

FRANCE PLANNING TO SCUTTLE 242

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Aug. 15 (JTA)—France is reportedly planning to submit a new United Nations resolution which will include the text of Resolution 242 but will also mention "the rights of the Palestinian nation." The French government, diplomatic sources say, hopes that this resolution would provide a solution to the Arab-Israeli feud over Palestinian representation at a reconvened Geneva conference.

French sources say France would like to obtain West European backing for such a move and has already contacted the other eight European Economic Community (EEC) member states. No replies have as yet been obtained, these sources say, and France intends to have the matter discussed in depth at the forthcoming meeting of the political directors of the nine foreign ministries. The nine are due to hold one of their regular sessions before the end of the month.

The resolution which France plans to submit, aims, French sources here say, to provide for Israeli assurances, Palestinian recognition of Israel's existence while mentioning the "rights of the Palestinian nation." The French say the Palestine Liberation Organization would recognize Israel if some of their demands, such as recognition of their rights, would be met.

Basis For French Move

The French are trying to convince their EEC partners that it is preferable for Western Europe to take the initiative and submit the resolution than to have it presented by the Soviet Union and be vetoed by the United States. The French also believe Western Europe, because of its geographic position and economic interests, has a role to play in the search for a Middle East solution.

French official spokesmen, when questioned on this reported diplomatic initiative, have refused to comment besides recalling that the nine EEC foreign ministers agreed after their last meeting in London to "resume examining the Middle East situation" at a future meeting. The state-controlled radio and television last night mentioned such a French initiative as "likely," in view of France's interests in the area, its known stand and its special responsibilities as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Should France go ahead with its plan, its relations with Israel are certain to suffer. A new, and probably more serious crisis would be precipitated and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's expected trip to Paris would become unlikely. Israel would certainly view such an initiative as an unfriendly and unwarranted act further aggravated by France's attempt to rally the rest of Western Europe around it. Coming on top of the French government's decision July 24 to cancel its own anti-boycott law, the planned initiative would deal a serious blow to Franco-Israeli ties.

BEGIN, ALLON CLASH IN KNESSET DEBATE ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15 (JTA)—Premier Menachem Begin and former Foreign Minister Yigal

Allon clashed today in a short, but lively, debate over what type of consensus there is in Israel on the Palestinian question.

Begin said the opposition Labor Alignment agreed with the government that Israel should not negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization nor approve a Palestinian state on the West Bank, so there was no need for today's special Knesset session which the alignment had requested. Allon agreed there was a consensus on this but said the government refused to consider any positive solution to the problem, such as in the context of Jordan, and thus could not claim to represent a national consensus.

The Premier launched the debate by urging the Labor Alignment to give its support to the government if and when it is faced with a demand to accept the PLO in the peace process. "There is a national consensus rejecting this demand," Begin declared. A "responsible opposition" should therefore back the government over so central and crucial an issue, he said.

"But if you do not, we shall continue on our course regardless," Begin told the Laborite MKs on the special debate on the government's handling of the visit by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance last week. "The people gave us its mandate on May 17 to pursue our policies according to our beliefs, and rejected your policies," Begin said.

Still No To PLO

The Premier stressed, as he had during the Vance visit, that Israel had not been asked by the U.S. to accept the PLO as a negotiating partner. "But if we are, we shall reply, politely but firmly, no," he declared. "Nor do you think we ought to answer otherwise," The Premier said to the Labor MKs. "Why, then, have you called this special session of the House?"

Allon declared that Begin was "sidestepping the issue" and misstating the nature of the "national consensus." There was a consensus, he said, against talking to the PLO and against a Palestinian state on the West Bank. He said Begin and his government refused to consider a positive solution of the Palestinian question in the context of Jordan, and thus could not claim to represent the national consensus.

Begin retorted that the previous governments had tried and failed for 10 years to persuade the U.S. of the virtues of its unofficially endorsed "Allon Plan" for a West Bank settlement—"and now you want me to go to Washington and argue for that same policy. Well, we have our own policy.... The people expressed their non-confidence in your policy."

