

DAYAN TO PRESENT ISRAELI PEACE PLAN, GUIDELINES TO U.S. OFFICIALS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will be leaving for the United States in a few days carrying a Cabinet-approved Israeli peace plan drafted by a team of high-ranking officials under the guidance of Premier Menachem Begin. Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Dayan himself. The plan, the substantial contents of which have been kept secret, will not be accompanied by maps. Only its first clause has been disclosed. This affirms that the state of war between Israel and Egypt has ended.

The Cabinet, which yesterday approved the peace plan, also approved the "rules" that will serve as a guideline in Dayan's talks with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and other American officials in what will be the beginning of a round of talks between Vance and Middle East foreign ministers. The only other hint of what the peace plan contains was in the disclosure that Dayan will carry an accompanying letter to Vance containing in Begin's words, "the rules according to which Israel would determine the boundaries."

The peace plan is the first that Israel has prepared in writing and is expected to be conveyed by Vance to the Arab foreign ministers with whom he will meet later this month. Vance is believed to have asked the Arab governments for similar peace plan drafts to serve as the basis for negotiations. So far, none of the Arab governments is known to have prepared such a plan. Dayan is expected to have a certain degree of flexibility in conducting his talks in the U.S. He will be out of the country for a month during which time Begin will replace him.

Meanwhile, there was no confirmation that Israel's peace plan would include a proposal that Arabs on the West Bank would be given a good deal of local autonomy and self-government in order to develop a leadership which would be independent of the Palestine Liberation Organization, while Israel would continue to maintain strategic military installations to assure security. Neither was there any confirmation of speculation that Dayan may meet with one of the Arab foreign ministers while the envoys are in New York during the United Nations General Assembly session.

BEGIN: SETTLEMENT POLICY DETERMINED BY THE GOVERNMENT, NOT MINISTERS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Sept. 12 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin indicated in a series of interviews broadcast and published today that he would not countenance independent expressions of policy by members of his Cabinet. There is no policy of individual ministers, there is a policy of the government, he told interviewers when asked about recent statements by Minister of Agriculture Ariel Sharon. He also served notice on the Gush Emunim that while they may criticize the government, the settlement program will be carried out only according to government decisions.

The issue of settlements in the occupied Arab territories has brought Israel under severe criticism

from the United States since the Begin government took office. Sharon, who heads the Ministerial Settlement Committee, was quoted by newspapers last week as saying that several new settlements were established in secrecy on the West Bank.

He subsequently denied making that statement. He was also quoted as saying that Israel would never withdraw from the Golan Heights although Begin has indicated to President Carter Israel's readiness for certain withdrawals from the Golan in the framework of a peace treaty.

The Premier's interview remarks were apparently directed at Sharon. Several Likud ministers have privately expressed the view that it was time to crack down on the outspoken Agriculture Minister. However, government secretary Arye Naor told newsmen after Sunday's Cabinet session that there had been no discussion of the settlements question and no criticism of Sharon's statements on that issue.

Begin's remarks on the Gush Emunim indicated that he would restrain that militant group although he shares its contention that the West Bank is not occupied territory but a "liberated" part of Israel. The Gush have complained recently that the government has put a brake on their drive to colonize the West Bank.

Time Past For Interim Accords

Begin's other statements, published in Maariv and Yediot Achronot and broadcast on Kol Israel Radio and on television dealt with foreign policy matters.

With respect to peace negotiations, Begin said the time for interim agreements was past. What Israel wants now is full peace in accordance with historic precedents including diplomatic and consular relations, he said. He stated that his recent visit to Rumania was more than ceremonial but refused to go into details. He also defended Israel's relations with South Africa. He said Israel was against racial discrimination but as a small, besieged nation, it cannot but accept any hand stretched out to it.

On the issue of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Begin charged that the U.S. position against any contacts with the PLO began to erode last March when Washington believed Premier Yitzhak Rabin would head the next Israeli government. Begin implied that it was his ascension to office that gave the U.S. pause on that issue. He claimed that if the American Administration had tried to pressure Israel to accept PLO participation at the Geneva conference Israel would have said no to the conference. He said it was inconceivable that Israel should help PLO chief Yasir Arafat and his associates topple the Hashemite monarchy in Jordan and set up a Palestinian state there.

