

U.S. ANNOUNCES DECISION TO TAKE PART IN THE CAIRO CONFERENCE; EXPRESSES HOPE THAT ALL SIX PARTIES TO GENEVA TALKS WILL PARTICIPATE IN CAIRO PARLEY
By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29 (JTA)--The United States today announced its long-awaited decision to take part in the Cairo meeting called by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to prepare the groundwork for a comprehensive Middle East settlement at a conference later in Geneva.

Continuing its officially cool attitude towards the Cairo meeting, the United States said it will have a representative at the "informal meeting" but expressed the hope that all the six parties to the Geneva conference take part in the Cairo session.

Israel accepted Egypt's invitation immediately after Sadat called for the conference last Saturday. Jordan and Syria have said they will not attend although Jordan, which put itself in a neutral position between Syria and Egypt, may change its mind and go to Cairo. The Soviet Union, the co-chairman with the U.S. of the Geneva conference, has indicated that it will not go to Cairo.

The announcement that the U.S. would participate in Cairo was made by the State Department's chief spokesman Hodding Carter only a few minutes after he had told reporters that the U.S. decision was still pending because its consultations with the parties invited to the Cairo meeting by Sadat had not been completed.

Asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency what had happened in the few minutes before the U.S. decision was announced, Carter replied the consultations had been completed. Carter had left the briefing room and then called the reporters back to announce the decision.

Representative Will Be At 'Expert Level'

The U.S. representative at Cairo will be at the "expert level" on Mideast affairs, Carter said. But his identity was not revealed. It is widely reported that it will be either Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Philip Habib or Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Alfred L. Atherton who has been a leading figure for the U.S. in the Mideast under three Secretaries of State.

Carter said he did not know what other participants besides Israel, Egypt and the U.S. would take part. "As we understand from the invitation," he said, "the object of this meeting is to pave the way for a Geneva conference." Pointing out that the U.S. will take part as a participant and not as a co-chairman, Carter said the U.S. "will play any role in Cairo that would be useful to the parties in the area."

The failure of the United States to make its announcement quickly in response to Sadat's invitation had drawn heavy fire from critics including leading Congressmen on virtually opposite sides of the Mideast question such as Sen. Henry Jackson (D. Wash.) and Sen. George McGovern (D. SD), who felt the indecision left Sadat hanging on a limb.

In announcing the decision to take part,

Carter said "the U.S. is going because it believes it can be a useful meeting" and that it is "an initiative we can support" since "it holds out hope to overcome obstacles that stand before a comprehensive peace agreement that all parties agree they want."

However, he pointed out that "we would like to see all those invited, to attend." He indicated he agreed with a reporter that it would be harmful if only the U.S., Israel and Egypt took part. Earlier, in the first briefing, Carter said "we believe the more there are in any conference, the more involved the better."

Carter, in response to a question from the JTA, said that U.S. participation in Cairo without the Soviet Union would not be a "violation" of the Oct. 1 U.S.-Soviet joint statement on the Mideast. He also said there is no change in the U.S. position toward the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Stressing continually the U.S. was withholding its decision because of consultations, Carter said that the U.S. diplomats "were speaking to all parties about the general shape of the Middle East." The consultations included the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia, he said. He said this also included two meetings with the Rumanian Foreign Minister. Carter said the U.S. Israeli working paper, which he described as a U.S. initiative to which Israel agreed, "still represents a useful tool" and is "not a dead issue."

WALDHEIM TO SEND REP TO CAIRO; SUGGESTS FOLLOW-UP PARLEY AT UN OR ELSEWHERE

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 29 (JTA)--UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim announced today that he would send a representative to the pre-Geneva meeting in Cairo this week but proposed at the same time that the Cairo meeting be followed by a preparatory conference at UN headquarters or any other agreed location of all parties invited to the Cairo talks.

He said at a press conference this morning, "As it turns out, the meeting in Cairo will probably have limited participation" and therefore, he believed that a preparatory meeting at the UN "could facilitate the convening of an early and constructive conference at Geneva."

