

MENDES-FRANCE TERMS 'WORKING PAPER' AN ISRAELI ACHIEVEMENT: SEES SIGNS FOR SOLUTION OF CONFLICT IN MIDEAST

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 14 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and former French Premier Pierre Mendes-France discussed the Middle East situation here today and while Dayan disagreed with the visitor's contention that Israel had missed opportunities for peace talks in the past, both statesmen felt there was hope for a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Mendes-France, here for a symposium marking the 20th anniversary of the Zionist Socialist periodical, "New Outlook," said the Israeli-U.S. working paper on Geneva conference procedures was an "Israeli achievement."

Mendes-France said that as a Socialist, he could not understand why it was criticized by leftist groups because "under existing conditions a better paper could not have been reached." The French Socialist leader said he favored direct Arab-Israeli talks and would like to see Big Power involvement in the Mideast lessened. Dayan said that since the Ben Gurion government, Israel had tried without success to establish direct contacts with the Arabs.

Mendes-France thought that "had Israel offered to the Arabs in 1967 bilateral talks on territorial concessions and a discussion of the Palestinian problem--as it offers today--things would have looked different." But Dayan reminded his guest that Israel's attempted initiatives, through the good offices of the U.S., resulted only in the famous "three no's" of the Khartoum summit conference--no negotiations, no recognition, no peace.

Dayan insisted that no responsible Israeli government could have taken any earlier initiatives. He and Mendes-France agreed that the situation was not hopeless as long as an Arab leader such as Egypt's President Anwar Sadat talks of a possible visit to Jerusalem.

Sadat Visit No Substitute For Geneva

Referring to Sadat's proposal at the weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday, Dayan said that while it was a positive sign it could not replace negotiations with each of the Arab countries on all subjects in dispute. The target should be an overall Mideast settlement and not just a bilateral agreement with one country, he said. Premier Menachem Begin told the Cabinet that if Sadat accepted his invitation to visit Jerusalem he would ask the speaker of the Knesset to allow the Egyptian leader to address that body.

Sadat's proposal that an unidentified Palestinian professor, now resident in the U.S., represent the Palestinians at the Geneva conference was received with considerable skepticism but was not rejected outright. The Cabinet adopted no official position because the proposal has not been conveyed officially to Israel.

(Meanwhile, according to reports from Tunis Arab foreign ministers meeting there agreed to postpone an Arab summit conference until mid-February to allow more time to negotiate a resumption of the Geneva peace conference. Egypt

apparently was the chief proponent of delay, fearing that if an Arab summit meeting is held before the Geneva talks reconvene, it could be locked into a less flexible position on a Mideast peace settlement.)

U.S. COOL TO POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN-ISRAEL BILATERAL SETTLEMENT TALKS; REJECTS SUGGESTION FOR PLO TO BE AT GENEVA

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 (JTA)--The United States today reacted with coolness towards possible Egyptian-Israeli bilateral settlement discussions while turning down a suggestion from the Palestine Liberation Organization that the Soviet-American statement of Oct. 1 be formalized by the United Nations Security Council as a way to include the PLO in the Geneva conference. (Related story P. 2)

The U.S. attitude came in response to reporters' questions by the Assistant Secretary of State Hoddg Carter, the State Department's chief spokesman, following weekend developments in Cairo, Jerusalem and Tunis. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat said he would go to Jerusalem in search of peace and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin responded with an invitation to him to come to Israel.

In Tunis, where the Arab League foreign ministers are meeting, the deputy chief of the PLO's political department, Said Kamal, indicated the PLO would cooperate with a Geneva conference if it were invited by the U.S. and the Soviet Union, the co-chairmen, through UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

Sadat-Begin Statements Welcomed

With regard to the Sadat-Begin exchange, Carter reinforced an earlier State Department statement. "Clearly we welcome all statements and gestures by leaders to move negotiations forward," Carter said. He said the U.S. considers the Begin-Sadat statements as "a positive contribution to that end." But the U.S. position "remains" for a Geneva conference in December to which he said all the parties have agreed.

In this connection, Carter said that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has no plans "at this point" for a new trip to the Middle East or to meet with the foreign ministers of the Middle East nations somewhere in Europe. "We continue to hope and work for a Geneva conference in December," Carter said. "We are not prepared to speculate on what may develop at the meeting in Tunis."