Charges Begin Ducked Issues

Allon replied: "You didn't even argue (with President Carter) over your policy. You ducked a dialogue, dodged a frank discussion of the issues with the U.S. President, achieved momentary rapport at the cost of long-term disharmony."

Allon had warned earlier, in calling for the special session, that as a result of the government's policy Israel might find itself totally isolated at Geneva, without having sought prior coordination of its positions with Washington, while the U.S.,

the Soviet Union and the Arabs would all be "co-ordinated" against Israel. He cited Carter's interviews with Time magazine last week and with ABC-TV yesterday to corroborate his implicit claim that the U.S. was sliding away from Israel. (See separate story on Carter and ABC-TV interview.)

Insists Issues Were Discussed

Begin insisted that he had discussed both the procedure and the substance of Mideast peacemaking with Carter and had not sought to hide the differences of opinion which certainly did exist. But, he noted, these differences had mostly existed under the Labor government too.

The Premier spoke of a "document" which he had read and which contained a report of the Rabin-Carter conversation last March in Washington. In this, Begin said, Carter called for PLO participation in the peace process, for a Palestinian homeland and for Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 lines.

He noted that former Premier Yitzhak Rabin had for a month after not divulged the document even to then Defense Minister Shimon Peres and Allon, and never to the Cabinet or the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. "I request you to disclose the document now to the committee," Rabin shouted from his seat. Begin replied, "I will. But this story attests to the nature of relationships within the old government." It also attested, said Begin, to the fact that the old government sought to cover up the deep divisions that existed between it and Washington and to falsely claim that such differences as existed were the results of the new government's policy.

CARTER SEEKING POPULAR, CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR HIS COURSE IN THE MIDEAST

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 (JTA)—President Carter has apparently embarked on a face-to-face dialogue with the American people to win popular support and bi-partisan political backing in Congress for his course of action in the Middle East. In rejecting the advice of Congressional leaders in his own party as well as among Republicans, the President also appeared to be going back on a previous pledge that his Administration would eschew public remarks on the political process.

The President made this pledge shortly before Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance began his ill-fated Middle East trip two weeks ago. At that time, a storm had broken on the President's blueprinting of conditions for a Mideast settlement and he decided to put a lid on official U.S. talk.

However, after it was apparent, following the early stage of Vance's trip, that the Arabs would accept neither a true peace with Israel nor a Geneva conference without the Palestine Liberation Organization, Carter himself, in Plains, Ga. and Vance in Saudi Arabia publicly sought to bring the terrorist PLO into the Geneva conference by leaning toward Arab terms and in opposition to Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's government's refusal to deal with the terrorists.

Carter To Meet Foreign Ministers

Following Vance's report to the President yesterday, a White House statement said the President and Vance: "remained determined to do all that is possible" to bring peace in the Middle East and that "with the approval of all concerned, the U.S. will use its influence, offer its advice and work to bring the parties into fruitful negotiations."

The statement said that both Vance and Carter

will meet the foreign ministers of Israel and the Arab states next month and will also "stay in close touch with the Soviet Union," the co-chairman along with the U.S. of the Geneva conference.

The announcement that Carter would also meet with the foreign ministers indicated the President's personal involvement in the proceedings to assure some peace progress will be made. This is part of his oft-stated view that a solution to the Mideast conflict must take place with due speed. Nevertheless, the announcement of his involvement in the foreign ministers' talks is a new element in the proceedings since until now the talks were due to be held between Vance and each of the foreign ministers separately.

Tenacious About Achieving Peace

Carter made clear his intention to campaign for public support in an interview with ABC-TV reporters in Plains on Aug. 9 which was broadcast last night. On Aug. 9, the Vance mission was already seen as a failure and the President and Vance both publicly sought to induce the PLO to join a Geneva conference by agreeing to accept United Nations Security Council Resolution 242. Previously, the U.S. had demanded that the PLO alter its charter calling for the destruction of Israel. But this proviso was dropped.

