

PLAN FOR NEW SETTLEMENTS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1 (JTA)--A new plan for settlements on the West Bank is being proposed by Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, head of the ministerial settlement committee, which would establish urban and agricultural settlements to prevent the existing Arab population centers from spreading in such a way that they would become security risks for Israel.

The plan, reportedly in the final stages of preparation, would increase the Jewish population around Jerusalem; establish a network of Jewish settlements west of the Arab population centers of Nablus, Jenin and Ramallah and build a series of roads from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River.

According to the proposal which was revealed by Maariv today, there will be three new Jewish urban centers in the Jerusalem region, at Givon, west of the capital, Maaleh Adumim east of the city, and Efrath to the south. This will become a civilian defense line for Jerusalem. In Samaria, an eastern strip of Jewish settlements will be built in a region where few Arabs live to provide a continuation of Jewish settlements from the coast.

The plan calls for an east-west road from the sea to the Jordan River in the southern Samaria region along which will be established industrial centers, army installations and civilian settlements. There will be two north-south roads from Meggido to Latrun and from Afula to Arad, both of which will pass through Samaria. There are also plans for a series of settlements south of Hebron that will use the Kiryat Arba settlement as its urban center.

No Withdrawal From The Golan

Meanwhile, at a ceremony on the Golan Heights today marking the 10th anniversary of Jewish settlements there, Sharon said that the Syrian conquest of Lebanon, through United States aid, had totally worsened the situation for Israel in the north. He said there can be no withdrawal from the Golan. Sharon told the large rally at Merom Haganon that Israel must set up a target to settle two million Jews during the next 20 years in a strip from the Golan Heights to Sharm el-Sheikh.

Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur told the settlers that the Israeli army had been partners with them in creating the settlements. He said security was never the central consideration in the fulfillment of Zionism. He said the settlements do not create security problems since settlements are the policy while defense is only the means of securing that policy.

Israel Galili, who headed the ministerial settlement committee under the Labor government, said the Golan settlements were not established to be torn down. The settlements, he asserted, cannot be given up.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

CARTER ASSURES JEWISH LEADERS U.S. POSITION ON THE PLO REMAINS UNCHANGED

NEW YORK, Sept. 1 (JTA)--President Carter has assured Jewish leaders that the American position regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization remains unchanged, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency

learned today.

Carter issued this reassurance in a handwritten letter to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. The President's letter, which the JTA obtained from independent sources, was dated Aug. 26, the same day that Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference, and Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Conference, gave Carter a letter during a brief meeting at the White House which expressed "deep apprehension" by Jewish leaders that the President was weakening the U.S. stand on the PLO. (See Daily News Bulletin dated Aug. 30.)

In his letter to the Presidents Conference, which the organization received yesterday, Carter stated: "I appreciate your letter of this date (Aug. 26). I assure you that our position regarding the PLO is consistent with commitments previously made voluntarily to the Israeli government, with private and public statements made to present leaders in the Middle East and with my own personal beliefs and hope for permanent peace."

Commenting on the letter, Hellman said it was reassuring and shows the importance the President attaches to the issue. The letter which was presented to Carter was signed by Schindler on behalf of the Presidents Conference and conveyed the feelings of the leaders of the Conference's constituent bodies. The letter was drafted following a meeting of the Conference last Thursday evening. The meeting between Carter and Schindler and Hellman was arranged last Friday morning for that afternoon. At the time Carter promised that he would give the letter his fullest consideration.

KNESSET ADOPTS RESOLUTION BY VOTE OF 92-4 WITH 6 ABSTENTIONS OPPOSING ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH PLO

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 1 (JTA)--The Knesset adopted by a near unanimous vote today a resolution putting it on record against negotiating with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Although the resolution was introduced by the Democratic Movement for Change, it achieved what Premier Menachem Begin has been seeking—a consensus statement of the government and the major opposition parties against the PLO.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 92 in favor—the Likud coalition, the Labor Party, the DMC, the Independent Liberal Party and Samuel Flatto-Sharon. Four members of the Communist Democratic Front cast the only negative ballots. There were six abstentions, four Mapam MKs and the two Sheli representatives. A stronger Likud-sponsored resolution was also adopted but only by a vote of 57-4 with 40 abstentions.