Waldheim said he has accepted Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's invitation to the Cairo conference and intends to designate Gen. Ensio Siilasvuo, chief coordinator of UN peace-keeping operations in the Middle East, to be present at the Cairo meeting as his representative. But he said he favored a subsequent meeting at the UN because "it would be broadly based. Waldheim's proposal surprised observers here. Their first reaction was that it is intended to ensure a more meaningful role for the UN in any Middle East peace settlement. (See related story P. 3.)

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**30 YEARS SINCE THE PARTITION PLAN**

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Nov. 29 (JTA)--On Nov. 29, 1947, the news flashed around the world that the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Partition Plan which established the Jewish State in Palestine. Chaim Weizmann called it "a moment unfading in the memory of man." There was wild rejoicing throughout the Jewish world. A Hebrew poet wrote: "He that hath not seen the joy of that night hath never in his life seen joy." What had seemed un-

attainable on the eve of World War II became an imperative act of restitution as the world contemplated the horror of the Nazi Holocaust. But although the UN's resolution echoed around the world, the UN was powerless to implement it.

Within hours of the partition vote, Jews in Palestine and the Arab states were being murdered. And before the State of Israel was formally proclaimed the following May, the details of the partition plan—including provisions for a new Arab state economically federated with Israel—were forgotten. To this very day, much of the Arab world was to remain implacably opposed to Israel's existence.

Within only a few weeks of the vote, the United States was to withdraw its support from it, only to rally again, thanks to the interventions of the aged Weizmann with President Truman. To the surprise of Britain, however, which had calculated on the UN being hopelessly deadlocked, the Soviet Union gave the Jewish independence struggle steadfast support, not only at the UN; but also with vital arms supplies (through Czechoslovakia) while the Americans ordered a general arms embargo.

Difficulties For Britain

Britain had begun wearily to acknowledge the difficulty of remaining in Palestine at the end of the previous year. Another London round-table conference had ended in failure. The Jewish underground was harrying the British army and the tidal wave of displaced persons surged towards the land of Israel. Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, not a man easily to admit defeat, bitterly threatened to "wash his hands of the whole business" and thrust it in the lap of the United Nations.

He did so at the end of April when the General Assembly convened at Flushing Meadow, New York, in special session. It decided, after a four-night's discussion, to establish a special international committee to make recommendation on "all issues relevant to the problem of Palestine."

The Arabs immediately made a monumental error by deciding to boycott the UN Special Committee on Palestine, to be known by its initials UNSCOP. The Jewish Agency, however, assigned to it two gifted liaison officers—Abba Eban and David Horowitz. They were instructed by Moshe Sharett, the head of the Agency's political department, to work for the creation of "a Jewish State in a suitable area of Palestine."

Dramatic Events Unfold

Meanwhile, the pressure on the British was increasing, as the British government doggedly refused to increase the monthly immigration quotas from 1500 set in 1945. In March, a British officers club was blown up in Jerusalem. Other terrorist attacks on troops were no less spectacular.

UNSCOP's arrival in May coincided, too, with the drama of the immigrant ship Exodus. UNSCOP members witnessed the squalid scenes as the 4500 Jews were turned back after a bitter fight at Haifa, first to Toulon and finally to Hamburg.

The committee also heard eloquent appeals by Weizmann and David Ben Gurion. Dr. Ralph Bunche, the American diplomat, said that Weizmann's description of Jewish suffering had aroused in him an emotional identity.

At the end of July, UNSCOP left Palestine for Geneva to work on its report. As they did so, they became deeply attracted to the 10-year-old Peel Commission report favoring partition. By the end of August 1947 they had reached their own

conclusions. A majority supported partition and a minority favored a federal Palestine consisting of Jewish and Arab regions.

Debate Over Majority Plan

The majority plan provided for a Jewish State in the Negev, most of the coastal plain, the Jezreel Valley and Eastern Galilee. After a two-year period of British or international trusteeship, Arab and Jewish states in economic union would become independent. The plan also envisaged permanent UN trusteeship for Jerusalem and Bethlehem. The Jewish Agency gave the majority plan a qualified welcome. The Arab League rejected not only the majority plan but the alternative as well.

The scene shifted back to the UN headquarters in New York for what Abba Eban termed "the most crucial political struggle in modern Jewish history." Success for the Jews depended on uniting America and the Soviet Union in support of UNSCOP's partition plan. Most observers thought this was unlikely.