In the ABC interview, the text of which was released by the White House, Carter said "We are going to continue to try in a very determined and tenacious way" to achieve a Middle East settlement "and I am going to continue to go public with the American position."

The President's comments were made as he defended his Administration's policy of letting the American people "know the facts" on foreign policy issues, including the Middle East. "It is best for the American people to know why we have not had a Middle Eastern settlement in 30 years or maybe 2000 years," Carter said. He said the American public should not only know the American position, but understand the differences between the various sides in the Middle East dispute.

The Road Ahead

Harry Reasoner, one of the interviewers, pointed out that "a number of Israeli leaders in private say that you have made drastic changes in America's attitude toward Israel and that they regard you with considerable trepidation." He asked the President if there is "justification" for this view.

"Yes, I am aware of that feeling and also many other feelings," Carter replied. "There's no single attitude among all Jews in the world or all Israeli citizens."

"To the extent that Israeli leaders genuinely want a peace settlement I think that they have to agree that there will be an acceptance of genuine peace on the part of the Arabs, an adjustment of boundaries in the Middle East which are secure for the Israelis and also satisfy the minimum requirements of the Arab neighbors and the United Nations resolutions and some solution to the question of the enormous number of Palestinian refugees who have been forced out of their homes and who want to have some fair treatment."

"I think world opinion is very powerful on disputing nations when there is a consensus on what ought to be done," the President said in another passage. "Quite often for domestic political consumption there is an adamance, very disputive and antagonistic attitude taken on the part of some

leaders. But we are willing to accept this consequence." The President said "We face some tough decisions in the future that is going to require bi-partisan support," including "Middle East" questions.

BEGIN: NO POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO GOVERNMENT'S EQUALIZATION POLICY By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15 (JTA)—Premier Menachem Begin said today there was no political significance to the Cabinet's declaration yesterday to equalize services for inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Speaking to newsmen at Ben Gurion Airport where he said farewell to the visiting Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Begin denied that it was the first step in the annexation of the West Bank, adding quickly that he had said in the past those territories need not be annexed. (The Likud policy is that no legal annexation is needed, in that Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip are an integral part of Eretz Yisrael.)

Begin described the decision as purely humanitarian and he therefore did not expect any negative American reaction. "What did we do wrong?" he asked. "Every man should praise this decision."

Whether or not the motives of the new policy are political, the reactions certainly are—both among Jews and Arabs. A Palestine Liberation Organization spokesman was quoted as saying that the government decision to extend the same services to West Bank and Gaza Strip inhabitants as Israelis receive was "but one more step toward annexation." He added that it proved Israel's intention to move toward a fifth Israeli-Arab war.

Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawa also condemned the decision, describing it as a rejection of Palestinian rights and a move toward annexation. But Hebron Mayor Fahed Kawasme was more cautious in his reaction. He said it was a positive decision, "if it really intended to improve services provided to West Bank and Gaza inhabitants. However, he added, if the intention was annexation, then it needed to be rejected.

Sharp Opposition From Labor

The sharpest comments came from the opposition. Labor Alignment Knesseter Yossi Sarid demanded that the Alignment Knesset faction initiate an extraordinary recess Knesset session on the subject. Sarid asked party leader Shimon Peres to initiate such a move, saying the government decision "had the bad smell of annexation, without saying so in so many words." He said an equalization of services could not be implemented in practice, but Israel could have plenty of political troubles.

Former Health Minister Victor Shemtov said the decision was "dangerous both in content and timing." He said the decision was a "political declaration amounting to a policy of de facto annexation of the administered territories in preparation for the annexation of the administered territories on a de jure basis." Shemtov said that since the 1967 Six-Day War, the government has provided the residents of the occupied territories with excellent health services, and it was only in the propaganda of the PLO that these services were described as inadequate.

