

60th JTA daily news bulletin

Contents/copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency/ 165 West 46th Street/ New York, New York 10036

Vol. XLIV - 60th Year

Wednesday, August 10, 1977

No. 152

VANCE, ISRAELIS GET DOWN TO BUSINESS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Aug. 9 (JTA)—Secretary of State Cyrus Vance arrived here from Saudi Arabia today and was immediately rushed to Jerusalem where he began what was expected to be hard bargaining with Premier Menachem Begin and other Israeli leaders. (See related story)

Both Vance and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who greeted him at Ben Gurion Airport, alluded to the differences that have emerged between Israel and the United States over the possibility of Palestine Liberation Organization participation in Middle East negotiations, but both stressed the friendship between the two countries.

"I hope we shall have friendly, frank and constructive discussions," Dayan said to Vance in the welcoming ceremony in sweltering heat. "We appreciate your efforts and your country's efforts for seeking peace in the area." Dayan stressed that "there is a general desire in Israel for peace and a sense of responsibility for the fate of our country." Then, with a smile, Dayan concluded by quipping: "I assure you that when you accept our views, we shall be in agreement with one another."

Vance, in his response, said that his visit to Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia convinced him "that there is a desire for peace in those countries." He said "it is the intention" of his talks with the Israeli leaders "to accelerate the process toward peace talks."

"I am aware that there may be some difficulties between us," Vance noted. "We shall be able to overcome these. President Carter deeply desires to see a just and lasting peace in the area" and efforts made toward achieving that goal. "We are aware that such a peace has to ensure the security of Israel, its strength and survival of values which Israel has always represented," the Secretary concluded. (See later story P. 3.)

ATMOSPHERE CLOUDED AS TALKS BEGIN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 9 (JTA)—"Tough talks"—this was the common expectation here as Secretary of State Cyrus Vance arrived for two days of negotiations with Premier Menachem Begin and his team. The atmosphere was clouded by what has widely been interpreted, both in the U.S. and here, as a shift in the direction of American peace-making manifested over the last day or two, with Washington now no longer seeking ways of keeping the Palestine Liberation Organization out of Geneva, but ways of bringing it in.

The statements by President Carter in Plains, Ga., that the PLO had hinted it might accept UN Security Council Resolution 242, and by the State Department spokesman in Saudi Arabia, that such acceptance would be tantamount to a renunciation of the "Palestine Covenant," were seen as parts of an orchestrated and deliberately timed U.S. effort to nudge Israel and the PLO closer together—and closer to Geneva.

It was an effort which, in the view of observers here, was bound to set Jerusalem and Washington on collision course. The collision, moreover, might well occur, it seemed, at the talks this week with Vance. For Israel—the present government as the

previous one—is firmly determined not to negotiate with the PLO even if the organization does announce a reserved acceptance of Resolution 242, as Carter is hoping.

Attitude Toward PLO Set

In the past, Israeli leaders tended to avoid having to spell this out. They would dodge "what-would-happen-if" questions, saying they were "hypothetical." One of former Premier Yitzhak Rabin's favorite aphorisms in this connection was: "If my grandmother had wheels she would be a bus."

But it was always clear that Israel would not be prepared to sit at the negotiating table with Yasser Arafat and his henchmen, even if they first paid lip service to the Resolution 242. This was the implicit meaning of the previous Cabinet's specific rejection of the "Yariv-Shemtov Formula," the formula devised by the dovish former ministers, Aharon Yariv and Victor Shemtov, proposing that Israel announce it would negotiate with any Palestinian group that recognized it, accepted 242 and desisted from terror.

The rejection of that formula is still the official government position. Premier Menachem Begin himself declared yesterday that PLO participation at Geneva was "out of the question... completely unacceptable."

Washington Intent On Pressing Israel

This is not, however, and never has been, the U.S. position. Washington has consistently conditioned its acceptance of the PLO as a negotiating partner on the PLO's acceptance of 242 and recognition of Israel. This American stance was enshrined in the "Memorandum of Agreement" concluded between Jerusalem and Washington at the time of the second Sinai agreement in September, 1975.