The DMC resolution said: "The so-called PLO aspires openly, and according to its covenant, for the destruction of the State of Israel. The murder of innocent civilians is part of the ideology of that organization which it implements in practice. This organization is not a partner for negotiations with the State of Israel in any peace negotiations in the Mideast."

Earlier, Begin described the PLO as a murderous organization which practices genocide and

the worst such group since the Nazi era. "Enough with hypothetical questions such as--what if the PLO decides so and so?" Begin declared in an obvious reference to the American efforts to have the PLO recognize United Nations Security Resolution 242. "Recent resolutions by this organization prove time and again that there is no change on its part." He said rejecting the PLO and its scheme to establish a Palestinian state was the "positive way to peace."

A large part of Begin's speech was devoted to his recent five-day trip to Rumania. Referring to the verbal clash between him and Rumanian Premier Manea Manescu over recognizing the PLO and Israeli territorial withdrawals, Begin said that he stressed "in a Communist capital" (Bucharest) that the Soviet Union and Poland hold certain territory "justly" as a result of Nazi aggression in World War II.

When Communist MK Tawfik Toubi said the Palestinian people are not Nazis, Begin responded that the Six-Day War was a defensive war against genocide.

The vote on the DMC resolution came after a seven-hour debate on foreign affairs called by the government. Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan surprised the Knesset when he said that if the Arabs would suggest a partition of the West Bank, Israel would consider it. "The only thing is the Arabs are not suggesting it." Labor Alignment leader Shimon Peres retorted that this was not a new Likud policy since Likud repeatedly stated it would never consent to any "foreign rule" on the West Bank.

GUSH EMUNIM TO ESTABLISH 12 NEW WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS BY SUMMER'S END WITH OR WITHOUT GOVERNMENT HELP By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Sept. 1 (JTA)--Leaders of the Gush Emunim expressed disappointment today that the Likud-led government has failed to implement its promises, which Likud leaders made during the national election last May, to fully settle the areas of Judaea and Samaria. In a press conference here, Gush leaders said that "by the end of the summer, 12 new settlements in Judaea and Samaria are scheduled to be established."

This statement was seen here as a warning to the government that unless it acts to fulfill its election campaign promises, the ultra-nationalist group would go ahead on its own, but that this action would be justified by the Gush on the basis of implied government policy.

The Gush leaders noted at the press conference that while the organization will not act against the government they will go ahead with their plans because the government has already stated that no Jewish settlements in Eretz Yisrael are illegal. They noted that the government stand on this issue is tantamount to a go-ahead signal for further settlement moves.

Basis For The Move

Gershon Shafat, one of the Gush leaders at the press conference, stressed that there is "no settlement without agreement by the government. But every settlement (so far) has been allowed by the government in its plans (for Judaea and Samaria) and we are part of the government plans." Hanan Porat, leader of the Gush Emunim, said the delay in the group's move to establish more settlements is due to the need to make certain preparations and to coordinate the establishing of the settlements with the government.

Asked if the Gush would act against the gov-

ernment if it should decide against legalizing any new settlements, Porat said that it might become necessary to go ahead with its plans without waiting for government assistance. "There is no doubt that after we settle, government assistance would follow." He was referring to the fact that while the government may not prevent physically the Gush from settling it might withhold economic aid to make the settlements solvent and viable.

Porat, rejecting the view that this was a warning, declared: "We, the Gush, want to work in full cooperation with the government. However, since the government shows signs of hesitation, we would settle ourselves and then apply for government aid. Our settling is neither illegal nor against the government since we interpret the government statement about the right of any Jew to settle in Eretz Yisrael as a clear statement that new settlements are by no means illegal."

DEPORTATION LEGISLATION PENDING

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1 (JTA)--Sen. Richard Stone (D.Fla.) will submit legislation in the near future to enable the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to deport individuals when there is substantial evidence that they committed war crimes under the Nazis, his office said today.