Yediot Achronot ran a cartoon showing Begin chasing an Arab with a large package labeled "services," and the Arab running away yelling "help." If the Labor Alignment decided to initiate a recess session of the Knesset on this subject, it

will most probably have the support of the second largest opposition party, the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC). Thus, the issue is most likely to be the subject of a heated internal political debate.

CHURCH AGREES WITH CARTER ON ROLE FOR PLO AT GENEVA CONFERENCE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 (JTA)—Sen. Frank Church of Idaho, the second ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, agrees with President Carter that the Palestine Liberation Organization should be a party in a Geneva conference when it recognizes Israel's "right to exist" but he said a U.S. threat to reduce aid to Israel would have "a disastrous result."

Church, appearing yesterday on ABC-TV "Issues and Answers," following his trip to Cuba where he sought to mend Cuban-American relations, also criticized the Carter Administration for its public pronouncements on the Middle East and urged it to cease "public statements" and act "privately" to influence the course of Middle East events.

Asked whether the "totally unyielding position by the Israeli government disturbs you as an old Israeli supporter in the Senate," Church said: "Of course I am disturbed about it. But I am not prepared to say at this point that we will fail in our effort to bring Israel and the Arab countries to the negotiating table. I think that ought to be the American role and that we should leave the negotiations to the parties and not attempt prior to the negotiations to write the blueprint for a settlement. And there has been too much talk about what the settlement should consist of, I think, and this has been a further complicating factor."

Suggests Less Public Fanfare

Questioned about his reaction to the Carter Administration's suggestions that Israel should return almost all the occupied territories and be amenable to a Palestinian homeland, Church replied that the withdrawal and homeland "elements may necessarily be part of a final agreement, but I think it is better to discuss the details of the agreement, including those components, privately, that public discussion tends to harden positions on both sides and makes more difficult the very conference that we hope to set in motion."

"What would be the reaction of Israeli supporters in the Congress and in the Senate, including yourself," he was asked, "if the Carter Administration felt it was time to talk tough and act tough and to threaten a reduction in aid and take that course publicly."

"Oh, I think a public statement to that effect would have a disastrous result because it would immediately cause the Israelis to say 'never, never, never' and the hope that we have of bringing both parties together at Geneva would evaporate." Church added that "my position is with the President," when asked to state his view on the Begin government's reaction to the U.S. proposal that the PLO should be involved in the Geneva talks if it recognizes Israel's right to exist. The Senator did not elaborate on his answer.

LONDON (JTA)—An international conference on Jewish ceremonial art will take place at Oxford University Aug. 23-25. More than 70 scholars and collectors will attend the parley arranged by the Oxford Center for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies in conjunction with the Tarbut Foundation.

CARTER APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 (JTA)—President Carter announced today the appointment of William B. Schwartz of Atlanta, Ga. as U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas. The Atlanta-born Schwartz has been president of the Weine Investment Corporation, an Atlanta real estate firm, since 1969. He is also a member of the President's Council of Brandeis University.

In other actions, Carter has appointed two Jewish natives of Chattanooga, Tenn. to high offices in his Administration—Jay Solomon as administrator of the ailing U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and David Freeman as commissioner of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

Another recent Jewish appointee is former Democratic Representative Edward M. Mezvinsky of Iowa City, Iowa. He is U.S. Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Commission. Mezvinsky, born in Ames, Iowa in 1937, received his law degree from the University of California. He lost in his bid for re-election to a third term to the Congress last year. Mezvinsky was sworn in Aug. 4.

Solomon was chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the Arlen Shopping Centers Company, the country's largest shopping center development corporation. It owns and manages 184 centers along with residential complexes, office buildings and planned communities across the country. GSA, the federal government's business arm and the landlord of its office buildings, has more than 37,000 employees.

Solomon, a member of the Ochs Memorial Temple in Chattanooga, was president of that city's Jewish Welfare Federation in 1958 and 1959 and chairman of campaigns for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Committee. He is a national board member of both of those organizations. He was sworn in May 8.

