

U.S. SAYS IT HAS DRAFT PROPOSALS FROM ISRAEL TO SETTLE THE MIDEAST CONFLICT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7 (JTA)-- The United States acknowledged today that it has received proposals from Israel to settle the Middle East conflict and indicated its expectations that the Arab governments will submit drafts for discussion here and in New York beginning after the middle of this month.

State Department spokesman Hodding Carter said Israel's draft was transmitted "relatively recently" and that while none has yet come from the Arabs, "it is entirely possible" that they will be forthcoming. He said that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance had asked the Middle East nations to "give us their ideas on the whole range of negotiations."

With the Arab, Israeli and Soviet foreign ministers to meet with President Carter and Vance, beginning in the third week of September, the State Department spokesman cautioned that the proposals from the Middle East should not be considered "the entire pedestal" on which the U.S. effort for a settlement rests.

He said the U.S. will not offer again a set of proposals and that "specifics on what comes out of Geneva" or other peace negotiations are "up to the parties." He reiterated that the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 is the "fundamental base" for agreement and "we need no further step in the Security Council."

Maps Are Not Included

While the State Department declined to discuss the Israeli draft, Premier Menachem Begin said in an Israel Radio interview yesterday that "We submitted clear proposals according to the principles I presented in the private talks" he had with President Carter during his July visit to Washington. The draft, Begin stressed, does not contain maps. "The borders will be determined only in negotiations between us and our neighbors," he said. "We have informed the U.S. President of the principles which we support."

Begin went on to say that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will discuss "the principles" in Washington. "We know that the Secretary of State also asked for a prototype of a peace treaty from the Arab countries," Begin said. "They made no commitment to him they would furnish him with such a document and it is possible that the Arab countries will submit principles only. We will see this and know about this during the next two weeks," Begin said.

He disclosed that since his Washington visit he has received three messages from President Carter and he has sent the President two messages. He did not reveal any contents but said that prior to his visit to Rumania the President "wrote to me that we have established a close personal relationship."

ISRAEL READY TO WORK WITH JORDAN TO PREVENT SPREAD OF CHOLERA EPIDEMIC

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7 (JTA)--Israeli health authorities are prepared to cooperate with Jordanian authorities to prevent the spread of a cholera epidemic to the West Bank. One preventive measure has been to halt the import of fruits and vegetables over the Jordan River bridges. So far 60 cholera cases

have been reported in Jordan and 81 in Damascus where 46 persons have died of the disease so far.

A Health Ministry spokesman said Israel has not been declared a "cholera stricken area" and Israelis who have gone abroad will not require immunization. But there is concern for the West Bank. So far only one case has been reported there. A Nablus woman fell ill with cholera but her condition reportedly has improved.

TOWN UNITES WITH JEWISH COMMUNITY TO PROTEST CEMETERY DESECRATION

By Edwin Eytan

FRUENBERG, France, Sept. 7 (JTA)--The mayor, the local priest and the entire municipal council of this small city in the province of Alsace attended a special ceremony in the local Jewish cemetery to protest its recent desecration. Practically all the city's non-Jewish inhabitants, several hundred people, gave up Sunday sports and picnics to express their support to the Jewish community.

Two young boys, both now under arrest, broke into the cemetery last June and overturned some 60 tombstones. Rapidly identified, they could offer no explanation to the police for their vandalism besides saying they had felt "an urge."

The city's demonstration was organized by the mayor as an act of solidarity with the half-dozen Jewish families who still live here. The rabbi of the neighboring city of Sarreguemines, Ephraim Rozen, and the president of the Moselle area consistory, Rene Levy, attended the ceremony.

The Jewish community of Fruenberg used to number several hundred families from the 15th to the 18th century, when the cemetery was used. For several generations now, there have been only a half-dozen Jewish families living in the city.

KATZIR: 5738 WILL BE A DECISIVE YEAR IN THE ANNALS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7 (JTA)--President Ephraim Katzir said in a Rosh Hashanah message to world Jewry, released here today, that "It seems clear that 5738 (the new year of the Hebrew calendar) will be a decisive year in the annals of the modern Middle East." He cautioned that "For us there are no easy answers. We who know with utmost clarity the basic requirements of Israel's survival cannot condone trifling with them for the sake of greater acceptability and popularity in the outside world."

