

EGYPTIAN CONSTRUCTION OF TUNNEL UNDER SUEZ CANAL WORRIES ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Sept. 18 (JTA)—Israeli military circles have expressed serious concern over Egypt's construction of a tunnel under the Suez Canal that will link Egypt with Sinai for the first time in over 100 years. According to reports from Cairo, work has just begun on the digging phase of the project which calls for three tunnels under the 109-mile long waterway at a cost of about \$170 million. The first tunnel is expected to be completed next year.

According to the military circles, the tunnel will give Egypt a military advantage that would nullify the value of the 1975 Sinai interim agreements. They cited reports that the tunnel beneath the 196-foot-wide, 42-foot-deep canal will be broad enough for two lanes of traffic, permitting the passage of tanks, missile carriers and armored vehicles. It would be extremely difficult for Israel to detect such movements and it could be confronted overnight with the transfer of two battalions of tanks from Egypt proper to Sinai, one observer said.

But Israeli political circles seem less concerned. They say there is no cause for Israel to complain because the Sinai agreement contains a clause requiring Egypt to rehabilitate the canal zone towns and develop the civilian infrastructure in that area. They conceded, however, that if the tunnel became a military threat the picture would change.

Israel has been uneasy for some time over Egypt's alleged violation of the Sinai accord by stationing 18,000 troops in its limited forces zone, 10,000 more than permitted under the agreement. Israel's latest complaint, conveyed by the United Nations commander, Gen. Ensio Siilasvuo, was ignored by Cairo.

Report Egypt Harassing Ships In Canal

Coupled with those developments are reports that the Egyptians have begun harassing ships passing through the Suez Canal enroute to Israel's Red Sea port of Eilat. Under the Sinai agreements, Egypt must permit vessels carrying Israeli cargoes to use the canal although Israel-flag ships are still barred from the waterway. Recently, however, there were four cases in which non-Israeli vessels were halted for extended periods at Port Said at the Mediterranean entrance to the canal while local authorities searched them thoroughly. An Israel flag found in one ship's store was confiscated.

U.S. POSITION ON MIDEAST PEACE TALKS SEEM CONFUSED AND VACILLATING

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18 (JTA)—The U.S. government's positions on both procedure and substance for a Middle East peace settlement appeared confused and vacillating this weekend on the eve of Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's meetings with President Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. In addition, the campaign by Arab states to have the U.S. put pressure on Israel also intensified over the weekend.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy announced in Cairo as he was departing today for Paris enroute to the U.S. that he would urge the

Carter Administration to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization as a prelude to the resumption of the Geneva peace talks. He also told reporters that he would state there could be no Middle East peace without the establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and that Egypt was still retaining war as its final option.

In addition, Saudi Arabian oil minister Sheikh Yamani warned last week that his country would not increase oil production if Israel did not withdraw from the occupied territories. This was a departure from a pledge by Saudian officials to Carter last spring that oil would not be used as a political weapon in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The State Department, in its latest comments, declared publicly that the U.S. continues to hold that the six nations in the original Geneva conference—the U.S., the Soviet Union, Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Syria—must decide on who attends a reconvened conference. Behind the scenes, however, the U.S. was reliably reported as favoring a pan-Arab delegation including the PLO and West Bank mayors mostly in league with the PLO.

Nature Of Arab Delegation

In another procedural puzzle, the State Department spokesmen concentrated last Thursday on the single Arab delegation idea and refused to discuss anything else. However, after they had emphasized that idea, Vance told reporters that Palestinians serving with a Jordanian delegation would be acceptable to the U.S. When the Jewish Telegraphic Agency asked the Department whether it had communicated with Palestinian Arabs opposed to the PLO, spokesman Hodding Carter mentioned only those Arabs whom the Israelis invited to meet with Vance during his visit to Jerusalem last month.

Meanwhile, the State Department gave assurances last Friday that UN Security Council Resolution 242 continues as the basis for a Mideast settlement. The PLO has refused to accept even President Carter's modified view of 242, namely, that the Palestinians demand to be designated as more than refugees "would suit us fine."

But the pan-Arab delegation idea may be construed as being a means for the terrorists to sit at the conference table without agreeing to 242. However, the State Department statement last week that Palestinians "must" be included in the negotiations also affirms that those who meet in Geneva "should adhere" to Resolutions 242 and 338.