ISRAEL PREPARES FOR HIGH HOLY DAYS

TEL AVIV, Sept. 12 (JTA)--Expectations of high synagogue attendance, intensified security precautions and a soaring price index mark Israel's preparations for the High Holiday season that begins tonight. Attendance at synagogues has been rising since the Yom Kippur War and the number of worshippers this year will be increased by the influx of tourists.

The main synagogues are installing more seats, collecting more prayer books and engaging more readers. Some schools are being converted to ad hoc synagogues and most hotels will have their own minyan and are trying to hire prominent cantors to attract guests. In this they must compete with far-off congregations in the United States, Latin America, South Africa and Australia that engage the services of Israeli cantors for the holiday season.

Israelis were reminded of the approaching Holy Days each morning during the past week when shofars sounded to summon the pious to prayer. The shofar in ancient times, was also a warning of enemy attack and this is uppermost in the minds of those responsible for civil defense.

Soldiers, police and border police have been alerted against possible terrorist incursions. Beefed up civil guards will patrol the streets of all cities and towns during the holidays. The rabbis of Tel Aviv have given permission for armed guards to participate in services. Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren has invited the civil guard commander, Benni Raz, to deliver a sermon from his pulpit on the importance of the civil guard.

Only the ultra-Orthodox have refused to permit armed guards at their services. They say that if it was necessary to carry arms, their learned sages would have told them so.

Meanwhile, Israeli housewives faced their most expensive holiday. The prices of meat, poultry, fruits, vegetables and non-alcoholic beverages were nearly 70 percent higher than last year, due in part to the removal of government price supports and partly to world-wide inflation. (By Yitzhak Shargil)

MOVE TO FIGHT CRIME

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12 (JTA)—The Cabinet agreed yesterday to appoint an examining committee to devise means to fight growing crime in Israel. Interior Minister Yosef Burg will name its members after the holidays. The panel is expected to be headed by a justice of the Supreme Court or a former justice but its members will not be jurists.

The decision was taken in the wake of a report by a special police committee headed by Michael Buchner which found that serious crime was on the rise at a cost to the State of millions of Pounds a year. It was learned that Burg wanted to establish a full-dress judicial crime committee with powers of subpoena but was overruled by his Cabinet colleagues after Attorney General Aharon Barak explained why such a body might be counter-productive.

Under law, a judicial investigating committee would have to hold public sessions. Any subpoenaed witness could appear with a lawyer, cross examine other witnesses and review all of the material assembled by the committee. That process would be time consuming and could complicate the work of the panel as was the case in the probe of the Abu Rodeis oil fields scandal in 1973.

An examining committee would not have the powers of subpoena and would not be obliged to conduct open hearings or follow courtroom procedures. According to Barak, such a body would be much more functional and effective.

KATZIR CLARIFIES PARDON FOR FORMER BANKER WHO SERVED 2 OF 12-YEAR SENTENCE By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12 (JTA)—President Ephraim Katzir issued a statement aimed at clarifying the pardon he signed last week for former banker

Yehoshua Benzion who was released from prison Thursday after serving two years of a 12-year sentence for embezzlement. The President's statement said that "under the law this is not a pardon but rather a reduction in punishment" and that he had been considering it during the tenure of the previous government because of the prisoner's health.

The storm of criticism that greeted Benzion's release was directed mainly at Premier Menachem Begin who had recommended a pardon on health grounds. It has not abated in the wake of Katzir's explanation. The President's statement said that the IL 25 million fine imposed on Benzion after his 1975 conviction for stealing \$47 million from the Israel-British Bank is still in effect although his prison term has been reduced to a suspended sentence. But to date, Benzion has not paid any part of the fine and has not returned the embezzled \$47 million or any part of it.

Political figures who accused Benzion of favoritism toward Benzion were joined by leading jurists today. Former Supreme Court Justice Zvi Berinsohn warned that a "pardon industry" is developing "and things are getting ridiculous." He said the power of pardon should be used only in exceptional cases and charged that it was misused in the Benzion case.

The pardon was also criticized by Justice Yoel Sussman, President of the Supreme Court who had personally rejected Benzion's appeals for pardon in the past. Attorney General Aharon Barak said he had objected when he first learned of Begin's intention to recommend clemency.