The President enumerated the problems that will continue to confront Israel in the new year: "The threat of terrorism; the menacing, colossal growth of Arab military and financial resources and the widespread Arab boycott endeavor; the grave effort we must make for humane co-existence in all the territory under Israeli administration; economic inflation and the constant endeavor to increase productivity and to narrow the gap in living standards; the environmental and energy crisis from which Israel cannot be exempt."

Katzir observed that "Despite all this, the experience of the past makes us confident that there will be counter-factors, rewarding and promising developments, advances toward conditions and achievements we hope and wish to see in Israel."

The President said that "In the search for peace,

we are particularly appreciative of the efforts of the United States Government—and of men of good will everywhere. How noble an achievement it would be to restore peace to the land where the vision of international peace was first expressed by the prophets of Israel so many centuries ago."

Growing Israel-Diaspora Relationship

Katzir stressed that "One of the foundation stones of Israel's life is its constantly growing relationship with Jews abroad. In addition to the scores of international scientific, cultural and professional conferences held annually in Israel, conventions, meetings and pilgrimages of Jewish groups bring the Diaspora to Israel and Israel to the consciousness of the Diaspora. Israelis have come to know, at first hand, most of the great Zionist, religious and communal organizations of the Jewish world," he said.

He also observed that "To see each other as human beings may well be the beginning of wisdom and cooperation in this Middle East crisis." In that connection he cited the "good fence" on the Lebanese border which he hoped "may be the prelude to true, fruitful peace between Israel and its neighbors."

Katzir said finally that "Israel is deeply appreciative of the help, concern and involvement of world Jewry. But our true desire is for real partnership that will express itself in joint educational, cultural and social projects reflecting the moral and intellectual values of the Jewish heritage. The Hebrew language, the challenge of aliya—these must be shared by Jews everywhere, and these will enrich the life of both community and individual."

U.S. REACTS CAUTIOUSLY TO CAIRO CONFAB By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7 (JTA)—The United States government obliquely appeared to take comfort in what did not happen over the weekend at the meeting in Cairo of Arab foreign ministers. The ministers agreed on a general strategy for pressing the United Nations General Assembly, which begins its 32nd session Sept. 20, to impose severe strictures on Israel but reportedly rejected a move to suspend Israel from the world body.

State Department spokesman Hodding Carter refused to discuss the Cairo meeting. However, the Voice of America (VOA), which takes policy guidance from the Department, broadcast that "what did happen" there "is being seen by most observers as a victory for the moderates." The VOA script obtained by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency did not identify the observers.

The VOA noted that "what did not happen" in Cairo was "a rejection of continuing American efforts to find a solution both the Arabs and Israelis can live with. That kind of stance would have also included a campaign to convince the UN membership that Israel in effect ought to be declared a pariah state. Also rejected was the argument, advanced by some of the conferees, that the Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organization should look away from Washington and depend mostly on the Soviet Union."

Some Room For Negotiations

That, the VOA continued, "would have amounted to a statement that the U.S. cannot move the Israelis who have undeniably hardened the Middle East situation by legalizing Jewish settlements on the West Bank. The Arab foreign ministers, the VOA added, "agreed on a campaign to convince

the UN members to halt all military and economic aid to Israel unless Israel publicly changes its stance on the occupied territories and a homeland for Palestinian Arabs." President Carter two weeks ago told a news conference that he had "no intention" of taking such measures against Israel.

The VOA also noted that the "more moderate position leaves at least some room for negotiations" and that there will be "surely plenty of that during the UN session when Arabs and Israelis make their case in the corridors and when they sit down separately with President Carter and Secretary of State (Cyrus) Vance in private meetings aimed at getting the process of peace-making going again."

LIKUD-DMC TALKS STILL STALLED

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7 (JTA)—Negotiations are still going on for an arrangement that would induce Prof. Yigael Yadin's Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) to join the Likud-led coalition government. But no progress in that direction was reported after today's meeting here between Yadin and Premier Menachem Begin.