The Stone bill would add such criminals to those who can be deported. A similar measure has been introduced in the House by Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D.N.Y.) and has been endorsed by INS Commissioner Lionel Castillo. The INS is investigating 109 cases involving Nazi war crimes.

Since the expiration of the Displaced Persons Act of 1953, "immigrants are no longer questioned" about their activities during World War II, according to a statement from Stone's office. "The Carter Administration has shown a determination to seek out Nazi war criminals who have tried to conceal atrocities they committed," Stone said. "Congressional action is needed if INS is to follow through on these cases and bring the individuals to trial in Europe."

VOA WILL AVOID CONTACT WITH THE PLO By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1 (JTA)--The Voice of America "will definitely continue" to adhere to U.S. government policy forbidding official U.S. contact with the Palestine Liberation Organization, a spokesman for the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) said today. The spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "VOA policy" on handling news and commentaries will remain unchanged "because that is American government policy and not State Department policy alone."

The question of VOA relations with the PLO arose after a joint USIA-State Department statement outlined terms of a reorganization of U.S. information and cultural organizations, including the cultural affairs bureau maintained at the State Department. VOA, an arm of USIA, becomes a separate establishment under the reorganization outlined by President Carter.

The USIA spokesman said that VOA's new director, Pefer Straus, "supports that policy" of no VOA contacts with PLO individuals. Continuation of the policy, he said, will depend "of course on the Administration's attitude towards the PLO." At the State Department, a spokesman said that the Department always had provided "advice" to USIA on U.S. foreign policy so that the policy is "understood" at that agency and therefore a ban on PLO contacts remains in effect.

REPORT SHOWS CONTINUING FLOW OF ARMS INTO THE MIDEAST FROM THE WEST

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Sept. 1 (JTA)—With new weapons continuing to flow into the Middle East, mainly from Western nations, advanced aircraft, tanks and missiles, including battlefield surface-to-surface rockets, are now commonplace in the region.

The extent of the build-up emerges in a report by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, "The Military Balance 1977-1978." It shows that virtually every Middle East country signed a major arms agreement in the course of the 1976 and the beginning of 1977.

In two separate deals, Egypt is buying from France unspecified quantities of Crotale surface-to-air missiles (SAM) and two Agosta-class submarines. The SAMs are due to be delivered this year. Syria's arms agreements were with Austria, France and Italy. Austria is selling her 2000 trucks; France, 2000 Milan anti-tank guided weapons and a quantity of Gazelle helicopters; Italy is supplying six helicopters. Jordan will receive 14 batteries of improved Hawk SAMs from the United States as well as 100 Vulcan anti-aircraft guns.

Israel's six arms deals, all with the United States, were for 125 medium tanks, guns, self-propelled guns, Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, as well as 700 armored personnel carriers and 200 Tow anti-tank missiles.

Saudi Arabia will receive from the United States 2000 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, six batteries of improved Hawk anti-aircraft missiles and 400 Maverick missiles. Britain agreed to sell her 11 Strikemaster training aircraft.

Iran contracted the biggest number of separate arms deals in the year under review—no less than 12—with Britain supplying Rapier SAMs and Scorpio tanks; Italy, helicopters; and the United States a wide range of missiles, aircraft and helicopters.

Array Of Military Hardware

A separate section of the report shows the array of forces which Middle East countries deploy. Israel's medium tank force had reached 3000, compared with 2700 last year. They include 1000 Centurion tanks, 650 American-made tanks, as well as converted Soviet tanks and Israeli-developed Charlots. But there was only a slight increase in the number of combat aircraft—now put at 549.

Syria, which has doubled the size of her armed forces to 227,500 men in the past five years, has also increased her number of tanks to 2600, compared with 2000 in 1975. The Syrian navy has also taken possession of two Petya class frigates. No significant change was shown in her air force but some aircraft are believed to be in storage.

Egypt's arsenal, hampered by lack of substantial new supplies from the Soviet Union as well as spare parts difficulties, appears to have dwindled in some items, such as tanks—a decline of 750—while she waits for deliveries from the West. Nevertheless, Egypt's tank force still has 1930 heavy and light tanks.

