

LIKUD, HISTADRUT IN CONFRONTATION OVER THE NEW ECONOMIC PROGRAM

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Nov. 3 (JTA)—The Likud government and Histadrut are locked in battle over the new economic program as each tries to rally public support to strengthen its hand before negotiations begin over compensation for higher prices and other major issues. Histadrut's campaign of strikes, work stoppages and demonstrations against perceived economic inequities has been only partially successful so far.

Many worker groups have taken a cynical attitude toward the trade union federation, recalling that it had rarely objected when the previous Labor government raised prices and taxes and that Histadrut had usually supported the authorities in strikes involving public services.

The government has started a counter-campaign utilizing Cabinet ministers and senior Likud officials to "clarify" the new economic policy and "educate" the workers as to why it is necessary. But Premier Menachem Begin only added fuel to the fire last night when he used the term "Bolshevik" to characterize worker protests. Addressing a rally marking the 10th anniversary of the Land of Israel movement in Jerusalem, a group that demands annexation of the occupied Arab territories, Begin denounced the strikes and work stoppages.

"These days we hear discordant tones and threatening voices," he said. "This evening I have come to say this government which was formed on the basis of the people's wish will not be frightened by threats from without or within. The Bolshevik-like tones heard these days will quickly disappear." Histadrut Secretary General Yeruham Meshel reacted swiftly. Begin's words, he declared, make it plain what the Premier thinks of workers' rights.

Massive Protest Rally

Meanwhile, the strikes, stoppages and rallies continued but not quite on the scale the Histadrut apparently hoped for. Sick-fund employees went on strike yesterday and clinics were manned by skeleton staffs. But a strike by bank employees was largely ineffective. All commercial banks, except the Tel Hapoalim, the workers movement bank, functioned normally today. Bakeries, which were supposed to be struck, remained open as did many other plants and enterprises, where strikes had been called.

Histadrut's biggest success was the protest rally held today in Tel Aviv's municipal square which drew about 25,000 workers. At one point, the demonstrators blocked the Tel Aviv-Haifa road and border police units had to intervene to keep traffic moving. But they used persuasion instead of clubs and no injuries or arrests were reported.

The success of the rally was attributed largely to veteran labor leader Yitzhak Ben Aharon, the former Histadrut Secretary General, who is a spell-binding orator. He managed to infuse his audience with a militant spirit and instead of dispersing after his speech, worker groups numbering in the hundreds and even thousands staged impromptu demonstrations in some of Tel Aviv's main thoroughfares.

No official contact between the government

and Histadrut is expected until after the Histadrut convention to be held next week. Nevertheless, experts on both sides are preparing figures on the extent of price rises and compensation. Most employers seem to realize that wage hikes will be necessary but are waiting for a government-Histadrut agreement before determining the size of the raise.

One industrialist, Steff Wertheimer, a Knesset member of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) has already given workers at his metal plant a 10 percent raise. The Manufacturers Association decided to suspend him for breaking management solidarity. But the association now seems to be having second thoughts.

CARTER: MAY BE FACING NOW THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 (JTA)—President Carter last night reaffirmed America's friendship and security commitments for Israel and, invoking the Prophet Micah's cry for peace, appealed to some 800 leaders of the World Jewish Congress gathered here from five continents for "both vision and realism" to help end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Without materially altering the peace formulas that have aroused concern and anger from Israel and its supporters, the President emphasized in an address, that "we may be facing now the best opportunity for a permanent Middle East peace settlement in our lifetime" and "we must not let it slip away."

"This is not a time for intemperance or partisanship," he said. "It is a time for strong and responsible leadership and a willingness to explore carefully, and perhaps for the first time, the intentions of others."

Carter warned, "As difficult as peace through negotiations will be in the Middle East, the alternatives of stalemate and conflict is infinitely worse. It is time to use the mutual strength and the unique partnership between Israel and the United States—and the influence of you and others who have a deep interest and concern—to guarantee a strong and permanently secure Israel at peace with her neighbors, and able to contribute her tremendous resources toward the realization of human rights and a better and more peaceful life throughout the world."