Yadin left the meeting saying that Begin had offered nothing new that would justify reversing the DMC's decision a month ago not to join the coalition. The stumbling block seems to be the extent of electoral reforms, Yadin's party's key domestic issue. While the coalition apparently has accepted in principle a partial change-over to direct elections for the next Knesset, the DMC wants to divide the country into 16 electoral regions. The National Religious Party, Likud's main coalition partner, insists on only six regions to avoid diluting its own constituency.

Begin said on a radio interview that Likud and the NRP were prepared to compromise on the number of regions. But the proposal he offered Yadin today was apparently not acceptable. Begin said he did not expect an immediate reply. Much will depend on the final stand of the NRP which was due to convene its party bodies tonight and the outcome of Yadin's meeting with the DMC Council, also tonight.

BEN GURION'S GRANDSON SUES THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE ISO By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Sept. 7 (JTA)—Yariv Ben Eliezer, the grandson of the late David Ben Gurion and the former secretary general of the Israel Student Organization in the United States and Canada (ISO), filed a suit last Friday in the New York State Supreme Court seeking \$518,786 in damages from the State of Israel, the ISO and three former ISO officials.

In a telephone interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Ben Eliezer said he is suing for breach of contract and defamation of character. Ben Eliezer, who served as the ISO secretary general from 1972 to 1976, said he is seeking \$500,000 in damages for "false and defamatory" accusations against him that injured his reputation.

He said that in October and November 1976 the defendants, in a newsletter to ISO members and in publications in the Israeli press, accused him of corruption and other wrong-doings. In his suit, Ben Eliezer charged that because of these publications "his credit and reputation were injured and he suffered pain and mental anguish."

The additional sum of \$18,786 Ben Eliezer is seeking is for breach of contract. He said his contract with the ISO and the State of Israel provided that his term as ISO secretary general would end in

March, 1978 but he was fired "for no reason" in December, 1976.

In a response to a JTA query, Lior Yaron, the present ISO secretary general, said Ben Eliezer's suit is "devoid of any basis. It aims to harm the ISO and the State of Israel." According to Yaron, the ISO is preparing a counter-suit. "We are going to sue Ben Eliezer for damages he caused the ISO during the years he served as secretary general," Yaron said. A hearing date has not yet been set.

URGE THAT MERCHANTS WHO WERE VICTIMS OF LOOTING BE ALLOWED TO WAIVE OR POSTPONE DUES, FEES TO AGENCIES

NEW YORK, Sept. 7 (JTA)--Leaders of the city's rabbinic, synagogal and educational agencies called on members and affiliates today to waive or postpone membership fees, tuition, dues and other charges to Jewish families whose businesses and sources of income were devastated by looting during the July 13 blackout and who cannot afford such payments now.

The plan was announced by the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York whose president, Richard Ravitch, said that "as a result of our continuing efforts on behalf" of such Jewish business, "we learned that several families were not planning to attend High Holiday services because they could not afford the necessary fees."

The joint statement of the agencies said many of the victims had long been contributors and leaders and were therefore "reluctant to accept such assistance, making a proper and vigorous out-reach program all the more important."

A JCRRC spokesman, asked how the synagogue and school officials would find affected families reluctant to ask such help, said the affiliated schools and synagogues were being asked to make it known that such help was available on request.

Joining in the announcement were the Board of Jewish Education, the New York Board of Rabbis, the (Orthodox) National Council of Young Israel, the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations and the metropolitan region of the (Conservative) United Synagogue of America.

B'NAI B'RITH OFFICIAL SAYS JUSTICE WAS DONE IN SENTENCING OF HANAFI

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7 (JTA)--The B'nai B'rith said today that "justice has been done" following the sentencing yesterday of 12 Hanafi Moslems to prison terms of from 24 years to life for their seizure last March of three Washington buildings and 140 hostages.

B'nai B'rith Public Relations Director Hank Siegel, who himself was a victim of the terrorism at the Jewish service organization's headquarters here, said B'nai B'rith is "gratified the American court system functions so well in accordance with our laws. Through the jury's decision and Judge Nunzio's sentences, justice has been done in this case."

Judge Nicholas Nunzio of the District of Columbia Superior Court, gave the heaviest sentence to Abdul Muzikir, who was convicted of shooting several persons and killing Maurice Williams, a Black reporter, at the District Building, Washington's city hall. He received a total of 77 years to life.