Katzir's statement said that he based his decision on the medical opinions of two senior physicians who had treated Benzion in prison and on the report of a medical committee appointed by the Health Ministry to investigate Benzion's condition. The statement failed to mention that the medical committee had recommended against a pardon.

BEGIN APPOINTS FORMER IRGUNIST AS ADVISOR ON COMBATTING TERRORISM

TEL AVIV, Sept. 12 (JTA)—Some Israeli circles expressed surprise today at Premier Menachem Begin's appointment of Amichai Paglin, a former Irgun comrade-in-arms, rather than a professional military man as his special advisor on combatting terrorism. The post was previously held by Gen. Rehavam Zeevi who resigned last May.

Paglin, in his early 50s, served as operations officer of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, the underground fighting group commanded by Begin before the end of the British Mandate 30 years ago. He has lived in obscurity since then as the operator of a family metals workshop near Tel Aviv. He was in the news briefly in 1972 after his arrest on suspicion of complicity in an attempt by the Jewish Defense League to smuggle arms from Israel to the U.S. and Europe for a war on Arab terrorists. Paglin was arraigned, pleaded not guilty but was never tried.

In an interview published in Haaretz in 1969, Paglin proposed that Israel close down the Jordan River bridges, totally isolate the Arabs and restrict their movement to Arab-populated areas. Observers wondered today whether, as a member of the government establishment, Paglin will still propound those extremist views. But they were more disturbed by the fact that the new counter-terrorist advisor is not a member of the armed forces and has no experience with new weapons systems and new fighting methods.

MUSEUM THEFTS UNCOVERED

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12 (JTA)—A special police

team is investigating a series of thefts of valuable archaeological items from the Israel Museum. The investigation began last June after Dr. Dan Berg of the Education Ministry's antiquities department found that 34 items from a rare glass collection at the museum were missing and other objects were broken.

Berg, who had just returned from the U. S., filed a complaint with police. Some of the stolen items were traced to an Armenian antiques dealer in East Jerusalem. Some are believed to have been smuggled into Jordan and other Arab countries.

The investigation disclosed that about 80 archaeological items valued at hundreds of thousands of Pounds have been stolen from the Israel Museum in recent years. According to reports there had been no proper registration of the items. In several cases, the museum purchased antiquities stolen earlier from the Rockefeller Museum in East Jerusalem. In one case, the Rockefeller Museum bought five oil lamps that were stolen from its own cases.

Employees of the antiquities department have been interrogated and some took lie detector tests. So far, no employee has been implicated in the thefts.

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE TO BUILD NEW HOME IN N.Y. AND ASSOCIATE WITH NYU

NEW YORK, Sept. 12 (JTA)—Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion is planning to build a new home for its New York school on a site adjacent to the New York University campus at Washington Square, it has been announced by Dr. Alfred Gottschalk, president.

Simultaneously, Gottschalk and Dr. John C. Sawhill, president of New York University, said in a joint statement that they have agreed upon a cooperative relationship which will result in academic collaboration between the two autonomous institutions. Gottschalk said the Hebrew Union College board of governors has authorized the purchase from New York University of a vacant 17,000-square-foot plot. Construction of the five-story building is expected to begin early in 1978, with occupancy in the fall of 1979. The cost of the purchase of the land and of construction is estimated at \$7 million.

Gottschalk reported that almost \$5 million of that sum already has been pledged or contributed, including an initial challenge grant of \$1.5 million from The Brookdale Foundation. In recognition of this and other gifts from the foundation, the new building will be named the Brookdale Center of Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion.

New York University is anticipating the arrival of Hebrew Union College at Washington Square "with much enthusiasm," Sawhill said. "The proximity of Hebrew Union College to New York University will provide many opportunities for students and faculty of both institutions to share in the resources of the other."

Wants To Stay In New York

The New York School of Hebrew Union College consists of a Rabbinic School, a School of Sacred Music and a School of Education. It has occupied its present facility on 68th Street, near Central Park West, since 1922. "It is a building we have long since outgrown," said Dr. Gottschalk.