Varying Reactions To Speech

Interpretation and reaction varied widely among those interviewed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency immediately following the address. Some were inclined to see the President's main thrust as directed towards Senate Republican Minority Leader Howard Baker of Tennessee, who had told the JWC the day before that the Carter Administration is playing "Russian roulette" with Israel.

Some Jewish communal leaders mainly thought it represented a challenge to them and saw only nuances of improvement in "trigger words" such as the West Bank settlements and "legitimate rights" of Palestinians that the President reiterated in his address. "This speech does not change the basic situation," a well-placed Jewish leader observed. "If this was intended to change our attitude, it

won't have that effect."

One highly respected observer saw the President trying to correct "the bad feeling that has been created" by his policy. In this connection, he noted the President's emphasis on continued support of Israel and his "preference" against a Palestinian state. "However," this observer added, "his use again of legitimate rights can create misconceptions in the Arab mind and thus present difficulties on the road to peace. On the other hand, the President's use of milder phrasing about Israeli settlements by emphasizing 'civilian' and not calling them 'obstacles to peace' is an improvement."

Three Key Issues

In his address, Carter listed the three key issues in Mideast diplomacy as: the establishment of effective security measures, coupled to Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories and agreement on final, secure and recognized borders; the normalization of political, economic and cultural relations between Israel and the Arabs; and a resolution of the Palestinian problem.

Regarding the Palestinian problem, Carter spoke of the need to respect the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinians but reiterated an earlier announced position that "we ourselves do not prefer an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank." The term, "legitimate rights," aroused anger in Israel and in the American Jewish community when it was first used in the U.S.-Soviet joint declaration Oct. 1.

Best Opportunity For Peace

"We may be facing now the best opportunity for a permanent Middle East peace settlement in our lifetime," Carter said. "We must not let it slip away. Well-meaning leaders in Israel, in the Arab nations, and indeed throughout the world are making an unprecedented and concerted effort to resolve deep-seated differences in the Middle East. This is not a time for intemperance or partisanship. It is a time for strong and responsible leadership and a willingness to explore carefully and thoughtfully the intention of others."

He asked Israel to dispel its distrust of the Arab states and not resign themselves to unending conflict in the Mideast. "With such an attitude of resignation, Israel would never have been created, and with such an attitude peace would never be achieved."

Carter also stated that "much still needs to be done to remove the suspicions that exist in Israel about Arab intentions." He noted, however, that the Arab states involved in the conflict with Israel "are increasingly willing to work towards peace treaties" and no longer "dispute Israel's right to live within secure and recognized borders."

The President added that the continuing refusal of the Palestine Liberation Organization to recognize Israel's right to exist provided Israel with tangible evidence that their worst fears about PLO policy might be justified.

While saying he would not "impose our will on any party," and "we can make suggestions but we cannot do the negotiating," the President continued to express his determination to persist for a settlement as a "mediator." He said "negotiations will no doubt be prolonged and often difficult. But we are in this to stay. I will personally be prepared to use the influence of the United States to help the negotiations succeed."

Carter received applause as he read the prepared statement, "We are proud to be Israel's firm friend and closest partner—and we shall stand by

Israel always." More applause came when he added extemporaneously, "I speak not only for myself but all three branches of government" and that he also has "no doubt I speak accurately for the overwhelming majority of the American people now and forever."

BEGIN REFUSES TO MAKE PROMISES ON MORE JEWISH SETTLEMENTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 3 (JTA)—Militants of the Land of Israel movement urged the Likud government last night to intensify Jewish settlement throughout the administered Arab territories. But the guest of honor and principal speaker at their 10th anniversary rally here, Premier Menachem Begin, refused to make any promises in that direction. He offered only the assurance that "Jews will always be the majority in Eretz Israel." According to Begin, "statisticians prophesied that within a short period Jews and Arabs would live in Israel in equal numbers but this prophecy has proved false."