DAYAN'S INTERRUPTED TRIP TO THE U.S. REMAINS SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 18 (JTA)—Israel was absorbed in speculation today over the mystery of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's return to Israel last night for hurried consultations with Premier Menachem Begin after an unexplained appearance in Paris yesterday at a time when he was supposed to be landing at Kennedy Airport in New York.

Dayan, who is scheduled to meet with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in Washington tomorrow, left Israel early this morning on a Swissair flight to New York enroute to Washington. His departure confounded newsmen who had been told that he was to take an El Al flight four hours later.

Neither Begin nor the Foreign Ministry would cast any light on Dayan's movements or the reasons for them. The Ministry issued a brief statement at midnight that "Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, after his visit to Europe and before his visit to the U.S., came for consultations with Premier Menachem Begin." Begin told reporters, after today's Cabinet session, that "Dayan did an excellent job in Europe. I am sure he will do just as good a job in the U.S. and between the jobs he came to me for consultations. There is nothing more natural."

It wasn't clear whether Begin was referring to Dayan's activities in Paris or his earlier visit to Brussels where he met with Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet and with NATO chief Gen. Alexander Haig. (See separate story.) When he landed unexpectedly at Ben Gurion Airport last night, Dayan told reporters, "I don't think there is public benefit in going into the question why did I stop, where I have been and who did I meet or what did I do." He assured them that he would not be late for any of his appointments in Washington tomorrow.

Heavy Schedule For Dayan In Washington

(Joseph Polakoff, writing from Washington, reported that Dayan, who will bring with him a peace plan approved last Sunday by the Cabinet, is scheduled to meet with Vance for a working lunch at the State Department and later in the afternoon is due to confer with President Carter at the White House. The Israeli peace plan is seen as unlikely to make much headway with Carter and Vance since they favor an "entity" on the West Bank which Israel opposes.)

(Dayan is to hold a news conference Tuesday morning and then lunch with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Afterwards he is due to meet with the House International Relations Committee and then fly to New York where he is expected to remain for about two weeks for the opening sessions of the United Nations General Assembly. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy is due to meet with Carter Wednesday morning and lunch with Vance immediately afterwards.)

Speculation Rife Over Weekend Activities

Dayan's meeting with Begin at the Premier's home lasted about 70 minutes and was attended, among others, by Ephraim Paran, Begin's military advisor and Dr. Eliahu Ben Elissar, director of the Prime Minister's Office.

Speculation was rife in the Israeli media as to the nature of Dayan's activities over the weekend. It centered on the possibility that he met in Paris with one or more high ranking Arab diplomats. Yediot Achronot reported that several members of the Saudi Arabian royal family were in the French capital Saturday. Maariv said that Dayan may have met with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko or Fahmy.

(Fahmy flatly denied that suggestion in a statement issued in Cairo today just before his departure for the U.S. via Paris. But Israeli observers said there was no reason why Fahmy, like Dayan, could not have been in Paris yesterday and returned to his own capital for consultations before leaving for the U.S.)

Yediot also suggested that Dayan may have met with an African leader after receiving information from Gen. Haig on the latest developments in the Ethiopian-Somali war and their effects on the Middle East.

Dayan's trip to Washington for meetings with Vance and Carter began with his departure from Ben Gurion Airport Thursday. It was indicated that

the Foreign Minister would stop off in Europe en route to New York. On Friday, word reached here that Dayan was in Brussels. Belgium presently holds the presidency of the European Common Market. Israeli sources there said he would remain in Brussels "on official business" instead of flying immediately to the U.S. Later Friday, Dayan was seen boarding a Sabena flight to New York at Brussels airport. He was not spotted leaving the plane which halted on the runway briefly before taking off.

It was learned later that Dayan was not on the flight. His whereabouts were not immediately known but the Israeli sources said he would leave for the U.S. Saturday night. Instead, Dayan turned up in Paris at about the time the Sabena flight landed at New York. Reporters there saw Mrs. Dayan and various aides leave the plane but not the Foreign Minister. Subsequently, the Israel Radio correspondent in Paris reported that Dayan flew to New York. Instead, he flew back to Israel.