Several opportunities to move and overcome the shortcomings of the West 68th Street building had presented themselves in recent years, according to President Gottschalk. In each case, it meant relocating away from New York City, he

said, and that was unacceptable to the administration, the faculty and the board of governors. "The intellectual and cultural vitality of New York City is unparalleled," the president said. "We believe in New York City and its future. If we are to stay in the mainstream of Jewish life and continue to serve Jewry most effectively, we can do so only by having a strong presence in New York City."

The opportunity to gain adequate and proper facilities for Reform Judaism's only institution of higher education on the Eastern seaboard is but one of two enormous dividends that will be gained by our move," Dr. Gottschalk said. "The other, of course, is the institutional cooperation which Dr. Sawhill and I have agreed upon." New York University, with a total enrollment exceeding 40,000, ranks among the largest private colleges and universities in the country.

Cooperative Efforts Planned

A broad range of cooperative efforts is being planned by academic representatives of the two institutions. Rabbinic students at Hebrew Union College, for instance, will be able to enrich their studies in NYU courses in Near Eastern languages and literature and in Hebrew culture. Cantorial students will find supplementary courses in the university's music and music education departments. The NYU School of Education will be of special interest to HUC students: training as religious school teachers and administrators.

Reciprocally, the college's broad curriculum in such fields as Jewish history, Bible, modern Hebrew literature, philosophy and liturgical music will be available to New York University students. So, too, will a chapel that is to be constructed as an integral part of the new building. The chapel will seat 250. The building will include a conference center, classroom and seminar rooms, administrative and faculty offices and a library containing reading, reference, rare book and periodical rooms. A student-faculty lounge and rehearsal halls for cantorial students also are included in the plans.

CHRISTIANS TO BLOW THE SHOFAR

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 (JTA)—Protestants and Roman Catholics will stand in for members of the Jewish faith during the High Holy Days and sound the Shofar opposite the Soviet Embassy, in support of Soviet Jews.

The Rev. John F. Steinbruck, pastor of the Luther Place Memorial Lutheran Church and a leader of the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry, announced that since observing Jews do not travel on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Christians will stand the quiet watch at the daily vigil opposite the Embassy and sound the Shofar at approximately 12:30 p.m. tomorrow and Wednesday and Sept. 22, Yom Kippur.

In this manner, Steinbruck said, solidarity will be expressed with oppressed Soviet Jews and Christians. The vigil is now in its eighth year.

AMSTERDAM (JTA)—Asaf Dayan, an Israeli film actor and son of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, denounced Premier Menachem Begin and the present Likud government as "dangerous for Israel." The actor, who is here to film "The Uranium Conspiracy" in which he plays the leading role as an Israeli secret agent, said he is "afraid of men who trust only in God and not in themselves. It is too absurd that only the present armed peace is envisaged, whereas our alternative, namely, striving for a secure peace, is swept under the table."

SPECIAL INTERVIEW ANOTHER VIEW OF SOVIET JEWRY

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Sept. 12 (JTA)—The Chief Rabbis of Moscow and Rumania fear that continued attacks on the Soviet Union by American Jews will endanger the Jewish community in the USSR, according to two New York Orthodox rabbis who recently met with them. Rabbis David Hollander and Abraham Gross, both former presidents of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, described their visits to Rumania, the Soviet Union and Poland Aug. 4-19 in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Rabbi Yaacov Fishman, Chief Rabbi of Moscow who met with the two visiting Americans at his home where he was recuperating from an operation was, according to Hollander, "very clear and unequivocal that protests against the Soviet Union by American Jews makes Russian Jews potential targets of anti-Semites in Russia."

Hollander said that when they met with Rabbi Moses Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Rumania, in Bucharest he also warned against antagonizing the Soviet Union. Rosen said that the Rumanian government might be praised sometimes by U.S. Jews for some of the good it has done for Jews.

Hollander stressed that he and Gross were members of the segment of American Jewry that "shares" this view. He said that when dealing with a major power like the Soviet Union, a negotiating spirit might accomplish more than hostility. They said for this reason they did not meet with any of the Jewish activists while in the USSR.