The leader of the Hanafi sect, Hamaas Abdul Khallis, 55, was sentenced to 41-123 years in

prison. He will be 90 years old before he is eligible for parole. Khallis directed the take over at city hall, the B'nai B'rith headquarters and the Islamic center. He personally took charge of the terror raid and the 38-hour siege at the B'nai B'rith building where he conducted the negotiation that finally led to an end to the occupations at the three buildings.

Khalis accepted his sentence without apparent emotion. His lawyer, Harry Alexander, asked Nunzio to grant Khallis probation. The lengthy sentences sought by the government, Alexander said, were cruel and inhumane. After sentencing, Khallis told the judge the terrorist act in reprisal for the murders by a rival group, of members of his family "was a good deed." Referring to himself as a "fighting Moslem," he asked for leniency to continue as a Moslem leader. The sentences are expected to be appealed.

ISRAELI EXHIBIT ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR AT THE MOSCOW BOOK FAIR

NEW YORK, Sept. 7 (JTA)--One of the most popular exhibits at Moscow's first international book fair which opened yesterday is the Israeli exhibit, according to reports from the Soviet capital. Yair Shepon, the Israeli exhibit's director, reportedly told reporters that he had no customs problems with the 500 books from three Israeli publishers. There are 1500 publishing firms, from 63 countries, including 900 from the West at the fair. Some American concerns did not participate because of concern about censorship.

But Myrna Shinbaum of the Association of Jewish Book Publishers said there was a rigorous check on books brought in by the Association but that nothing was removed. However, other American companies reported having some of their books seized. The Lerner Publications of Minneapolis had a monograph, "The Jews in America," confiscated along with two others in its ethnic series, "The Ukrainians in America," and "The Czechs and Slovaks in America."

JULIUS MARK DEAD AT 78

NEW YORK, Sept. 7 (JTA)--Dr. Julius Mark, formerly senior rabbi of Temple Emanu-El, died at his home here early today after a long illness at the age of 78. A leader in numerous religious, educational, social and philanthropic causes, Mark retired as senior rabbi on Sept. 1, 1968 after 20 years and was named Rabbi Emeritus. Long active in Jewish affairs, the government and the United Nations, he was inactive for a number of years because of a stroke.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Mark was educated in the city's public school system. He graduated and was ordained, the youngest in the class, from the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, in June, 1922. From July 1, 1942 until Dec. 31, 1945, Mark served as a Jewish Chaplain in the U.S. Navy. After two years of overseas duty he left the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander.

From 1949 to 1963, Mark was Visiting Professor of Homiletics and Practical Theology at the New York School of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He was a life trustee of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies; a member of the executive committee of the United States Commission for UNESCO; on the national board of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Eastern board of the Anti-Defamation League, the governing body of the World Union for Progressive Judaism; and honorary president of the American Jewish Encyclopedia Society.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES BEGIN'S STYLE OF GOVERNMENT

By Uzi Benziman

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7 (JTA)--The style of Menachem Begin's government is gradually crystallizing. It differs markedly from its predecessor with different systems of administering the State--though not necessarily better ones.

Menachem Begin's personal power as Premier rests heavily on the reliably consistent obedience of his Cabinet ministers. The key ministries, Defense and Foreign Affairs, are headed by Ezer Weizman and Moshe Dayan, respectively, who both owe their high positions directly to the Premier. Neither Dayan nor Weizman is a veteran Herut leader. Weizman is a relative newcomer in Herut (the major wing of the Likud bloc) and Dayan has not even joined Herut yet.

The political careers of these two men depend entirely on Begin's favor, and they, acutely aware of this situation, adapt themselves to his policy and tactics. Much the same is true of Minister of Agriculture Ariel Sharon who joined Herut only two months ago.

All the other Likud ministers, except Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich, are weaker personalities who have no pretension to a role of national leadership and prefer to concentrate their efforts and talents on administering their ministries.

The dependence of the prominent ministers on Begin, the unpretentious mentality of the rest of the Cabinet members, the inexperience of most of the ministers (only three of them served in the 1967-70 national unity government) and the dominant personality of Begin enable the Premier to rule with a measure of high-handed autocracy.