Mideast Issues Pinpointed

Regarding the suggestion by Sadat that an American professor of Palestinian origin represent the Palestinians at Geneva, Carter said this "question" arose in a discussion with Sadat and President Carter. He did not further clarify. He said the State Department has not made any contacts with such professors and that he did not have an immediate answer as to whether it would be illegal for U.S. citizens to take part in an international conference in such a role.

Hoddg Carter emphasized that there are "two roadblocks" remaining on the road to Geneva--the question of Palestinian representation and the negotiating mechanism once the conference opens.

Regarding the PLO statement on the Soviet-American statement, Carter said that the PLO repre-

representatives remarks are "still very unclear." Nevertheless, Carter emphasized that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 "remain the only agreed basis" for a settlement and that the U.S. "would not favor any new resolutions that would complicate the situation."

RABIN URGES U.S. NOT TO MAKE ANY STATEMENTS ON BORDERS, PALESTINIANS PRIOR TO CONVENING OF GENEVA TALKS

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (JTA)—Former Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin yesterday called on high-ranking United States officials not to make statements on final Israel-Arab borders and the status of the Palestinians prior to the convening of a Geneva peace conference. In remarks to two gatherings of Jewish leaders which produced over \$1.35-million in Israel Bond sales, Rabin said that restraints on such comments would strengthen the United States' role as "an honest broker" in narrowing the gap between Israel and the Arabs at any negotiations for a Mideast peace.

Rabin spoke at a morning reception honoring him and his wife, Leah, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Martin in Great Neck, L.I. In the evening, he was the principal speaker at an Israel Bond reception in The Fifth Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan, which paid tribute to Rabbi Noah Chodos. The noted Israeli, now a leader of the opposition Labor Party in the Knesset, told the two groups that "the major obstacle to peace in the Middle East continues to be the Arab nations' inability to reconcile themselves to Israel as a viable Jewish State."

"When you speak of a Middle East peace," Rabin said, "it must mean not just the cessation of war but also the establishment of relations affecting the lives of all parties in the area. This is what Israel wants, but so far no Arab country sees it in this context." He said another major element must include the creation of boundaries which Israel can defend. "The boundaries cannot be the same lines that existed before the Six-Day War," he said. "Another matter to be settled, he stated, is the disposition of the Palestinians. He rejected a Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan."

ISRAEL DUE TO BE ATTACKED IN UN ASSEMBLY FOR RELATIONS WITH PRETORIA By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 14 (JTA)—The General Assembly opened its debate today on South Africa's apartheid policy during which Israel's relations with Pretoria are to be singled out in two resolutions. The resolutions are part of a series of 14 resolutions deploring the apartheid policy and calling for strict measures to fight them.

Unlike the resolutions of the Security Council—which recently adopted a resolution banning all United Nations members from selling arms to South Africa—General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding.

Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, is scheduled to address the Assembly Wednesday. According to an Israeli diplomat, Herzog will "expose the hypocrisy" of the UN which, under Arab pressure, singles out Israel's relations with South Africa. The debate is expected to continue until the end of the week. Similar anti-Israeli resolutions were adopted at previous General Assembly debates on the question of South African apartheid.

Following this debate the Assembly will take up the issue of the Middle East, a debate which

is expected to include several anti-Israel resolutions.

PERES DISCUSSES SITUATION IN ISRAEL WITH ISRAEL BOND LEADERS

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (JTA)—A national cash campaign for Israel Bonds was officially launched here yesterday by Israel's former Defense Minister Shimon Peres. The present leader of the Labor Alignment, who is now in this country, spoke via telephone hook-up to Jewish leaders in more than 40 communities in the United States and Canada. The Israel Bond cash campaign is being conducted from now through Dec. 18 to speed the payment of outstanding Bond commitments and stimulate the purchase of new Bonds.

Examining the present situation in Israel from two points of view, Peres said: "The first and immediate approach finds us in deep international crisis with elements of danger and uncertainty casting a dark shadow over our future. The second, long-range approach is dictated by the fact that we shall soon celebrate the 30th anniversary of our independence. That occasion must serve as a source of renewed hope and encouragement in facing the problems of the days ahead."