Reason For Eschewing Protest Movement

None of the American rabbis who were born in Eastern Europe are among the activists in the Soviet Jewry movement, according to Hollander. He said he could not join the protest movement here as long as there is a chance that it may endanger Soviet Jews. He said it is easy to be brave with an American passport in your pocket. Hollander also stressed that even if most Jews who want to leave are allowed to go, there will still be some three million Jews in the USSR and their Jewish religious needs must be met.

Both Fishman in Moscow and Rosen in Bucharest spoke out strongly against Jews who leave either the Soviet Union or Rumania with visas for Israel and then go to another country, the two American rabbis reported.

For Hollander, who is rabbi at Mt. Eden Jewish Center in The Bronx, this was his eighth visit to the USSR since he first went in 1956 when he was then president of the Rabbinical Council of America. For Gross, rabbi of Congregation Shaare Hatikvah in Manhattan's Washington Heights section, the trip was his first.

Change In Atmosphere

Hollander, whose last trip was in 1973, said he found the atmosphere much more relaxed than in previous years. People were more willing to meet with foreigners and for the first time he was allowed to visit a Russian Jewish official's home when he went to see Fishman.

He also noted that Gross and he were met at the Moscow airport by Yaakov Michenberg, vice-president of the Moscow Jewish community. He said that Sholom Kleinman, president of the Moscow Synagogue, is a different type of official from the others who preceded him. He noted that Kleinman is learned in Judaism and wants to do in Moscow what Rosen has done in Rumania—convince the government that the Jewish religion can exist in an

atheist state without disloyalty to the government.

Hollander and Gross said one incongruity they found was that in a Communist-state which is officially atheistic, the government welcomes a prayer which is said for it in the Moscow Synagogue. In fact, they noted, the prayer was posted on the synagogue wall in Russian and Hebrew. It called the Soviet Union the "protector of peace for the whole world."

Nuances Of Jewish Activities

There is a yeshiva in Moscow which trains religious functionaries, Hollander said. It is not attended by children but by college graduates, some of whom are in their 30s and 40s, who can later take the jobs of shochets and mohels. In Moscow there is a daily minyan, but in Kiev and Leningrad the two rabbis found that there were only services on the Shabbat.

These two cities didn't have any rabbis, but the two American rabbis pointed out that all Judaism requires is a Jew learned in the law. Someone to perform ritual slaughter and circumcisions is indispensable to Judaism, but not rabbis, they said. They also noted that in the Moscow Synagogue Jews carry out the normal synagogue function of studying the Talmud, something which does not occur in other cities. They said they found a Yiddish newspaper, the Birobidjan Star, which is published weekly in that central Asian republic but was distributed at the Moscow Synagogue.

Kleinman told the American rabbis that the Jewish community had enough wheat for matzo last Passover and one of the reasons it asked that none be imported from abroad is that the community makes some of its money from the sale of matzo. He said that last year they were given 160 tons of wheat for matzo and expect to receive 200 tons next Passover. Kleinman also told the Americans that new facilities have been provided for the kosher slaughter of meat and poultry and it will now be permitted to import Jewish religious articles and books from abroad.

The two rabbis said they also visited Samarkand in the remote central Asian republic of Uzbekistan because they wanted to see a community of Sephardic Jews. There they found daily minyans attended at 5 a.m. with a large number of young people. The two rabbis, who spent nine days in the Soviet Union, said the most pleasant part of their trip was their four days in Rumania. They visited Bucharest and eight other communities and were given official receptions by Rosen and members of the Jewish community.

The most unpleasant part of their trip was the two days spent in Poland, the rabbis said. They visited Auschwitz, Warsaw, Crakow and other places and wherever they went they were reminded of the Holocaust, according to Hollander. Poland only has 10,000-12,000 Jews, mostly elderly, they said.

Gross said the Polish government seems intent on erasing every memory of the Jews. He noted that in Ger, where there once was a large Jewish population and which was the seat of a famous rabbinical dynasty, there are only four Jews left and the former synagogue of the Rabbi of Ger is a furniture factory.

Gross said even in Auschwitz there is little to show that most of the victims of the infamous death camp were Jews. He said there is a hotel and thousands of tourists visit there but little is shown of Jewish content. They were told that the building housing Jewish content is being "renovated" and has been in the process of renovation for a long time.

A Happy New Year to all of our readers.