Tension was increased on Sept. 20 when Arthur Creech-Jones, the British Colonial Secretary, said that Britain would not impose a settlement by force of arms and that in the absence of an agreed settlement British troops would evacuate the country.

Weizmann Called In

In October, Weizmann, although no longer the president of the World Zionist Organization, was called to join the struggle in New York. His task, Eban has recalled, "was to make an impact on the uncommitted and wavering delegates who were being shaken by the strong blasts of Arab pressure."

Weizmann's first emergency came when the Americans suggested reducing the area of the Jewish State by depriving it of the Negev. On Nov. 19, Zionism's ailing leader went to see Truman in Washington. On the basis of a memorandum prepared by Eliahu Elat, he successfully persuaded the President about the need for a maritime outlet to the east at Aqaba.

Necessary Votes Secured

As Nov. 26, the date for the fateful vote, drew near, it still appeared that the Jewish Agency would not win the necessary two-thirds of the Assembly's 57 members. Sharett secured a three-day respite because of Thanksgiving Day. During the interlude, four nations changed their position—Greece, Haiti, Liberia and the Philippines.

On Nov. 29, the General Assembly voted for partition by 33-13 with 10 abstentions, thus providing the necessary support for a Jewish State. The Soviet Union and the United States, together with many European states and most of the Latin Americans, were in favor. So were Australia, Canada, South Africa and New Zealand. But India, with its large Moslem population, backed the Arabs in opposing partition. Britain did not take part in the vote.

Palestinian Jewry rejoiced throughout the night, but on the next day Arab gangs killed Jews in Haifa, Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Lydda, Jerusalem and on the roads. Pogroms broke out in Damascus, Aleppo, Baghdad, Beirut and Aden. From Damascus, the Mufti, Haj Amin el-Husseini, proclaimed an Arab general strike in Palestine.

A little over a week later, on Dec. 11, Britain announced that the Mandate would be terminated on May 15, 1948, when the last British

forces would leave. But Britain would not allow United Nations forces to supervise the partition plan. Israel's war for independence had begun.

SADAT SAYS HE DIDN'T

NEW YORK, Nov. 29 (JTA)—Did President Anwar Sadat of Egypt really kiss Mrs. Meir when the two met at Ben Gurion Airport upon Sadat's arrival in Israel the night of Nov. 19? Until now only Sadat and Mrs. Meir really knew. Last night Sadat decided to tell. During a brief interview on CBS-TV, the Egyptian leader was asked, did he or didn't he? The media had reported and photographs showed Sadat leaning toward the former Israeli Premier and giving her what looked like a quick smooch. Sadat, responding to the CBS query, laughed and said he merely bent over to greet her. "I didn't kiss her. But if I had kissed her I would not have been ashamed of it."

AGUDATH ISRAEL CONVENTION TOLD BEGIN MEETING DEMANDS OF ORTHODOX JEWS

ATLANTIC CITY, Nov. 29 (JTA)—"The new recognition in Israel and elsewhere that Torah is the wave of the future for Jews paves the way for Orthodox Jewry to broaden its influence on Jewish life the world over," Rabbi Pinchas Menachem Alter, chairman of Agudath Israel in Israel, told 3000 delegates attending the Agudath Israel 55th national convention at the Sheraton-Deauville Hotel.

Alter, who is also a member of the Moetzes Gedolei HaTorah (Council of Torah Sages) in Israel, alluded to Agudath Israel's participation in Premier Menachem Begin's government coalition, when he said: "Never before has Torah Jewry in Israel faced such opportunity to thrive spiritually because of a new climate of goodwill."

A status report on the agreement between Begin and Agudath Israel five months after it led to a coalition for the Likud, was made public for the first time by Rabbi Menachem Porush, Agudath Israel Knesset deputy and chairman of the Knesset Committee on Labor and Social Betterment. He noted that the demands for rights for Orthodox Jews were "systematically being met by the Begin administration."

Reading from a dossier of documents, Porush cited such previous controversies as autopsies, work on the Sabbath, and conscription of religious girls into the armed forces, as examples of problems nearing solution. The veteran Orthodox leader continued: "Despite its preoccupation with security and the economy, the government has not abandoned the religious agenda."

