

CABINET APPROVES 'WORKING PAPER' WITHOUT QUALIFICATIONS, APPARENTLY IN COMPLIANCE WITH U.S. URGING THAT ISRAEL ATTACH NO CONDITIONS

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 12 (JTA)—An important but so far unilateral step by Israel toward reconvening the Geneva conference was taken last night when the Cabinet unanimously approved the "working paper" on procedures drafted last week by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in New York.

The Cabinet's endorsement, without qualifications or amendments, after a five-hour special session that ended at midnight, was apparently in compliance with American urgings that Israel attach no conditions that would make it more difficult for the U.S. to "sell" the working paper to the Arabs.

The contents of the working paper were not divulged. Vance will now bring it before the Arab governments for their decision. Officials here expect further diplomatic contacts during the coming weeks before actual preparations to resume the Geneva conference can be made.

Carter Sent Message To Begin

Only hours before the Cabinet convened, it was disclosed that Premier Menachem Begin had received a personal message from President Carter urging that his government approve the document. Officials said the message was written in a friendly style and contained no hints that pressure might be applied if the Cabinet rejected the draft.

(In Washington, Carter said today he was pleased with the Cabinet decision. Last night the State Department issued a statement welcoming the Israeli move. See separate story.)

(In Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy declined to comment today on the Israeli Cabinet decision but told reporters that prospects for reconvening Geneva peace talks by the end of the year were "bright." He reported to President Anwar Sadat on his talks in the U.S. with Carter and Vance.)

(The PLO's position remained as hardline as ever. Permitted to address the UN General Assembly yesterday despite protests from the U.S. and Israel, Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department, said his group would continue its "armed struggle" against Israel. "Let it be crystal clear, no peace without the Palestinians and no Palestinians without the PLO," Kaddoumi said.)

Decision 'Speaks For Itself'

The Cabinet had been expected to approve the working paper but to spell out that its approval was conditional upon acceptance of Israel's refusal to negotiate with the PLO, refusal to negotiate over a Palestinian state on the West Bank and refusal to accept the U.S.-Soviet joint declaration of Oct. 1 as any sort of basis for the Geneva talks. Such conditions were not attached, however. Cabinet secretary Arye Naor, briefing newsmen after the meeting, stressed that the decision "speaks for itself" and that "no appendices or stipulations" had been added.

The absence of conditions led some observers to deduce that the Carter Administration had urged

Israel very strongly to give its approval unburdened by any qualifications that would impair chances of Arab acceptance. According to political correspondent Yosef Harif, writing in Maariv yesterday, Begin himself had tried to get the text amended as late as last Saturday because he was unhappy with a clause which permits Egypt to participate in negotiations over the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

During the course of the Cabinet session, the longest ever held by the Begin government, some ministers are understood to have expressed doubts about the working paper. But Begin and Dayan eventually prevailed upon their colleagues to comply with the American request to approve the draft without qualifications.

Naor told newsmen that the contents must remain unpublished for the time being so as not to prejudice the delicate diplomatic efforts still to follow. According to sources here the working paper provides for a united Arab delegation, including Palestinians, to participate in the opening session of the Geneva conference. Negotiations would follow between Israel and the multi-party Arab delegations on such issues as the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the refugee problem. Substantive bilateral negotiations aimed at final peace treaties, would be conducted between Israel and each of the neighboring Arab states individually.

Stormy Knesset Session Expected

Last night's Cabinet decision has not calmed the political waters in Israel. The government is expected to come under severe attack from Labor Alignment leader Shimon Peres at tomorrow's special Knesset session for rushing headlong toward Geneva without prior "coordination of policy" with the U.S.

Dayan's reply was foreshadowed at his airport press conference when he returned from the U.S. yesterday. The Foreign Minister contended that "coordination of policy" with the U.S. under the previous Labor government was largely a myth. He cited Carter's endorsement of the idea of a Palestinian homeland in his Clinton, Mass. speech immediately after his talks with former Premier Yitzhak Rabin last March.

CARTER PLEASSED WITH ISRAELI DECISION; STATE DEPT. SAYS ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION, OTHER 'OUTSTANDING' QUESTIONS REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12 (JTA)—President Carter said today that he was "pleased" with the Israeli Cabinet's approval of a working paper outlining the route to a Middle East peace conference at Geneva. But the State Department, which last night also welcomed the Israeli government's move, observed today that the issue of Palestinian representation and other "outstanding" questions remain to be resolved. "These are tough questions to be discussed with all the parties," Assistant Secretary of State Hoddge Carter, the Department's chief spokesman, told reporters at a briefing this morning.