Huge Budgets For Arms

All this build-up is reflected in the amount of money being devoted to defense by Middle East states, according to the report. Israel's expenditure in 1976 is put at \$4.27 billion out of an estimated Gross National Product of \$12.6 billion. Although this was a slight gross increase over last year, the proportion of the GNP spent on defense—35.3 percent—was considerably lower than the 40.8 percent

of the GNP in 1973.

Israel's defense burden is, however, at least partially offset by her emergence as an arms exporter as well as purchaser. The report noted that she is listed as a primary supplier to no less than five Latin American countries—Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

Egypt's defense expenditure in 1976 was \$4.36 billion. As a proportion of her GNP it had risen to 37 percent from 31 percent in 1973. This was the first time that the proportion of the GNP was greater than in Israel. Saudi Arabia's 1976 defense bill was given in the report as \$7.53 billion, compared with \$9 billion in 1975, \$6.7 billion in 1974 and \$1.8 billion in 1973.

CONCLAVE CALLS FOR LEGAL PROTECTION, PRESERVATION OF JEWISH LANDMARKS

NEW YORK, Sept. 1 (JTA)—An urgent call for the legal protection and landmark preservation of Jewish historical sites throughout the world was issued by the first International Conference on Jewish Art, held in Oxford, England last week. The conference, held at Oxford University, was sponsored jointly by the Oxford Center for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies and the Tarbut Foundation for the Advancement of Hebrew Culture in New York; it was announced here today by the Tarbut Foundation.

Addressing itself to all Jewish communities across the globe, the conference, in a resolution, urged immediate steps, wherever possible with the authorities concerned, to place sites of Jewish historical significance under governmental guardianship and to confer upon them all the prerogatives of assured permanence and safety. This pertains especially to synagogues and cemeteries that were left abandoned in the wake of the Holocaust and are now in jeopardy of total obliteration. The number of such sacred remnants of Jewish life goes into the thousands and, with them, untold Jewish artifacts and other historic memorabilia, the conference affirmed.

Another resolution of the conference projected the establishment of an international photo-archive for Jewish art, for which the Oxford Center will serve as a focal point of collection and conservation.

Scholars from Great Britain, the United States, France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Germany, Yugoslavia, Israel, and South Africa attended the three-day conference, at which prominent experts in the field presented a variety of papers featuring novel interpretations of outstanding Jewish art objects throughout the ages.

Dr. David Paterson of Oxford University and principal of its Center for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies, organized the conference and presided over its proceedings. The Tarbut Foundation was represented by Abraham Goodman, its president, and by Dr. Emil Lehman, executive vice-president.

TEL AVIV (JTA)—The steady deterioration of labor relations at El Al has reached a stage leading the carrier's board of directors to recommend a shutdown of the airline until conditions are created to ensure smooth handling of operations, it was disclosed Thursday. However, a ministerial committee appointed to deal with the El Al labor crisis decided not to close down the national aviation company. The entire issue is scheduled to be raised at the weekly Cabinet session Sunday.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES SOVIET 'DROP-OUTS' ASSESSED

By Maurice Samuelson.

LONDON, Sept. 1 (JTA)--Most of the 17,000 Soviet Jews who have immigrated to the United States rather than Israel nonetheless retain a favorable image of the Jewish State, and many have gone to the U.S. in order to be reunited with relatives already living there.

These are two of the central conclusions in an article in the journal, "Soviet Jewish Affairs," published here by the Institute of Jewish Affairs. Its findings help to nullify official Soviet propaganda claims that these people--the so-called "drop-outs," "noshrim" in Hebrew--invalidate the whole Jewish-Zionist emigration movement of recent years.

Although the article is based on interviews with immigrants in Detroit--they numbered 244 last year--this group is said to be representative of the 17,000 Soviet Jews who immigrated to the United States between 1971 and 1976 on visas permitting them to go to Israel.

Among those interviewed were 19 who arrived in the U.S. from Israel rather than immigrating direct to the U.S. from the Soviet Union. According to the author, Zvi Gitelman, associate professor of politics at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, these 19 had not developed a more negative image of Israel while there than the other "drop-outs."