His jet shuttles earned him the name of "Israel's Kissinger" and some sharp criticism as well. Maariv observed today that statesmen throughout the world manage to conduct secret meetings quietly whereas Dayan seems to have a special talent for "loud secrecy." The paper said that "whoever wants to keep a secret should make a point of keeping secret the very existence of the secret. Mr. Dayan creates too much tumult around his secrets."

DAYAN MEETS WITH HAIG, EEC LEADER

BRUSSELS, Sept. 18 (JTA)-- Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan who interrupted his flight to the United States over the weekend, met here Thursday and Friday with Belgian Foreign Minister Henri Simonet and Gen. Alexander Haig, Supreme Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). He also met at the Israeli Embassy here with some 100 Jewish community leaders from 13 European countries and the Israeli Ambassadors to those countries. They include the nine members of the European Economic Community (EEC) plus Norway, Spain, Portugal and Switzerland.

In his talks with Simonet, currently president of the EEC, Dayan reportedly discussed recent Middle East developments. He is known to be unhappy over an EEC statement issued in June calling for provisions for a Palestinian homeland in any Middle East peace settlement. Dayan was understood to have told Simonet that he hoped the EEC would now approach all parties instead of condemning Israel without consulting with Jerusalem first.

No details were disclosed of Dayan's talk with Haig Friday morning. A spokesman for Haig described the meeting as a "courtesy call" by the general "on an old friend." He said Haig did not seek the meeting but was invited by the Israeli Ambassador to his residence to pay a social call on Dayan.

A Belgian government spokesman said the main purpose of Dayan's visit was to consult with Israeli ambassadors posted to European countries and to brief the Jewish community leaders gathered here. Dayan met with them shortly after his arrival on Thursday.

He reportedly said he expected his talks in Washington to be tough because of America's insistence that the Palestinians be represented at future Middle East peace talks. Dayan affirmed that everything was negotiable on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 but was adamant that Israel would not accept the establishment of a Palestinian state that could jeopardize its security.

ISRAEL THREATENED WITH EXCLUSION FROM THE 1980 OLYMPICS IN MOSCOW

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18 (JTA)—A large bipartisan bloc of Congressmen have protested in a letter to the U.S. Olympic Committee that the Soviet Union and its Third World allies are engaged in a process to prevent Israel from competing in the Olympic summer games in Moscow in 1980.

Eighty Congressmen, 45 Democrats and 35 Republicans, have signed a letter originated by Rep. Jack Kemp (R., N.Y.) and mailed to Robert Kane, president of the Olympic Committee in New York.

In a floor speech last week in the House, Kemp said that "a combined Soviet-Third World campaign is now underway" against Israel by reducing Israel's membership in the 26 Olympic Federations to less than five, the minimum required for national participation.

To participate in Olympic Games, a nation must belong to at least five Federations, Kemp noted. "The Israelis do not belong to all 26 Federations to start with because they do not field teams in all events, especially the winter sports. Under pressure from the Soviets and from Third World nations, the Israelis are being forced out of these Federations one by one, and usually on a technicality never otherwise applied. The goal? To have the Israelis down to less than five Federations by 1980."

Kemp told the Congress that "When the final crunch comes, the weapon against the Israelis will be the outrageous United Nations vote equating Zionism and racism." He said "Third World delegates can be expected to show up at all the Federation meetings with the UN resolution in hand, demanding the exclusion of Israel on those grounds. South Africa was excluded from the Olympics on the grounds of racism as expressed in a similar resolution."

Congress Urged To Act

Saying "the Soviets and their cohorts intend to politicize the sports just like they have tried to politicize everything else," Kemp said, "the Congress of the United States cannot sit idly by and watch this happen, for the attempt may be successful if the U.S. leadership is not shown and shown early."

The letter to Kane calls on his committee "to undertake every measure possible to convey this sentiment to the International Olympic Committee." It warned that "popular and financial support for the Olympics will collapse should this exclusion be perpetrated" and that "Congress might not act favorably upon" pending legislation to provide assistance to the U.S. Olympic Committee's participation in future games. "The U.S. Olympic Committee can and should be a powerful influence in halting the exclusion of Israel if it commits itself to such a course and pursues it vigorously," the letter said.