The President made his comments to reporters after bidding farewell to Lt. Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo, Chief of State of Nigeria. "Asked

about the Israeli decision, he said, "I'm pleased with that," adding, "We don't know yet about the private concerns on the part of the Israelis and we're consulting constantly with the Arab nations as well."

Hodding Carter told newsmen that the Israel-approved working paper was being transmitted through diplomatic channels to Egypt, Jordan and Syria as "the governments concerned in the first instance in making peace with Israel." He indicated that Lebanon and Saudi Arabia also would receive copies.

But he would not speculate on when an Arab decision might come and did not rule out the possibility that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance would make another trip to the Middle East within a month. He did not foresee meetings between Vance and Middle East leaders over the next 10 days.

The State Department spokesman confirmed that the Israeli Cabinet accepted the working paper, drafted by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Vance in New York last week without conditions or reservations. President Carter said he believed there has been a "substantial alleviation" of fears among Middle East leaders about the eventual outcome of the Geneva peace conference. "They've all begun to see that it's not something they need fear," he said. He described the Middle East situation as extremely sensitive and complex, in part because some leaders have made "very abusive statements" in the past which they are now doing their best to "modify." He did not identify the leaders.

View On Palestinian Issue

In a statement issued last night expressing satisfaction with Israel's decision, the State Department cautioned that the approved document is "still a working paper which may require further negotiations after the Arab governments have given their views on it."

Hodding Carter commented that "diametrically opposing views" are being expressed on the issue of Palestinian representation. He said that "whoever participates (in the Geneva conference) must be accepted by all the parties." Asked by a Lebanese reporter if Palestinians would be allowed to attend as representatives of the "State of Palestine," Carter replied "There is no state called Palestine today."

President Carter was asked today if he favored the creation of a Palestinian entity or homeland. He replied, "I have never advocated an independent Palestinian state."

Lebanon To Be At Geneva Talks

The State Department spokesman disclosed that Lebanon, which did not attend the Geneva conference when it convened briefly for the first time in December, 1973, will participate in the resumed conference along with Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Israel and the two co-chairmen, the U.S. and USSR. He said that "All parties have agreed" to Lebanon's participation although the matter has not been fully settled. However, he added, "It is not my understanding that Saudi Arabia will be a participant."

Hodding Carter declined to discuss the contents of the working paper. When asked if some items had been deleted from it for later discussion, he replied, "That's a good question." When a reporter observed, "As of now the issue of Palestinian representation is not resolved," he replied, "That is correct." He stressed that "without acceptance of a formula that allows Palestinians there can be no Geneva," adding, "That has not yet happened. That remains an outstanding question."

Stressed Resolutions 242 And 338

He reiterated that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 remain the basis of the American position. Asked about the Soviet position in light of the U.S.-Soviet joint declaration of Oct. 1, the spokesman replied that the Soviet Union considers "a number of resolutions are important." But he did not say what Moscow would or would not accept regarding the Geneva conference.

The U.S. position, Hodding Carter said, is that the shape of a settlement is for the parties to determine. But he expressed "hope" that U.S. "general principles" outlined by President Carter "would be incorporated in a settlement as 'necessary elements.'" Asked to explain the term "necessary elements" in view of the Administration's insistence that it will not impose a solution of the Middle East conflict, the State Department spokesman qualified his statement. "It is our belief that a general set of principles is necessary" but "they are not holy writ," he said.

LEBANESE CEASE-FIRE BREAKING DOWN; CHRISTIANS URGE ISRAELI INTERVENTION By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Oct. 12 (JTA)--The cease-fire in south Lebanon appears to have broken down again and Christian villagers are urging Israel to re-intervene to prevent Palestinian terrorists from "massacring us." About 500 Lebanese Christians from six border villages converged on the open fence at Metullah today appealing for Israeli artillery fire to silence terrorist guns.