Plainly, Washington is now intent on pressing Israel to shift its own position on the PLO and fall in behind the American line. Vance is expected to apply persuasive pressure in this direction during the talks here whether or not the PLO actually comes through with its own acceptance of 242 as Carter hopes.

If the Secretary could elicit such a shift from Israel, that in itself would be used by the U.S., Saudi Arabia and Egypt as additional ammunition with which to bombard the PLO into shifting its position, too, and recognizing 242.

But such a shift is unlikely, to say the least, and thus the specter of a clash with Washington grows larger while the hope of an early reconvening of the Geneva conference recedes. In this situation some observers here have raised the prospect—at present more as a speculation than a firmly-grounded assessment—that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will broach with Vance the possibility of resuming the process of interim agreements.

The Begin government is known to be moderate—perhaps more moderate than its predecessor—on the Sinai and the Golan Heights, and Dayan himself is believed to favor new interim pacts with both Egypt and Syria. Sources around Dayan do not discourage such speculation. Dayan,

after all, is depicted by them as the pragmatist, the man with the original mind, the man chosen by Begin specifically for the purpose of steering Israel away from seemingly hopeless deadlock, while at the same time not conceding its control over the West Bank.

U.S. REGRETS 'CHRISTENING' REPORTERS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9 (JTA)—Official U.S. regrets were expressed yesterday that all American reporters traveling with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance were identified as Christians on their hotel registration forms in Saudi Arabia.

According to reports received here, a U.S. official explained in Taif, Saudi Arabia, where Vance was meeting Saudi officials, that he filled out the registration forms to save the reporters' time. He said he gave no thought to any religious matter. Saudi Arabia has long been biased against Jews entering their country although it has made exceptions, notably Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and the news-men accompanying him.

Some of the reporters in the Vance party were Jewish. At least three of them changed the religious identification on the forms to reflect that fact. Hodding Carter, Vance's press assistant, said that the completion in advance of the hotel forms "is a mistake which we sincerely regret." He said "The action does not reflect either Embassy or U.S. government policy."

DULZIN: JEWISH AGENCY MUST BE READY FOR UNEXPECTED LIBERALIZATION IN SOVIET, SYRIAN EMIGRATION POLICIES

JERUSALEM, Aug. 9 (JTA)—Jewish Agency Treasurer Leon Dulzin told United Jewish Appeal leaders in Houston, Texas Sunday that the Agency cannot risk being unprepared for any unexpected liberalization in Soviet or Syrian emigration policies.

Speaking from Jerusalem in a live telephone hook-up to the UJA's Southwest Region Leadership Institute, Dulzin said that although only 20,000 immigrants are expected in 1977-78, the Jewish Agency must be prepared with the necessary infrastructure and budget to support 30,000 to 35,000 immigrants should the current curbs on emigration from the Soviet Union and Syria be abandoned.

In any case, providing the new immigrants with housing, employment and support services requires advance planning and cannot be left until the immigrants arrive, Dulzin explained. "With immigration we always have to be prepared for more," he said. "Immigration is an unknown. . . . We're fighting to get our Soviet brothers out. Right now, they're only letting out 1200 to 1300 a month."

On Syrian Jews, Dulzin said: "Hopefully, if peace negotiations advance, this issue will be one of our major conditions. . . . that they will be allowed to go. . . and, hopefully, they will come to Israel."

CONGRESSMEN PROTEST PROJECTED U.S. ARMS SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9 (JTA)—The Carter Administration's projected billion dollar sale of 60 F-15 warplanes and related equipment to Saudi Arabia drew a strong protest to the President today from two Congressmen who said the transfer of this "most advanced jet fighter" would threaten the "fragile balance of power" in the Middle East.

The planes, manufactured by McDonnell-Douglas, cost \$14.6 million each. They are twin-engined planes that carry four missiles. Israel is to get 25 of the aircraft, Congressional sources said, and Canada, Australia, Japan and West Germany are also seeking to buy them.