REPORT U.S. WILL MOUNT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL DURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 18 (JTA)—Diplomatic sources here predicted this weekend a growing United States pressure on Israel in the General Assembly which opens Tuesday. The sources said, however, that the U.S. will continue to vote against Arab-inspired resolutions condemning Israel, but only if the Carter Administration will get the impression from Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan that Israel has new ideas to resume the momentum in the Mideast.

The sources here said that Israel is likely to find

itself in utter isolation when the Assembly debates the issue of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. "This will be a major setback for Israel in terms of public opinion," one diplomat said, noting that all of the 149 UN members can join the condemnation of Israel on the issue of settlements.

It was learned, meanwhile, that the Arabs are seeking a special meeting of the Security Council to be held simultaneously with the debate on the Israeli settlements. The Arabs intend, sources said, to discuss the report of the 23-member committee on Palestine rights. They will probably seek to add a phrase to Resolution 242 declaring the rights of the Palestinians to a "homeland," the sources said.

Dayan, who arrived at Kennedy Airport this afternoon amidst stringent security and was whisked away before reporters could ply him with questions, will address the Assembly Oct. 6. The Israeli delegation to the Assembly will have 18 members this year, including seven permanent ones. According to sources here, Yasir Arafat, PLO chief, is not expected to address the Assembly as he did in 1974.

Waldheim Predicts Explosive Session

Meanwhile, Secretary General Kurt Waldheim predicted today that the General Assembly's annual session will be "rather explosive" because of the Middle East debate. He also warned that unless there is a breakthrough toward peace talks this year, the situation in the Mideast will deteriorate "dramatically" thereafter and criticized Israel's policy of settlements on the West Bank. Waldheim made his remarks in response to questions on the ABC-TV program "Issues and Answers."

He predicted "a rather explosive debate" when asked if he thought the anticipated General Assembly resolutions condemning Israel's settlement policy on the West Bank would help or hinder the situation. He said that Israel's legalization of settlements on the West Bank "does not really help the negotiating process." He said the UN and the U.S. are "trying very hard to move forward in the negotiating process to get out of this actual stalemate and therefore decisions of this kind (by Israel) are not helpful."

COURT ORDERS ON THE MENTEN TRIAL

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 18 (JTA)—The Amsterdam Higher District Court, reversing the decision of the president of the Amsterdam Lower Court of last June, has ordered that the Jewish journalist, Hans Knoop, and the weekly of which he is editor, "Accent," must stop publishing charges against Pieter Menten until it will have been proved as the result of the criminal trial now being conducted against him that these charges are true.

The editor of Knoop's book on the Menten affair must also cease distributing this book since it contains unproven accusations, the court ruled. Menten must no longer be called "war criminal" or "mass murderer" or "scoundrel." The court also ordered they must refrain from accusation that has not been included in the charge sheet. Knoop and the publisher of "Accent" will now appeal to the High Court of Justice.

AMSTERDAM (JTA)—The Netherlands government is opposed to the Palestine Liberation Organization receiving full official status at the United Nations and to permitting PLO representatives to address the General Assembly, it was stated by Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Pieter Kooymans.

GRAHAM REPORTS THAT HUNGARIAN JEWS HAVE 'SUBSTANTIAL' DEGREE OF FREEDOM

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Sept. 18 (JTA)--Evangelist Billy Graham, reporting on his first crusade in an East European country, told a press conference here last Thursday that he was informed in Budapest by Hungarian Jewish leaders that Hungarian Jews had a "substantial" degree of freedom to worship, to produce and acquire Jewish scriptures and prayerbooks and to go to the synagogue.

Graham also said that, in his meetings with Chief Rabbi Laszlo Salgo of Hungary and Rabbi Alexander Scheiber, president of the Jewish Theological Seminary of Hungary, and other Jewish leaders, he learned something "most Christians simply do not know--that more than 400,000 Jews in Hungary were murdered by the Nazis." He said it was his impression that on a per capita basis, the Jews of Hungary had suffered more grievously than any other community in Hungary during the Nazi period.

He said he had two meetings with the Hungarian Jewish leaders, one at Salgo's synagogue and one arranged by the United States Ambassador at the American Embassy in Budapest.

In response to a question, Graham said he was told there was no real problem of anti-Semitism in Hungary, that because of the tremendous suffering of the Jews under the Nazis there was a "genuine desire" on the part of the government and leadership to compensate the surviving 80,000 to 100,000 Jews for their wartime suffering.