The Land of Israel movement was formed after the 1967 Six-Day War by a splinter group of activists who demanded the creation of a "Greater Israel" to embrace all of the territories conquered in the war. Many of the speakers who preceded Begin last night took sharp issue with the government's stated readiness to give up a considerable part of Sinai in exchange for peace. They contended that any concessions in Sinai would lead to renewed hostilities with Egypt.

Begin said in his speech that he believed in "divine protection" and that "we should do the utmost so that no more Jewish blood will spill and that Eretz Israel will be for the Jewish people." But his audience complained that Likud wasn't doing enough to "eternalize" the Jewish presence throughout the "land of Israel." Outside the Jerusalem convention hall several hundred leftist demonstrators denounced Begin and Likud policies.

FSJU LEADER RAPS PRO-ISRAELI FAIR FOR SPLITTING JEWISH COMMUNITY

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Nov. 3 (JTA)—Baron Guy de Rothschild, president of the Fonds Social Juif Unifié (FSJU), rapped the organizers of the pro-Israeli fair, "12 Hours for Israel" for "splitting the Jewish community at a time when Israel is in serious danger and needs more than ever before our support."

The FSJU leader, who was addressing the organization's national council on Monday, said that "while it is normal for each of us to support the political party of his choice—it is wrong to involve the (Jewish) community or its institutions which have a general vocation and bring together men and women of all tendencies and political opinions."

De Rothschild was speaking about last Sunday's fair, which the organizers said was attended by some 100,000 people. The demonstration was held against the wishes of the major Jewish organizations, FSJU and UJA, which objected to its timing on the eve of France's elections.

Leaders of France's traditional Jewish establishment feared the organizers would use the demonstration to plug the Socialist opposition with which many of them have close links. Actually, the demonstration kept out of local politics though most speakers rapped the French government's anti-Israeli policy. De Rothschild devoted a large part of his address to this subject because of the crisis provoked by the demonstrations in inter-communal relations. The FSJU president also called upon the

government to change its policy, as far as Israel is concerned and said that "common sense will win and the policy will change."

The council stressed that the three main pillars of Jewish activity in France remain education, fund-raising and immigration to Israel. It also approved the resignation of its executive vice-president Julien Samuel who has been replaced by Adam Loss, a Jewish Telegraphic Agency board member and publisher of the JTA French language news bulletin.

KISSINGER URGES ISRAEL TO STAND FAST FOR SUITABLE PEACE TALKS PROCEDURES By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 (JTA)--Former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger cautioned Israel today to stand fast for suitable procedures toward reconvening the Geneva conference and to remain unyielding in its opposition to a Palestinian state which, he said, by its very nature would jeopardize the "tranquility" of the Middle East.

In an address to the closing session of the World Jewish Congress General Council meeting, Kissinger, though using veiled terms, implied strong criticism of the Carter Administration's Middle East policies and those of some European governments.

He did not identify any government or personality by name and told his audience at the outset that he would not discuss tactical situations in the Middle East because of his obligation to refrain from such matters for a full year following his retirement from office. The former Secretary told the gathering, "I wanted to talk to you at a moment of great complexity to the Jewish people" and about the "present situation that must fill all Jews with a sense of responsibility and concern."

Kissinger said he believed that a Middle East peace "must be achieved in closest cooperation between Israel and the U.S.," but added, in an apparent reference to the Carter Administration, "It is not enough to give grudging acceptance" and to depend "on a continual need for assurances." He said that "Jews can ensure their interests best by understanding the interests of the countries in which they live" but "similarly, the U.S. and other countries owe Israel understanding of the insecurity of the people of Israel who have not had peace in their entire history."

Imposed Peace Is Not Just

Kissinger stressed, "A just peace cannot be an imposed peace but a peace in which all nations feel they have a stake in maintaining and preserving it." At each stage "the parties must feel it was their decision and not somebody else's decision that brought about a final conclusion," he said.

He noted that "the procedure is sometimes as important as substance. It makes a good deal of difference who participates in negotiations, what the purposes of the countries are and in what sequence issues are discussed. These are not trivial issues, these are central issues."