Expression Of The New Style

The new style expresses itself in various forms in the course of Cabinet work: The Cabinet functions behind a heavy curtain of secrecy. Begin urges his ministers to refrain from talking to the press about Cabinet meetings and they accede religiously to his demand. Begin has instructed Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor to cease the previous practice of informing the public in advance what issues are included in the Cabinet agenda. Similarly, Sharon convenes his Ministerial Settlement Committee without telling even the members what issues are to be discussed at the meeting.

After the weekly Cabinet meetings, Naor gives a terse, almost laconic briefing to the press and generally refuses to reply to questions designed to elicit a little detailed information about the ministers' discussions. As a result, the reports on the Cabinet's activities are more or less standard in all the media and consequently the public gets a one-dimensional image of its government.

Almost all Cabinet resolutions are approved unanimously (the sole exception was the decision to hold military displays in a parade marking the State's 30th anniversary). The usual procedure is that Begin submits to the Cabinet a draft decision and the ministers accept it without objection.

The actual discussions at the Cabinet meetings are short and not profound. Most of the ministers prefer to concern themselves with the ministries they head and refrain from dealing with wider national topics. When issues of defense and foreign policy are introduced at the Cabinet, most of the ministers do not take an active part in the discussion. The only exception is Dayan who has independent views which he sometimes tries, gently, to propound to the Premier and the other

more orthodox Cabinet members. Sometimes Begin seems to show a readiness to be influenced by his Foreign Minister.

He has publicly expressed his full satisfaction with Dayan's role in the Foreign Ministry and at Cabinet meetings. But in a recent interview in the Long Island newspaper, Newsday, Begin's close aide, Shmuel Katz, stated that Dayan did not reflect Begin's thinking.

Surrounded By Devotees

Begin is surrounded by his devotees. Most of his close aides are veteran party and personal supporters; so are the Cabinet Secretary and the Director General of the Prime Minister's Office. All these people admire Begin and are deeply grateful to him for their appointments.

The overall consequence of these patterns of government could be dangerous. The Cabinet functions without seriously examining alternatives. The homogeneous views that unite the parties comprising the coalition, the silent obedience of most of the ministers to Begin's dominant personality, the enthusiastic devotees that surround him and the interest of top ministers and aides in seeing eye-to-eye with him create the unique (for Israel) situation of a Cabinet functioning almost without differences of opinion. This situation has obvious advantages but is not necessarily ideal or entirely healthy.

It is doubtful, however, whether this style of administration can hold sway indefinitely. Human foibles and passions--such as ambition, envy and personal competition--may shake even the homogeneity of Begin's Cabinet.

DEMAND THAT PLO BE REPRESENTED AT GENEVA TALKS DRAWS JEWISH PROTEST

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Sept. 7 (JTA)--Three Canadian Jewish leaders have expressed their "disappointment" to the United Church of Canada (UCC) over a resolution adopted last week at its biennial General Council Convention in Calgary calling on the Canadian government to "insist" that the Palestine Liberation Organization be represented at the Geneva conference when it reconvenes.

In a telegram to Rev. George Tuttle, newly elected Moderator of the UCC, the Jewish leaders stated: "Perhaps members of (the) General Council are unaware that your resolution followed by one day a reaffirmation of the PLO of its charter proclaiming its ultimate aim as the destruction of Israel." They added that, "In view of this intransigent policy we wonder at General Council's readiness to impose upon a state the requirement that it sit in council to discuss its future with a group committed to its destruction."

The telegram was signed by W. Gunther Plaut, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress; Harvey Crestohl, president of B'nai B'rith District 22; and Philip G. Givens, president of the Canadian Zionist Federation.

The UCC, a 52-year-old merger of Methodists, Congregationalists and part of the Presbyterian Church, has previously asked for justice for the "Palestine cause." The resolution adopted by its General Council was the first time the PLO was mentioned by name. Some observers believe it was inserted to "compensate" the UCC's former Moderator, Rev. A. C. Forrest, a strong pro-Arab proponent for his election defeat by Tuttle.

There will be no News Bulletins dated Sept. 14 or 15 due to Rosh Hashanah.