Freeman, who holds a civil engineering degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a law degree from the University of Tennessee, worked as an engineer and as a lawyer for TVA before going on to serve the Federal Power Commission, the Senate Commerce Committee, the Ford Foundation, and as chief assistant to Dr. James Schlesinger, Secretary of Energy. Freeman, a member of the Bethesda Jewish Congregation in suburban Bethesda, Md., was sworn in last Thursday.

JOEL BRESLAU AND R. ALAN RUDY ELECTED TO THE JTA BOARD

NEW YORK, Aug. 15 (JTA)—William M. Landau, president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, has announced the election of Joel Breslau of Washington, D.C. and R. Alan Rudy of Houston to its Board of Directors.

Breslau is a national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and was recently named chairman of its Overseas Program committee. He is a vice-president of the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Greater Washington and founded its Young Leadership division. He is a member of the national council of the Joint Distribution Committee.

Rudy is president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston. He is a member of the UJA Executive Committee and former chairman of its Young Leadership Cabinet. He is president of Columbia Communities, Inc., a real estate firm in Houston.

In making the announcement, Landau stated that "the election of these two outstanding American Jewish leaders is further evidence of the im-

portant role JTA plays as the informational arm of the Jewish community."

RABBI RAPPED FOR MEETING WITH BEGIN ON LAW OF RETURN AMENDMENT

By Ben Gallab

NEW YORK, Aug. 15 (JTA)—Rabbi I. Usher Kirshblum, chairman of the Committee for the Preservation of Tradition and Diversity, a dissident group within the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis, said a telegram was being sent yesterday to Premier Menachem Begin, asserting that the Assembly "never authorized its president to combine forces with the Reform movement" to oppose amendment of Israel's Law of Return.

The reference was to the departure yesterday for Israel of Rabbi Stanley Robinowitz, RA president; Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, RA executive vice-president; Rabbi Ely Pflchik, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reform rabbinical association; and Rabbi Joseph Glaser, CCAR executive vice-president.

At the invitation of Begin, the four rabbinical officials will meet with the Premier in Jerusalem Wednesday in an effort to induce him to drop his personal commitment to the National Religious Party and the Agudath Israel bloc to seek in the Knesset to have the Law of Return amended in a way which would reject conversions by non-Orthodox rabbis.

The amendment would add the phrase "according to halacha" to the identification of Jews in the Law of Return as those either with a Jewish mother or those converted to Judaism. The Orthodox interpret that phrase as nullifying conversions performed by non-Orthodox rabbis.

The four rabbinical officials were members of a delegation which met with the Premier in New York during his July visit to this country in an effort to persuade him to drop his backing for the amendment. At that time, he invited them to meet with him in Israel for further discussion on the issue.

Kirshblum, of Kew Gardens Hills, N.Y., said the committee's cable to Begin also said that the committee supported adoption of the disputed amendment. The dissident committee was organized soon after the RA Committee on Law and Standards approved inclusion of women in a minyan at the option of member congregations, opposing that ruling. Kirshblum said the committee has 131 members.

AMERICAN MIZRACHI WOMEN UNVEIL PLAN TO BUILD NURSERY SCHOOL IN ISRAEL

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 15 (JTA)—The American Mizrahi Women at its 52nd national convention here last week unveiled plans for the construction in Jerusalem of a new residential nursery school for children from problem homes. The school, located at Gilo, a new residential area under construction in Jerusalem, will also include a day-care center for children of immigrants and working parents.

The project, known as HaYeled/Youth Haven, was announced by Mrs. Sarah Shane of Baltimore, who was re-elected as the organization's president. The 250 delegates to the convention pledged some \$500,000 to the new project. Mrs. Shane said that Israel is coping with the most urgent defense and foreign policy problems. "Thus it is the task of American volunteer organizations such as AMW to come to the aid of Israel's underprivileged."