Peres stated that "No people which has gone through the ordeal of war and terror for three decades can be defeated by political pressures. No people which has established an unparalleled record of achievements in economic, cultural and scientific progress can succumb to the burdens of inflation and defense. No nation which has had the Jewish people around the world as an unwavering and devoted ally can be brought to its knees by hostility born out of the might of the petrodollar and the ever-present poison of anti-Semitism." Peres was introduced by Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization.

CARTER PLEASSED BY BEGIN-SADAT STATEMENTS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 (JTA)—President Carter considers the exchange of statements by Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat "a good omen for the future." Presidential News Secretary Jody Powell quoted the President's reaction to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today following the State Department's indication that it was cool to the idea of a visit by Sadat to Israel.

Powell said that the idea of an American professor of Palestinian origin representing the Palestinians at the Geneva conference did not come from the U.S. "It was not originated here," he said.

However, he would not go into details as to whether Sadat actually presented the idea to Carter or when it was initiated. State Department spokesman Hodding Carter had said earlier in the day that the proposal was raised at a meeting between Carter and Sadat.

(Meanwhile, Israel television reported that Sadat told an American television newsmen today that he expects to visit Israel "very shortly" and did not put any preconditions before meeting with Begin. Sadat said once in Israel he would like to meet with Knesset members before seeing Begin. "I want the people of Israel to know that I really want peace," he was reported as saying.)

(Former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon of the opposition Labor Alignment told the Knesset today that Sadat's statement that he wants to visit Israel should not be taken lightly. Begin is expected to extend a formal invitation to Sadat when he addresses the Knesset tomorrow.) By Joseph Polakoff

'GOLDA' ON BROADWAY: THE ORIGINAL IS BETTER

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (JTA)—After a great deal of fanfare, advance publicity and out-of-town tryouts, "Golda," a play by William Gibson and directed by Arthur Penn, starring Anne Bancroft as Golda Meir, opened tonight at the Morosco Theater. From the onset, it must be stated that the original is far more vital, powerful and exuberant than its Broadway copy.

After the decision was made to try to create a Broadway-framed play based on the life of Mrs. Meir, and the further decision made to cast Miss Bancroft in the role of Golda, one problem which must have arisen immediately was the degree to which the physical appearance of Miss Bancroft should be made, by the legerdemain of make-up, as much as possible like that of Mrs. Meir.

The basic problem of the attempt to dramatize Mrs. Meir's life by the vehicle of a stage surrogate becomes stunningly evident on Miss Bancroft's initial appearance as Golda. She is a physical and psychological wisp. Mrs. Meir is a physical and psychological block of granite. Sympathetic as the viewer may be, there is no intellectual and emotional way to reconcile such polar differences.

Moreover, Miss Bancroft—as Golda rarely projects the power which Mrs. Meir projected to the world, particularly as Premier, in scores of interviews, print and TV media reports, particularly TV, and in comments by seasoned observers of the wielders of power.

The fact is that Golda Meir has started to become a legend in her own lifetime, one of the few women to head the government of a modern country, the only woman to direct the affairs of that fascinating-more-than-a-country called Israel, and one of the few to lead her country in war.

Gap Between Reality And Portrayal

Bridging the gap between Miss Bancroft—first-rate actress that she is—and the larger-than-life personality she seeks to project across the footlights is clearly beyond Miss Bancroft's considerable acting skills. It is impossible to believe that Miss Bancroft, looking slightly like Golda Meir, ever comes to represent at any time during the two hours, even in theater terms, the unique totality of mind, spirit and intelligence that is Golda Meir.

The reviewer assumes that Mrs. Meir checked every word of the script and one accordingly must accept as valid what are otherwise so puzzling items. For example, Miss Bancroft once in a while sounds like Tevye's wife, Golde.

There are two scenes in which the illusion of reality does come through. In one, Mrs. Meir visits a DP camp, presumably for the Jewish Agency, with several hundred exit permits. It has been decided that all of the permits should be used for children, a revelation which provokes an outcry. Mrs. Meir asks for a chance to talk to all the inmates; it must be their decision. She makes a little talk, deeply moving, that "some day we will have a state and no Jew will have to wait." The DPs agree to priority for the children.