Reps. Robert F. Drinan (D.Mass.) and Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D.N.Y.) said in their letter to President

Carter that the "Eagles," as the aircraft are called, "can only serve to de-stabilize the military balance, escalate the regional arms race and violate the principles of the President's new policy to restrain arms sales."

"We fear that should another round of fighting occur in the Middle East," the Congressmen wrote the President, "Saudi Arabia might not be able to resist the pressure to become involved. We are aware Saudi Arabia has not violated transfer agreements on U.S. purchased arms during previous Arab-Israeli wars, but it is important to point out that it did not have such a formidable arsenal in the past. There today exists, as never before, the distinct possibility Saudi Arabia could use its sophisticated weapons directly against Israel or loan them to another Arab power."

No Opposition Seen To Egypt Deal

In another Middle East arms project, Congressional sources said they did not expect opposition to the Carter Administration's intention to sell Egypt 12 pilotless reconnaissance aircraft for about \$30 million. The Administration has notified Congress that the planes, known as "Drones," will be equipped with cameras that Egypt could use to photograph Israeli military deployment.

A question the Congressional committees may ask is whether these Egyptian "Drones" could be turned into cruise missiles by putting explosives rather than photographic equipment in them. The Drones are built by Teledyne Ryan of San Diego, Calif. They can fly a pre-set pattern guided by radio signals from the ground or from a piloted airplane.

EBAN SEES NO CHANGE IN PLO POLICY

NEW YORK, Aug. 9 (JTA)—Former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban believes that "there has been no change in the PLO's policy towards Israel." He further told an Israel Bonds shoe industry reception last night at the Essex House that "I have nothing to indicate that they (the PLO) will accept UN Resolution 242."

He termed this year "crucial for peace negotiations" and expressed "cautious optimism" regarding the present mission by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. Addressing himself to possible future American pressure on Israel, Eban said, "We all understand that negotiations mean compromise. We want to get the best deal that we can and not to have this bargained in advance."

Eban emphasized "if the Arabs can get all they want in Washington, what do we have left for Geneva? We cannot return to the fragile conditions of '67. National suicide is not our obligation." He asked that "negotiations be free from pressure, even from our friends."

The reception honored Lionel M. Levey of Totowa, N.J., Shoetown Stores, and raised \$400,000 in the sale of Israel Bonds. The event was a preliminary function of the annual Israel Bonds shoe industry dinner-dance which will take place Nov. 6 at the Americana Hotel at which time Levey will receive Israel's Prime Minister's Medal.

NEW YORK (JTA)—Former physicist, Leonid Kovner, from the town of Gorky, has received permission to emigrate to Israel, according to reports reaching the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Kovner's parents, soon after his application to emigrate, were publicly rebuked. His mother was dismissed as a lecturer in Gorky University's radio faculty and his father was severely reprimanded for being without "public awareness."

ISRAEL IS STEADFAST IN OPPOSING PLO IN MIDEAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

By Uzi Benziman

JERUSALEM, Aug. 9 (JTA)—Israel remained adamant tonight against including the Palestine Liberation Organization in Middle East peace negotiations even if the PLO agreed to accept United Nations Security Council Resolution 242. This was stressed by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan at a press conference after a meeting this afternoon with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance who arrived here this morning from visits to five Arab countries.

"Even if the PLO does accept all of Resolution 242, even without reservations, it would not mean we would accept the PLO as a partner for Geneva negotiations," Dayan told the reporters. "At the moment we are not being asked to do that."

Dayan, who was asked repeatedly about the PLO's reported change on the UN resolution, refused to give any details of his meeting with Vance. He said he knew of no American move to get the PLO to change its attitude on Resolution 242. If the United States did propose bringing the PLO to Geneva, "we would oppose it," he said.

The Foreign Minister said he could not envision any circumstance in which Israel would accept the PLO. "We see no reason to negotiate with a party which is not a state and especially with the PLO which wants to destroy us," he said. Dayan reiterated Israel's position that no additional parties can be included in the Geneva conference without the approval of all the original parties. He said negotiations are between states and governments not groups.