Kissinger warned, "A separate Arab state on the West Bank, whatever its declaration, whatever its intentions, must have an objective that cannot have compatibility with the tranquility of the Middle East." This has nothing to do with assurances and promises but is "inherent in the logic" of the Middle East circumstances, he said. No nation, he added, "can entrust its destiny simply to the good will of another state."

Role Of The Jewish People

In that connection, Kissinger contended that

"all foreign policy must begin with concern for the balance of power. Therefore, Jews must stand for that in the countries in which they live. They cannot attack a defense program in their own country and defend a strong Israel. This is a necessity that should be beyond discussion," he said.

Kissinger said, "All Jews must be for peace because no people has suffered so much from its absence" but all Jews know that "peace cannot rest on the profession" of political promises. He said that Jews have seen too much of transitory intentions. "All Jews know they can easily become targets of popular emotions" and "therefore feel they must not be seen as the source of international difficulty. And yet all Jews have seen too much of suffering, too many killed, to abdicate their judgment what is necessary for peace," Kissinger said.

At the closing session of the WJC conference, Philip Klutznick, chairman of the WJC board of governors, succeeded Nahum Goldmann as WJC president. Goldmann was elected to the special office of Founding President. Lord Fisher of Camden, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, was elected chairman of the WJC board of governors.

UN ASSEMBLY APPROVES BY CONSENSUS MEASURE AIMED AGAINST HIJACKING

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 3 (JTA)--A resolution aimed against aerial hijacking was approved by consensus of the General Assembly this afternoon. Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Chaim Herzog, said in a speech afterwards that although Israel went along with the consensus, the resolution is nevertheless "a disappointing one." The resolution, adopted earlier this week by the General Assembly's special political committee, calls for improved airport security, the exchange of relevant information between nations and ratification by all countries of existing international conventions dealing with the safety of civil aviation.

Herzog, however, contended that the resolution "is weak, for it is a compromise with the forces that back and finance acts of terror. The result of this compromise is a bare minimum of what this urgent problem requires in the form of a resolution," he said. The draft text was amended in the political committee, under Arab pressure, to include language that could be interpreted as critical allusions to past actions by Israel to combat aerial hijacking.

Herzog also complained that the resolution has no explicit call for states "to provide for the prosecution and punishment of persons who perpetrate acts of international terror and aerial hijacking." He said that governments which allow terrorists to train in their countries and finance their activities should have been recognized as accomplices of the terrorists. The resolution also failed to call upon states to suspend air services to any country which gives sanctuary to hijackers, Herzog said.

NEW YORK (JTA)--The Herzl Institute will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration the evening of Nov. 6. Lord Fisher of Camden, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Prof. Melvin I. Urofsky, of Virginia Commonwealth University, and Jacques Torczyner, chairman, Theodor Herzl Institute and member of the Executive of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, will speak. The program will be held at the Central Synagogue, 128 East 55th Street.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS PRESENTS CARTER WITH SEFER TORAH, GOLDMANN AWARD

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 (JTA)—President Carter last night accepted a 14th Century Sefer Torah from the World Jewish Congress and solemnly promised to place it in the White House where he will observe it daily and be a constant reminder to him of the sentiment of its givers.

The Sefer Torah, adorned with bright red velvet bearing the traditional symbols in gold embroidery, was presented to him by Nahum Goldmann, retiring WJC president, who stressed: "We live by its precepts, and we die for it, and we survive by it. Take it, I hope, to the White House as a constant reminder of our prayers for justice and peace."

Torah Will Be In White House

Carter replied: "I accept it for all those who share a common religious heritage and a common commitment to the future. It is obvious that this gift means a great deal to me and all of the people of the nation I represent. It will be a constant reminder of the unbreakable ties of moral, political, economic and military influences that bind the United States and Israel. I will observe it daily in the White House as I go about my own duties and it will be a constant reminder to me of the spirit of human rights, decency and love that is exemplified by those of you represented here tonight."