Artillery exchanges have been heard around the clock for the past few days. The Christians claim the Palestinians are shelling their strongholds in gross violation of the cease-fire that went into effect last month. Several days ago, Maj. Sa'ad Haddad, commander of Christian forces in south Lebanon, told Israeli correspondents that the Palestinians were using the cease-fire to bring up reinforcements of men and weapons and establish new positions closer to Christian villages.

The cease-fire provided that Christian and Moslem forces maintain the status quo and that Israel pull its forces out of Lebanon where they had been actively assisting the Christians for some time. A new Lebanese regular army is supposed to occupy all strongholds in south Lebanon to keep the peace but there has been no sign of it so far.

Today's demonstration at the open fence called on Israel to "defend our lives." One placard said, "Don't let them massacre us." But Israel apparently has no intention of resuming its intervention in the Christian-Moslem conflict at this time. Defense Minister Ezer Weizman has ordered Israeli artillery and other forces not to become involved in the exchanges of fire in south Lebanon, ostensibly in order to preserve whatever is left of the cease-fire. Israel is believed to have come under strong U.S. pressure to stay clear of the fighting in Lebanon.

UNEASINESS OVER BEGIN'S HEALTH By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 12 (JTA)--Uneasiness is growing in Israel that Premier Menachem Begin, hospitalized three times since April for heart ailments, may be too ill to discharge the duties of his office and that his physical condition could affect his political judgement. Such speculation was heightened yesterday when Begin, looking pale and weak, was discharged from Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv.

He was admitted to the hospital 12 days earlier

suffering from fatigue brought about by overwork, the official bulletins said. But his doctors disclosed several days later that Begin was being treated for pericarditis, an inflammation of the membrane enclosing the heart. The doctors said such a condition often follows in the wake of a heart attack such as Begin suffered last April during the election campaign.

Although pronounced recovered from his heart attack, Begin was hospitalized for a week, after his election victory, for treatment of pericarditis. Both then and at the onset of his latest illness, the Premier complained of chest pains.

Given Begin's medical history and his wan appearance as he left the hospital, it was no surprise that reporters sought out his personal physician, Dr. Shlomo Landiadi, with questions about the Premier's health. Asked why his patient looked ill, Landiadi replied, "A hospital is no rest home. Have you ever seen a patient coming out after two weeks in the hospital sun-tanned and refreshed?"

Proliferation Of Rumors

The doctor dismissed as "nonsense" a story in the London Economist that said Begin's ailment could be treated only by open-heart surgery. He said that all the Premier needed was a few more days of rest at home. Nevertheless, Begin presided at last night's special session of the Cabinet which approved the U.S.-Israeli working paper on the Geneva conference.

But Begin's health is now the subject of many rumors. One of the most persistent is that the medication he receives has side effects on his mental state. This raises such questions as whether the Premier's condition has any bearing on his political judgement and to what extent is his continuance in office a gamble between Begin's need for rest and Israel's need for him as Prime Minister. His doctors insist that Begin is fit for office. But there is an understandable uneasiness in the public mind as to whether all the medical facts have been disclosed.

Whatever information has been published on Begin's health was at his own instructions. But with tension mounting on the international scene and the Premier hospitalized three times in five months, the public is demanding more facts.

\$3.5 MILLION IN ISRAEL BONDS SOLD

NEW YORK, Oct. 12 (JTA)--Non-Jewish support for Israel was expressed in concrete terms last night when more than \$3.5 million in Israel Bonds was mobilized to honor Thomas M. Macioce, president and chief executive officer of Allied Stores Corporation, at a national Israel Bond dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

More than 800 friends and associates of Macioce gathered to witness the presentation of the Prime Minister's Medal, Israel's highest civilian service award, to the department store executive for his staunch support of Israel and the Bond Organization. The medal was presented by Simcha Dinitz, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, who was a principal speaker.

Dinitz told the assembled group that "now that the Israel government has accepted the working paper that was drafted with the United States, it has done its level best to reconvene the Geneva conference. It is up to the Arabs to exercise the same attitude of flexibility, so that we can all go to Geneva and negotiate freely for the conclusion of peace treaties. Together, we should resist obstructionism that may come from radical quarters such as the PLO, which continues to espouse the destruction of Israel."

Dinitz asserted that Israel is "very serious about achieving a just and lasting peace. Since we honestly believe that we are guardians of Jewish independence, it is not given to us to play tricks or games of public opinion or popularity with this precious treasure that has been given into our hands to be kept." Israel, Dinitz added, is "going to make the maximum effort to break the log jam, to move the negotiating process forward."