Finds Little Desire To Emigrate

The evangelist also said he was told by the Hungarian Jewish leaders that they felt comfortable and secure in Hungary and there was little desire to emigrate to Israel or to leave Hungary for any other country.

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, director of inter-religious affairs for the American Jewish Committee, who took part in the press conference at Graham's invitation, said the evangelist visited Hungary at the invitation of the Hungarian Baptist Council of Churches with the consent and approval of the Hungarian government.

Graham reported that leaders of Christian communities from every East European country came to Budapest to meet him. He said he had been invited in Budapest by a delegation of Soviet Baptist leaders to make a similar visit to the Soviet Union. Graham said he told the Soviet Christian leaders that one of his conditions for such a visit would be that he would have the same opportunity to meet with Jewish leaders in the Soviet Union that he had with Hungarian Jewish leaders. Tanenbaum said Graham told him that he would make this a condition for acceptance of invitations in every case where the country of invitation has a Jewish community.

Conferred With Tanenbaum Prior To Visit

Tanenbaum told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that before Graham accepted the invitation to visit Hungary, he asked Tanenbaum whether it would help or hurt the Jews of Hungary if he sought to meet with them. Tanenbaum responded that he advised Graham to seek meetings with the Hungarian Jewish leaders in the spirit of paying his respects and expressing his feelings of solidarity with the Jewish people and Israel.

The rabbi added he had prepared letters of introduction for Graham to the Hungarian Jewish leaders, in which he cited the evangelist's support for Israel and Jewry and that Graham had assured

him it was not his intention to make evangelistic appeals to the Jews of Hungary. Tanenbaum wrote: "You may rest assured that Dr. Graham is deeply respectful of Judaism and the Jewish people and will not seek in any way to evangelize in the Jewish community" during his visit.

Love, Affection For Jews And Israel

Graham said there was "a spirit of tremendous love and respect that characterized every aspect" of his two meetings with the Hungarian Jewish leaders. He said he expressed his "deep love and affection for the Jewish people and for Israel" and that "the response was one of very great emotion and there were tears on that occasion, including my own tears."

After the press conference, Graham and Tanenbaum discussed the European visit, as well as Graham's scheduled address at a meeting of the executive council of the AJCommittee in Atlanta on Oct. 28. The rabbi said Graham indicated he did not expect the invitation from the Soviet Baptists to materialize for "some time," commenting that the trip to Hungary involved a five-year wait.

FELIX KAMOV-KANDEL, FAMOUS SOVIET JEWISH WRITER, TOLD HE CAN EMIGRATE

NEW YORK, Sept. 18 (JTA)--Felix Kamov-Kandel, the well-known Soviet Jewish screen writer, has received permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union with his family, the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry reported. Permission was granted four years after Kamov-Kandel applied for an exit permit. Since that time he has been cut off from the ordinary privileges of life. No date has yet been set for his departure, the Conference said.

Kamov-Kandel is an acclaimed playwright and scriptwriter, as well as creator of an internationally renowned cartoon. After requesting an exit permit, Soviet authorities did not allow his work to be credited to him. In addition, he was isolated from his associates in the film industry and from his literary colleagues in the Soviet Union and elsewhere.

During his four year waiting period, Kamov-Kandel held two long hunger-strikes, protesting refusal of permission to emigrate, and of his treatment after he had filed for an exit permit. He was editor of the "Samizdat" publication, "Tarbut."

GRONINGEN SYNAGOGUE BUILDING SAVED

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 18 (JTA)--The monumental 70-year-old synagogue building in Groningen, which has stood empty for the past two years, will not be demolished but restored with a government and municipal subsidy and become a cultural center. During the Nazi occupation of The Netherlands--most of the Groningen Jews were deported to their death.

After the war, the synagogue building proved much too large for the needs of the small remaining congregation which has ever since held services in what was formerly its youth synagogue. The synagogue was later used as a factory and became dilapidated. When the factory left the building it was at first decided to demolish the structure but a committee of Groningen citizens, largely non-Jewish, started an action to save the building which has been a local landmark. This action has now been crowned with success.

BRUSSELS (JTA)--The trial of Ernst Ehlers, former chief of the Nazi political police in Belgium during World War II, will start in West Germany early next year.

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