The presentation came after the President's address and he received it amid an enthusiastic standing ovation. Prior to his address, he was presented with the Nahum Goldmann Medal by Philip Klutznick who said it was being given for "your deep-seated commitment to human rights." Klutznick, who succeeded Goldmann today as president of the WJC which has affiliates in 63 nations on five continents, presided at the program.

The WJC's executive director for Europe, Stephen Roth of London, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Sefer Torah had been seized by Nazi forces from a synagogue in Uzhrohd Hrad in Moravia and sent to Prague where the German occupiers had collected Judaica for museum pieces.

The Jewish community of Uzhrohd Hrad, which Roth said had existed since the 14th Century, was destroyed by the Nazis. After World War II, the Czechoslovak government, having come into possession of the Judaica, sold some of the Torahs to the Westminster Synagogue in London which yielded it to be a gift for the President.

RIEGNER: CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN WJC AND CHURCHES, 3RD WORLD

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 (JTA)—Dr. Gerhart M. Riegner, secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) today reported continued improvement in the organization's relations with representatives of the Christian churches and with Third World countries, but declared that the WJC had been "forced again to pay increased attention to the fight against anti-Semitism in all its forms."

Riegner presented his survey of the World Jewish condition in a report on the WJC's activities since its Plenary meeting in Jerusalem two and a half years ago, to the conference of the organization's General Council here. The political action of the WJC, Riegner reported, has expanded in all directions.

"The increased economic and political power of the Arab states and the dangerous expansion of the Arab boycott against Israel and the countries trading with her has increased the need for systematic

counteraction on a worldwide scale," he declared. One of the "major contributions" of the WJC in this sphere, he said, was the setting up of an international anti-boycott committee to initiate measures to combat the practice, and coordinate activities of national affiliates in some 60 countries.

In reporting the expanded relations with the Third World, Riegner said that the WJC had realized "for quite some time that the increasing importance of the countries of Africa and Asia on the international scene make it necessary to remedy the mutual ignorance that generally exists between Jews and the peoples of the Third World."

Manifestations Of Anti-Semitism

As to anti-Semitic manifestations in recent months, Riegner reported that "in some Latin American countries, acts of violence against synagogues and Jewish institutions, unjustified attacks on prominent Jewish figures, and a steady publication of anti-Semitic literature of the worst type have given rise to serious concern." The anti-Jewish publications have been prohibited from time to time by the authorities, Riegner said, "only to be immediately replaced by publications of a similar kind."

But "no less preoccupying are the anti-Semitic manifestations which have recently occurred in a number of European countries," Riegner declared. Many publications denying or minimizing the tragedy of the Holocaust "in which six million Jews perished and accusing the Jews of having invented the tragedy in order to foster their own political aims are particularly dangerous and require determined action and increased vigilance on our part."

On the issue of international diplomacy, Riegner explained that the WJC "has always welcomed every sign of a lessening of tensions between the great power blocs," and "has followed this line particularly in regard to the Helsinki conference." While "giving full support to all measures destined to lead to genuine detente, the Congress has insisted at the same time on the implementation of the provisions of the Helsinki agreement dealing with freer human contacts and movement and cooperation in the fields of information, culture and education."

The WJC "is particularly happy," Riegner said, "that, perhaps under the impact of the Helsinki agreement, relations with a number of Eastern European communities which do not belong to the Congress have improved and that observers of these communities are now regularly attending meetings of the WJC European Branch."

A top priority of the World Jewish Congress has been given throughout to the struggle of securing for Soviet Jews "collectively and individually, full enjoyment of human rights without discrimination, especially the right of freedom of emigration, and the maintenance and development of the religious, national and cultural heritage of those who choose to stay in the USSR." Riegner, reporting on contacts with Christian bodies, declared that ongoing relations have been established both with the Vatican and the World Council of Churches.

NEW YORK (JTA)—A five-year wait for exit visas has ended for Aleksander and Oksana Chertin of Leningrad, who were told that they had received permission to emigrate to Israel, along with their son, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. The Chertins, well-known activists in the Leningrad community, first applied to leave in March, 1972.