Tonight, as a further demonstration of support for Israel by Jews and non-Jews, several hundred persons will gather together at the Plaza Hotel to pay tribute to Morry Axelrod, senior vice-president of Thrifty Drug Stores, at another national Israel Bond dinner. Axelrod will be the recipient of the Prime Minister's Medal, which will be presented to him by Gideon Patt, Israel's Minister of Housing. This dinner is expected to produce more than \$2 million in Bond sales for Israel's economic growth.

WEST GERMAN PARLIAMENT LEADER WARNS AGAINST REVIVAL OF ANTI-SEMITISM

By Jon Fedler

BONN, Oct. 12 (JTA)--Karl Carstens, president of the German Bundestag (Parliament) has warned against a revival of anti-Semitic tendencies in the country. Addressing a meeting of the German Soldiers' Association, Carstens said recent anti-Jewish incidents at a Munich army academy were damaging to the reputations of both the Federal Republic and its army. But Carstens stressed that the army had done its utmost to represent an "uncompromisingly democratic" standpoint.

Defense Ministry sources have, meanwhile, confirmed (following an investigation) press reports that young officers at the Munich academy engaged in a symbolic "Jew burning" while singing Nazi songs. The officers did not—as previously reported—write "Jude" on scraps of paper and cardboard which were tossed into a fire. But they did shout "throw another Jew in" as they fed the fire.

The Ministry has also confirmed further anti-Semitic incidents in the army this year. A lieutenant who distributed anti-Semitic posters and stickers in Hamburg was dismissed from the army. Another officer had been imprisoned for six months and stripped of his rank for engaging in "incitement against a certain group" (volksverhetzung).

ARGENTINA, SAUDIA IN JOINT VENTURE TO CARRY CARGO TO THE MIDDLE EAST

By Asher Mibashan

BUENOS AIRES, Oct. 12 (JTA)--Argentina and Saudi Arabia are establishing a joint shipping company to carry cargo to the Middle East, it was announced here this week by Abanan Kashoggi, one of 17 Saudian financiers who arrived here aboard a privately owned Boeing 727 jet for talks with Argentine officials. Kashoggi and Sheikh Hady Fouad Hobeiche head the group. They met with Economic Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz and Planning Minister Gen. Ramon Genaro Diaz.

In describing the shipping venture, Kashoggi said: "We represent private interests and have come with specific financial projects.... There are many funds available for the developing countries. One of the concrete results is the creation of a joint maritime company to be managed by Argentines but 51 percent of the shares will be held by Arabs." The company, he added, will carry Argentine food products to the Mideast and on their return its ships will pick up products in Europe and transport them to Argentina.

HIAS REPORTS RESETTLING 4,697 SOVIET JEWS IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1977

NEW YORK, Oct. 12 (JTA)—Gaynor I. Jacobson, executive vice-president of HIAS, announced that 4,697 Soviet Jews were resettled in the west during the first six months of 1977. Of this number, 89 percent were helped to new homes in the United States.

Of the 4,697 Soviet Jews assisted to the west during the first half of this year, 4,164 arrived in the U.S.; 194 (4 percent) were resettled in Canada with aid of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services; 237 (5 percent) in Australia; 92 to Western Europe; and 10 to Latin America.

Soviet Jewish arrivals to the U.S. came from 11 of the 15 Soviet republics. The dominant number—over 2,900 persons (70 percent of the total)—continues to come from the Ukrainian SSR, followed by the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (20 percent). Those from the other nine republics constituted 10 percent of the total.

During the same six months of 1976, HIAS assisted 3,905 Soviet Jewish refugees to the West, 20 percent less than this year's total, Jacobson reported. Soviet Jews resettled in the U.S. by HIAS found new homes in 97 Jewish communities in 31 states and the District of Columbia. Forty-five percent remained in the Greater New York area where they were assisted in their resettlement by the New York Association for New Americans.

Resettled In Diverse Communities

The 55 percent resettled outside of New York went to such diverse communities as Tacoma, Washington; Waco, Texas; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Hazleton, Pennsylvania; and Cedar Rapids, Iowa as well as major cities including Boston, Baltimore, Chicago, Detroit and Los Angeles. Over 150 American Jewish communities are now participating in HIAS' Soviet Jewish resettlement program, according to Jacobson. Forty-five percent of the Soviet Jewish labor force to arrive in the U.S. during the first six months of this year are highly-trained and/or university educated. They include 599 professionals, 331 engineers, and 192 technicians.

