEMENT

CINCINNATI, June 29 (JTA)--In a development described as one of historic significance, Hebrew Union College--Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC--JIR) will introduce a graduate program this fall at its Jerusalem school to prepare Israelis for careers as rabbis in the Reform movement in Israel. According to the announcement, the program will accommodate seven students the first year and will subsequently accommodate 10 students a year.

Reform, or Progressive, Judaism in Israel is currently served by rabbis who were trained elsewhere in the world. Never has a Reform rabbi been ordained in the Jewish State, where the Reform movement is attracting a growing number of adherents, the announcement stated.

"Reform Judaism is filling a vital need in the spiritual life of Israel," president Alfred Gottschalk of Hebrew Union College said today in announcing the new program. "In keeping with its traditions and commitments, Hebrew Union College is responding to this need by instituting an educational program which will enable Israelis to serve modern Judaism in their home country."

Admission to the new graduate program, which leads to the Master of Arts degree in Judaic studies, will be open only to those Israeli students who have been accepted as candidates for a Master of Arts degree in the Department of Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, according to the HUC.

Upon satisfactory completion of both the Hebrew University and the Hebrew Union College courses of study, the Israeli students will be eligible for ordination as rabbis by a special ordaining body, which will include prominent rabbis and scholars. Dr. Gottschalk will be chairman of the ordaining body.

Focus Of Study Program

The HUC curriculum, which has been developed by a special faculty committee, will concentrate on such subjects as the history and philosophy of Reform Judaism, theology, medieval and modern Responsa literature, Codes, liturgy, Midrash, education and human relations. The focus of the students' study at the Hebrew University will be in the areas of the history of Jewish thought, Bible, Talmud, Hebrew language and literature and Jewish history, all essential for rabbinic preparation, the announcement said.

Moreover, two dissertations will be required of the students, one for the Hebrew University degree and the other for the HUC degree.

The World Union for Progressive Judaism, with headquarters in Jerusalem, is hailing the innovative move by HUC, has pledged its support in meeting the additional academic and administrative costs. Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch, executive director of the World Union, said there was need today for the services of rabbis in Progressive congregations, in the Israeli youth movement, in kibbutzim and in other aspects of Israeli community life. He said Haifa, Nazareth and Beersheba were among a number of communities in which Reform congregations are now without the services of full-time rabbis.

SHARANSKY IS REFUSED AN ATTORNEY

NEW YORK, June 29 (JTA)--Anatoly Sharan-sky, the 30-year-old Moscow Soviet Jewish activist presently being investigated on charges of treason, has been refused legal representation, the Greater

New York Conference on Soviet Jewry reported today.

Ida Milgram, Sharansky's mother, has told the Conference that every lawyer she has approached to represent her son has refused because they believe him to be guilty. Although Sharansky has insisted that he is innocent of the charge of being a CIA agent, several attorneys have offered to take the case only if he admits to guilt with extenuating circumstances.

Mrs. Milgram has further appealed to Soviet authorities to allow a doctor to visit her son in Lefortovo Prison in Moscow, a political prison where prisoners have the right to receive packages and to be visited by a doctor appointed by the family. No one has seen or heard from Sharansky since his arrest in early March, the Conference said.

The Conference also reported that it has learned that Yakov Suslenski and Mikhail Mager, two long-time Soviet Jewry activists, have arrived in Israel where they were reunited with their families. Suslenski is a former Prisoner of Conscience who served a seven-year sentence in the notorious Vladimir prison for spreading anti-Soviet slander with the intent to undermine the Soviet regime. He suffers from a serious heart condition. Mager was first refused a visa in 1972 and has been separated from his wife and son for four years.

ISRAELI SCOUTS VISITING U.S.

By Nancy Chanin

NEW YORK, June 29 (JTA)--A group of 68 Israeli Boy and Girl Scouts, guests of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting, will spend the summer in various parts of the United States. The group began their stay recently in the U.S. with a visit to the national office of the Boy Scouts of America in North Brunswick, New Jersey. Harvey L. Price, chief scout executive, gave each scout a cloth patch depicting the national office as he welcomed them on behalf of U.S. scouting.

Most of the Israeli scouts are travelling in one of three caravans--Northeast, South and West--each visiting about 15 communities and scout camps. There are five girls and five boys in each caravan. When the scouts arrive in a city or town, they are received by the local Jewish community there and are guests at the homes of American scouts. There are more hosts than scouts because so many people want to host, according to Harry Lasker, national director of Jewish relationships for the Boy Scouts of America.

In each city or town they visit, the scouts perform Israeli songs and dances at the community center, a synagogue, or school. The next day the Israelis go to a scout camp in the area where they repeat their song and dance performance. Here they exchange ideas with American scouts, who are "very enthusiastic" about the program, according to Lasker. He said that some cities, such as Phoenix and Minneapolis want the scouts to return every year and that some communities contribute toward expenses. Israeli scouts have visited the U.S. for the past seven years, according to Lasker.

The scouts, 16 and 17 years old, were selected for "qualities of leadership, scout spirit and character," according to the national office of the Boy Scouts of America. "They are ambassadors of good will, promoting friendship between American and Israeli scouts," said Lasker.

REMINDER: There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated July 4 due to legal holiday.