In a message to the convention, Begin stated: "I wish to inform you dear friends and teachers that the collaboration with your colleagues in Eretz Yisrael is genuine and hearty. It is self-understood that the coalition agreement will be observed in language and spirit, please God."

American Jewish Leadership Rapped

In his keynote address, Rabbi Moshe Sherer, executive president of Agudath Israel of America, criticized the American Jewish leadership "for lagging behind their Israeli counterparts in recognizing the religious ingredient of the needs of the Jewish masses." He cited the "snail's pace" of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies in meeting its responsibilities towards Jewish education.

Sherer charged that although there are many who now are slowly recognizing the value of Jewish education, "it is inconceivable that soaring assimilation through intermarriage will wait for

creeping decision making; every day's delay in financially bolstering the yeshivos and day schools spells the spiritual death of thousands of more Jews." The world renowned Torah scholar, Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, called on Agudath Israel "to widen its focus by reaching out to the uncommitted masses through programs of Torah study and spiritually enriched Jewish consciousness raising."

WHITE HOUSE PLEASSED WITH CAIRO CONFAB

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29 (JTA)—The White House said today that President Carter is pleased with the decision by United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to have the UN represented at the Cairo meeting preparatory for the Geneva conference. In making the statement, Presidential Press Secretary Jody Powell also stated, "We ought to encourage and support" the Cairo meeting and expressed the desire that it will "lead us to another step down the road" toward a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

He said the U.S. will make a "full announcement this week" about the Cairo meeting. Carter is expected to discuss the Cairo meeting at his press conference tomorrow morning. In expressions much warmer toward the Cairo conference than had been expressed at the State Department earlier today, Powell praised Egypt and Israel, saying "their initiative" is one "which we applaud and support." He made clear, however, that "it is not in the interests of the parties for the U.S. to 'pre-empt' the meeting and that the agenda will be worked out by Egypt and Israel."

Powell referred to the "tremendously positive aspects both of the visit to Jerusalem (by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat) and the upcoming Cairo meeting" which, he emphasized, were "generated by the parties involved. The view of this Administration is that we should not be overly intrusive in the process" toward the common goal of peace and that "we should encourage but not dominate these initiatives," Powell said.

House Resolution Praises Sadat, Begin

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives today unanimously approved by voice vote a resolution praising Sadat and Premier Menachem Begin of Israel "for the courageous steps they have taken to resolve the differences between their nations, and to bring peace between Israel and her Arab neighbors through face-to-face negotiations in the context of a Geneva conference."

The resolution, which was sent to the Senate, added: "We hope this will result in further face-to-face negotiations which will lead to a comprehensive, just and durable peace." House Democratic leader Jim Wright of Texas, who lead a Congressional delegation that attended Sadat's address to the Knesset, and Republican leader John Rhodes of Arizona introduced the resolution.

UNITED NATIONS (JTA)—The Security Council is scheduled to meet here Wednesday to extend the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force on the Golan Heights for an additional period of six months. Both Syria and Israel have already agreed to the extension of the force and sources here said they expect no complications when the Security Council meets to vote on the extension. The current mandate of UNDOF expires Wednesday at midnight. The new mandate will extend until May 30, 1978.

EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO ADDRESS SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF AMERICA

First Address By Arab Envoy To U.S. Jews

NEW YORK, Nov. 29 (JTA)—In another major breakthrough following President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, Ashraf Ghorbal, Egypt's Ambassador to Washington, has accepted an invitation to address a meeting on Dec. 7 of the Board of Directors of the Synagogue Council of America, it was announced today by Rabbi Saul I. Teplitz, president of the Council which is the umbrella organization for the rabbinic and congregational bodies of the three branches of American Judaism in the United States. The Council is the first Jewish organization in the United States to be addressed by the Egyptian Ambassador.

Teplitz welcomed Ghorbal's acceptance of the Council's invitation as "a further dramatic step in the inexorable movement in the direction of peace and reconciliation in the Middle East that was initiated by President Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem."

Teplitz noted that Ghorbal's visit to the Council is consistent with a long-standing personal friendship that has existed between the Ambassador and Rabbi Henry Stegman, executive vice-president of the Council, "a friendship that has endured the most difficult periods of Middle Eastern hostility. The seeds for the remarkable flowering of Arab-Jewish reconciliation were planted by Ghorbal," Teplitz said.