The other involves Mrs. Meir's determination to let nothing—including her marriage and her children—stop her from carrying out her commitment to the Zionist movement as her determination pulls her into ever-wider reaches of responsibility. Her husband emerges as a weakling, given to philosophical comment, with neither fire nor anguish.

Possibly no man, however dominating and pow-

erful, could have deflected Golda Meir from her passionate "yes" to destiny. But her husband's challenge is in toto a submissive acceptance of what he comes to understand must be. The tragedy takes its force not from his portrayal but from Golda, reminiscing on the price she has paid as a wife and mother to serve Zionism, and her understanding of the price that her husband and children also paid.

Too Many Plastic Characterizations

The other characters apparently are sacrificed in the script to keep the spotlight on Golda. Her generals are men of cardboard. Sometimes they discuss the fearful events of the days immediately after Yom Kippur, 1973, in tones of appropriate gravity but they also frequently fire off one and two sentence speeches. From time to time, in the terrible days of the early reverses on the Golan Heights and at the Suez Canal, they turn to her, as to a teacher in a class, and declaim, "You must act, Golda."

There is a Cabinet meeting in the same mold. The ministers argue, gesticulate, wring their hands, dart in and out of the spotlight, and rarely offer helpful suggestions. They, too, are largely plastic figures.

The larger-than-life living legend which Golda Meir is becoming, if she has not already achieved that eminence at 79, may be beyond pinning down in the limited arena of a Broadway stage, even by so gifted an actress as Miss Bancroft. She is intriguing to watch, she is clearly someone representing a person of authority, she projects a sense of history. Unfortunately, what she does not project is the extraordinary personality-character of Golda Meir. The play is subtitled "a partial portrait." That's all it is.

TWO SYNAGOGUES SMEARED WITH PAINT

TORONTO, Nov. 14 (JTA)—Two western Ontario synagogues in cities 125 miles apart were struck by vandals daubing red paint on buildings and leaving identical anti-Israel messages. The messages on Bethel in Windsor and Or Shalom in London read, in part: "Blood of men, women and children killed in Lebanon washes your school and synagogue. Bombs used in Lebanon were bought with money stolen from people of Canada and United States. Today we wash your synagogue and school with their blood. Tomorrow it may be your own blood. Yours Truly, Anti-Zionist Forces of America."

Gerald Klein, president of the London Jewish Community Council, said the desecration of any religious institution is deplorable and for Jews invokes bitter memories. If people want to protest they should do so openly in daylight and not like thieves in the night. Clearly the Canadian process of dissent and protest is not carried out in this manner, he said. (By Ben Kayfetz)

JERUSALEM (JTA)—A group of Israeli Arabs are due to leave Tuesday for Mecca in Saudi Arabia on the first pilgrimage by citizens of the Jewish State to the holiest shrine of Islam. They will travel via Jordan and carry temporary Jordanian passports because the Saudi authorities will not admit bearers of Israeli passports regardless of their faith. Opposition to this arrangement in some government quarters was over-ridden by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan who agreed to issue laissez passer to the pilgrims to facilitate their trip through Jordan.

CJF RESOLUTION ON MIDEAST EXPRESSES CONCERN THAT RECENT U.S. ACTIONS MAY 'SUBVERT' PEACE IN THE MIDEAST

By Murray Zuckoff

DALLAS, Nov. 14 (JTA)--A resolution recognizing President Carter's "commitment to a genuine peace, Israel's security and well-being, and his public declaration that it is not the intention of the United States to impose a settlement" in the Middle East, was adopted unanimously by the 2000 delegates attending the 46th General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, which concluded its four-day session here yesterday.

At the same time, the resolution expressed concern "about U.S. statements and actions which may subvert the peace that both the United States and Israel so deeply desire."

The importance of the resolution, which was carefully honed and phrased to express all the nuances and bases for Jewish concern regarding the future of Israel's security and well-being, was stressed by Jerold C. Hoffberger, president of the CJF, who was reelected to a third term.