The Reaction To Israel

They also see Israel as basically capitalist, not Socialist, and developed rather than under-developed. There is also a strong agreement among the immigrants that Israel is basically a peaceful state, indicating that they reject the Soviet portrayal of Israel as unremittingly aggressive.

A more surprising finding is that 70 percent consider Israel as a religious, not secular, state and for the great majority this is an undesirable characteristic. According to Gitelman, "This image may have been buttressed by reports from Soviet Jews in Israel who have encountered religious authorities in charge of marriage and divorce and conversion to Judaism."

But since so many of their other perceptions of Israel are positive, why did they not immigrate there? The largest proportion--42 percent--cited the fact that they wished to join relatives in the United States.

The more educated also emphasized that there were greater vocational and economic opportunities in America and some were attracted by America's power and standing in world affairs. The other side of the same coin are fears about war in the Middle East--cited by more than 15 percent as the reason for not going to Israel--and the Israeli climate. Others emphasized that the United States is a democratic country. "We were attracted not by religion but by freedom, that is, by the U.S.," one explained.

The commonest single main reason for emigrating from the Soviet Union was given as the wish to join relatives abroad. However, among subsidiary reasons, political alienation, anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish discrimination in education were mentioned the most frequently.

Tracing The 'Drop-Out' Growth

Tracing the growth in the number of "drop-outs" from Israeli-bound emigrants, the article shows that when the current Soviet emigration be-

gan in 1971 less than one percent of those leaving the USSR did not proceed to Israel. The same was true in 1972. But in 1973, 4.5 percent "dropped out" in Vienna and did not reach Israel.

In 1974, the "drop-outs" reached 18.7 percent; with 37 percent in 1975 and 49 percent in 1976. At the same time, there has been an overall decline in immigration to Israel. At least part of the "drop-out" phenomenon is explained by Gitelman in terms of the different kind of Soviet emigrant leaving the USSR after 1973 as compared with those in the preceding period.

The immigration to the U.S. has been largely from the Ukraine and the Belorussian Republic, in which Jewish culture and consciousness, and hence Zionist convictions, are weaker than from the western peripheries of the USSR and Soviet Asia (including Georgia) where Jewish consciousness is relatively high. The interviews which constituted the basis for the article were carried out by the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Michigan with the cooperation of the Jewish Family Service of Detroit.

RABBINICAL COUNCIL REJECTS CONVERSION THAT FAILS TO COMPLY WITH HALACHA

NEW YORK, Sept. 1 (JTA)--Rabbi Walter S. Wurzbarger, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, today rejected, "as a matter of principle," any conversion that fails to conform to halachic standards and affirmed that "we wholeheartedly support efforts to amend Israeli legislation so that only giyur k'halacha (conversions according to halacha) will be recognized."

However, Wurzbarger added that the Rabbinical Council "is ready and eager to cooperate with all our fellow Jews in a search for a formula which will achieve giyur k'halacha without endangering the unity and integrity of our people."

The rabbis' statement was in response to a proposal raised recently in Jerusalem to create in the U.S. a joint beit din of Orthodox, Reform and Conservative rabbis as a method to solve the controversy over conversions by non-Orthodox rabbis. The proposal followed a meeting in Jerusalem last month between American Conservative and Reform rabbis and lay leaders and Israeli government officials.

SACHA NACHT DEAD AT 76

PARIS, Sept. 1 (JTA)--Sacha Nacht, a former vice-president of the International Association of Psychoanalysis and considered a world authority on this subject, died here at the age of 76. Nacht, who was born in Rumania, studied medicine in France and worked with Sigmund Freud in Vienna in 1926. Many experts considered him to be Freud's successor.

Nacht established the French Institute of Psychoanalysis which he headed until his death. He served as director of one of France's largest psychiatric hospitals and published over a dozen scientific works. He was buried last Sunday in the Paris Jewish Cemetery.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--The Middle East Institute said Thursday that three Israelis and three West Bank Arabs will speak at separate panels at its 31st communal conference here Sept. 3 to Oct. 1 at the Mayflower Hotel in conjunction with the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

REMINDER: There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated Sept. 5 due to Labor Day, a postal holiday.