UAHC LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO COUNTER TACTICS USED BY MISSIONARY CULT

SAN-FRANCISCO, Nov. 29 (JTA)—An educational campaign calling for effective and legal measures to counter the tactics used by certain missionary cults was overwhelmingly approved at the 54th biennial General Assembly of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC). Some 3500 delegates met here last week for the five-day conference.

The program, which reinforces the existing UAHC interreligious department program dealing with missionary cults, is a response to "the coercion, misrepresentation of the meaning of religious symbols and abuse of religious rites and practices used by some missionary groups," it was stated in the resolution dealing with this problem. While UAHC does not object to legal deprogramming efforts, the resolution said, it deplores "all forms of illegal deprogramming or other illegal coercive measures even when they are designed to return an offspring to the family faith."

The UAHC decision recognizes that "the right to proselytize in our society is protected by constitutional guarantees of religious liberty, but that these guarantees neither legitimize or justify tactics that some missionary groups use when directing their efforts towards Jews.

"We are also concerned," said Rabbi Balfour Brickner, an author of the resolution, "with the false assertion that it is possible for Jews, without leaving Judaism, to accept a basic principle of Christianity, that Jesus is the Messiah." He explained, "Judaism rejects the theological belief that Jesus was the Christ—the Messiah. Since one cannot be a Christian without subscribing to that notion in some form, it follows that one cannot be both a Christian and a believing Jew at the same time."

The resolution went on to "commend the efforts of those in the Christian community who have demonstrated their sensitivity to this problem by refusing to endorse or cooperate with 'missions to the Jews' which engage in these practices."

The resolution called on congregations to "sponsor education programs for youths and adults on comparative religion, to develop techniques and materials which would enable Jews to respond to missionary approaches," and to work with others who see missions to the Jews as a threat to inter-religious relations in this country.

The resolution added: "We further urge the proper agencies of government to investigate violations of civil liberties and rights of victims of religious cults."

Sought To Avoid Mention Of Resolution 242

Meanwhile, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today that Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who provided the first detailed response of the Carter Administration to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, did not originally intend to mention in his speech at the conference last Tuesday that the United States adheres to the view that the basis for negotiations must be United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

According to an authoritative source, Christopher was persuaded to insert that reference after a number of UAHC leaders, who read the original text, explained that the omission would create misgivings and anxiety among the delegates.

The source also noted that Christopher's heavy emphasis on the participation of the Palestinians and the Soviet Union in the peace discussions at Geneva represented "the Brzezinski line. I can guarantee you that." Christopher stated, at one point in his speech: "Just as we cannot avoid the reality of Soviet interest and participation, we cannot avoid the Palestinian question—not if we want a real chance for peace."

YIDDISH PAPER FOLDS

NEW YORK, Nov. 29 (JTA)—The oldest Yiddish newspaper in the United States, Freie Arbeiter Stimme (Free Voice of Labor), will cease publication tomorrow because of insolvable financial problems. In its 87 years of publication, the organ of Jewish anarchist philosophy had a peak weekly circulation of 30,000. Its last press run as a monthly was 1700 copies.

Ahrne Thome, the editor who has comprised the paper's editorial staff, said the newspaper could not support itself from its first day of publication. Because the paper could afford to pay only a bookkeeper, Thome volunteered his services, starting 47 years ago. Until his retirement three years ago, Thome earned a living as a lithographer for the Jewish Daily Forward, the 80-year-old only Yiddish daily still being published.

The Freie Arbeiter Stimme will vacate a two-room office on Union Square tomorrow and another chapter in American Jewish journalism will end. Thome said that the Stimme was started to help newly-arriving Jewish immigrants with their cultural, social and economic problems and that it had a key role in the formation of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, the bakers union, the millinery and cap makers unions and others.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Johnny Cash, the famous American country and Western singer, recently visited the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center here twice in two days. "I was so impressed when I first came to see the famous stained glass windows by Marc Chagall, that I couldn't forget the place and had to return to visit with soldiers. In the words," he said, "in Israel to make a CBS-TV film," Cash said, "This is my fourth visit to Israel. I just hope that some day there will be peace."

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