In addition to Soviet Jewish refugees, HIAS remained active helping migrants in other parts of the world as well. One hundred and forty-nine emigrants were assisted to leave Asia and Africa and 41 were resettled from Latin America. HIAS also assisted 3 Indochinese in their resettlement in the U.S.

Forty-three Moroccan immigrants found new homes in Canada with aid from HIAS and 36 Tunisians were resettled in Western Europe. HIAS aided 16 refugees from Lebanon to new homes in Latin America and 50 Rumanians were aided to emigrate to the U.S. Jacobson said that HIAS expects to resettle more than 6,000 Soviet Jews in the U.S. by the end of this year. Another 1,000 will find new homes in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Latin America and Western Europe.

THE TOPIC WAS ALIYA

By Abraham Feinglass

NEW YORK, Oct. 12 (JTA)—The North American Aliya Movement (NAAM) held its first national board meeting and first leadership development seminar at the International Synagogue at Kennedy Airport Sunday. Approximately 100 members, representing Hugel Aliya (groups involved in the emigration of American Jews to Israel) from 40 cities around the U.S. attended the meeting.

Geula Cohen, member of the Israeli Knesset and long-standing member of the Herut Party, told the

meeting that aliya is "the most positive thing I have seen in the United States." Ms. Cohen, who was a member of the Stern Group during Israel's War of Independence, is chairperson of the newly formed Special Committee of the Knesset for Aliya. She is currently in New York as part of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations.

Ms. Cohen said that she has been greatly disturbed by the number of Israelis who have left Israel and are now living in the U.S., and considers the aliya movement to be of "crucial, life and death importance to the Jewish State." Her remarks were warmly received by those at the meeting and she was given a standing ovation at the end of her speech.

A resolution was adopted at the meeting to strongly recommend to the Jewish Agency that former Americans who have successfully settled in Israel be used as shlichim rather than native-born Israelis, since the former Americans are generally the most effective in dealing with the American Jewish community. Linda Brown was elected NAAM president.

NAAM was established in 1977 and was formerly called the Association of Americans and Canadians for Aliya (AACA), the organization set up by the World Zionist Organization in 1968 to deal with American aliya.

HUNGER STRIKE BY KHARKOV ACTIVISTS

NEW YORK, Oct. 12 (JTA)—A group of Soviet Jewish activists in Kharkov are going on a three-day hunger strike on Oct. 16-18, the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry learned today, to protest the lack of response by Soviet authorities to their emigration requests. During the three-day period of the hunger strike, the daily protest vigil of the Conference in front of the Aeroflot offices in midtown Manhattan will be devoted to the Kharkov strikes.

Meanwhile, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry said it has learned that Soviet Jewish refusenik Lazar Brusilovsky, 18, of Rostov, has been released from a psychiatric hospital and received an exit permit to emigrate to Israel. He is expected to leave the USSR shortly. Brusilovsky, who first received an invitation from relatives in Israel in June, 1977, was placed into a psychiatric hospital soon after beginning the application process. In a letter smuggled out of the hospital, Brusilovsky said that he had been taken "by force."

PESSAH BURSTEIN DEAD AT 68

TEL AVIV, Oct. 12 (JTA)—Pessah Burstein, a survivor of Auschwitz and author of many books on the Holocaust, died here yesterday at the age of 68. Burstein, who was born in Bialystok, Russia, arrived in Palestine in 1947 and helped organize the She'erith Hapleita, an organization of survivors of Nazi persecution. At the time of his death he was chairman of the national organization of former Nazi death camp inmates and partisan fighters and of the world organization of Nazi death camp prisoners.

TEL AVIV (JTA)—Dr. Amnon Goldenberg, Justice Minister-designate, has been elected chairman of the board of directors of the Weizmann Institute Memorial Foundation (Yad Chaim Weizmann), succeeding the late Meyer Weisgal who died last month. Goldenberg was elected to the office several days before Weisgal's death but the announcement was withheld until completion of the shiva period. President Ephraim Katzir is honorary president of the Foundation.