He told the delegates that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who addressed the Assembly Thursday night, had asked to receive a copy of the resolution as an aid to help him understand the Jewish community's point of view on the Mideast in general. Hoffberger said that he would personally deliver a copy of the resolution, titled, "Israel and the Middle East," to Vance in Washington either today or tomorrow.

'Prefer' Is Too Ambiguous

Prior to the adoption of the resolution, a number of delegates argued for the inclusion of stronger formulations rejecting the Administration's position on the Mideast and calling for unconditional opposition to any Palestinian state. Several delegates noted that Carter, in his speech two weeks ago in Washington at the World Jewish Congress, said the U.S. would not "prefer" a Palestinian state.

Hoffberger agreed that Carter's phrase was ambiguous and a sign of procrastination on this issue by the Administration. He said that when he and a number of other Jewish communal leaders met here with Vance prior to the Secretary addressing the Assembly, Vance was told that "prefer" is not sufficient. If the U.S. really does not want to see such a state, or is opposed to it, it should say so unequivocally.

The resolution stated that there is "great danger" in the "tendency of U.S. policy to support the concept of 'Palestinian rights.'" It noted that the Arabs, especially the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the Soviet Union would view this as a signal to create a separate Palestinian state.

"We fear that Israel's enemies can be expected to construe this posture of our government as an indication that the U.S. will pressure Israel to agree to the creation of an independent Palestinian state."

The resolution said that such a state would inevitably be PLO-dominated and a threat to both Israel and "other U.S.-oriented Arab nations, including Jordan and Lebanon... and to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Vital U.S. strategic and economic interests in the region would thereby be destroyed."

Four Vital Issues

The resolution called upon the U.S. govern-

ment to:

- * "Reject the concept of a separate Palestinian state, as inimical both to U.S. interests and to peace in the Middle East;

- * "Reaffirm its solemn commitment, expressed in a 'Memorandum of Agreement' between the United States and Israel, dated September 1, 1975, not to deal with the PLO unless and until it (1) publicly and unequivocally recognized Israel's right to exist and (2) accepts Resolutions 242 and 338 as the sole basis for reconvening the Geneva conference;

- * "Use its good office to bring Israel and the Arab states--Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon--to Geneva only on the basis of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 without change or interpretation, and permit them to negotiate the terms of the peace among themselves, including the commitment to secure and recognized borders, and the proper resolution of the problem of the Palestinian Arabs;

- * "Maintain undiminished security and economic aid to Israel."

Other Resolutions Adopted

The delegates also adopted a series of resolutions dealing with international issues, including Syrian and Soviet Jews and the United Nations; monitoring anti-boycott legislation; action on national issues such as energy, welfare reform and the aging; and communal needs, such as resettlement of Soviet Jewry in North America, outreach of Jewish organizations and services and moves to provide equal opportunity for women in executive positions in Jewish communal service.

Regarding the latter resolution, it noted that "the potentials for the employment of women in top-level positions are far greater than have yet been realized, in spite of the pressing need for high quality professionals throughout the field." The resolution urged "the support of volunteer and professional leadership" to become involved "in the search and promotion process."

36 WEST BANK ARABS ARRESTED

TEL AVIV, Nov. 14 (JTA)--Security sources disclosed yesterday the recent arrests of 36 West Bank Arabs suspected of membership in six terrorist cells, most of them linked to El Fatah. Three cells were uncovered in Ramallah, two in Hebron and one in Nablus. The suspects are believed responsible for various bombings or attempted bombings over the past two years including the planting of explosives in buses in Jerusalem and elsewhere.

One of the suspects, apprehended in the Hebron area, was in possession of a submachinegun and hand grenades. He is believed to be the perpetrator of a bombing in a Beersheba-bound Egged bus recently in which several persons were injured.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--Sen. Howard Baker of Tennessee, the Republican Minority Leader, proposed Sunday that President Carter appoint a leading Republican Party figure to participate in the formulation of Middle East policy to ensure its bi-partisan nature. Appearing on the ABC television program "Issues and Answers," Baker suggested former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, his predecessor, William P. Rogers or former Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller, in that order.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--The UN Emergency Force officers have confirmed in part an Israeli claim that the Egyptians have introduced into the limited forces zone in Sinai two regiments more than the 1975 interim agreement permits.