Does Not See U.S.-Imposed Peace

Asked whether a tough stand by Israel might result in a crisis with the U.S., Dayan replied that while Israel would like to see "eye-to-eye" with the U.S. on every issue it does not mean there cannot be differences. He said these differences do not mean that the negotiations cannot begin since only Israel and the Arab countries can make peace.

Dayan said that on the issues the U.S. will not support Israel, the Jewish State will go it alone. He said Israel is a "free country" and is ready to make compromises and listen to the Arab claims. "I do not believe the United States will impose a peace."

Outlines Settlement Positions

In addition to opposition to the PLO, Dayan outlined Israel's other positions on a settlement which he stressed were not preconditions but only a starting point which could change during the negotiations. He said these are:

Israel does not want to negotiate with a single Arab delegation but wants to establish peace with each of its Arab neighbors; Israel wants a full peace agreement not interim accords; Israel will not withdraw to the 1967 borders; Israel rejects the idea of a Palestinian state on the West Bank; Israel is ready to withdraw from parts of the Sinai as part of a peace agreement, and Israel rejects any foreign administration including Jordanian on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Following his meeting with Dayan, Vance was scheduled to meet with Premier Menachem Begin tonight.

SOME VIETNAMESE PLANNING TO LEAVE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 9 (JTA)—Eleven of the 66 Vietnamese refugees given asylum by Israel are

planning to leave soon to settle in Iran, Uzi Narkiss, the head of the World Zionist Organization immigration department, reported to the WZO Executive yesterday. Narkiss said the Vietnamese were living and studying Hebrew at the absorption center at Ofakim, near Beersheba.

He noted that the group was divided into three units, one Christian and two different Buddhist sects. The religious differences were apparently the cause of the disputes which had broken out within the group, Narkiss observed.

FUNERAL SERVICE AND BURIAL OF LEON BENZAQUEN ATTENDED BY OFFICIALS OF THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Aug. 9 (JTA)—Seven Moroccan ministers as well as a personal representative of the King yesterday attended the funeral service and the burial in Casablanca of Morocco's first Jewish Cabinet Minister, Dr. Leon Benzaquen. The ministers and the King's representative, Royal Advisor Ahmed Bensouda, came from the capital, Rabat, to Casablanca to honor the Jewish doctor who served as Cabinet Minister in two Moroccan governments and who, until his death Sunday at 76, was the Jewish community's "elder statesman."

Benzaquen, a lung disease specialist, was asked by the Moroccan Istiklal Party to become a member of its delegation to the talks with France held in Aix les Bains in 1955, which paved the way to Morocco's independence. After the country's independence and the return of King Mohammed V from exile in December, 1955, Benzaquen was appointed Postmaster General. He was reappointed to a ministerial post the following year and left the government three years later to devote himself to his medical practice.

Benzaquen remained, even after he left the government, a close advisor to King Mohammed V and to his son, Hassan II. He was also active in communal affairs, believing that the Jews can and should play an important role in Morocco's political, economic and social life.

The government went out of its way to honor the late Jewish doctor. A Moroccan spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the official funeral was organized "to honor the man but also to show that Jews and Arabs can live like brothers united by a common purpose."

Ready To Help In Mideast Talks

The Moroccan government last week said it was ready to help organize talks between Israel and the Palestinians on its soil. The Morocco press said these talks could be held in Casablanca "where Jews and Arabs have lived together in peace and understanding for over a thousand years."

The press also recalled the King's "invitation" to Morocco's Jews who have emigrated to "return to their former homes." King Hassan issued this invitation to "return" last year and reiterated it again this spring. Several Israelis of Moroccan origin, including former Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Andre Chouraqui, visited Morocco this year at the King's invitation.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—More than six thousand young Israelis are taking part in week or fortnight-long summer camps at five Jewish National Fund forest sites around the country. The main activities at these camps include trips in the surrounding countryside with lectures on its history and geography, study-days on aspects of Zionism, and forestry work including pruning and thinning-out of trees.

