

**RECENT MIDEAST DEVELOPMENTS
SAID TO HAVE BEEN INITIATED,
TO A LARGE EXTENT, BY ISRAEL**
By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Dec. 8 (JTA)—Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzeira claimed last night that the recent momentous political events in the Middle East were, to a large extent, initiated by Israel. He also said the government may make some surprising moves in the future aimed at strengthening the hand of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and all moderate elements in the Arab world who want to make peace with Israel.

Addressing a meeting at Netanya, the minister would not elaborate but hinted that Israel had more to do with Sadat's visit to Jerusalem than was generally acknowledged. He said the government worked hard for five months to prepare the ground for the visit and observed that it was not likely that Sadat got up one morning and suddenly decided "I am going to Jerusalem."

He said all the activities preceding the visit took place in secrecy. To a large extent they were initiated by Israel. In some cases "we actually dragged others," he said, and in some the moves were made mutually. He indicated, however, that the United States had not been involved in those moves. He said Israel created a dilemma for Washington—whether to support the moves in the Middle East or not. He said that while previous governments had peace as their goal, the steps taken by the present government were acceptable to the other side and brought results.

Abu-Hatzeira said the government was prepared to do everything possible not to miss this chance for peace. But he warned that negotiations do not mean giving away gifts, a reference to the occupied territories.

**REPORT EGYPTIANS EXPECT ISRAEL TO
PRESENT SUBSTANTIAL PROPOSALS FOR
DISCUSSION AT THE CAIRO CONFAB**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 8 (JTA)—Israeli journalists in Cairo reported today that the Egyptians expect Israel to come up with substantive proposals for discussion at the Cairo conference opening next week so that agreements can be achieved there to be formalized later at a Geneva conference. Informed Egyptian sources have indicated that the Israeli delegation is expected to bring detailed maps along with their proposals.

Yousouf el-Siba, editor of the semi-official Egyptian daily Al Ahram, told the Maariv correspondent that Israel and Egypt should go to Geneva "only to sign what was agreed before." Other Egyptian sources agreed that it would be best if all outstanding problems were resolved before going to Geneva.

There may be a similar view among Israeli officials. Defense Minister Ezer Weizman is expected to submit a compendium of Israel's security requirements and a list of options and alternatives at this Sunday's Cabinet meeting. These are intended to form the basis of compromises that Israel will offer at the Cairo talks.

Several Defense Ministry teams have been working on the security aspects of a possible

peace settlement not only with Egypt but as they apply to Israel's other neighbors. These include freedom of navigation in international waters, the future of Sharm el-Sheikh, the approaches to the Raffah salient, Israel's presence on the West Bank and the emplacement of early warning systems.

It was learned that some of Weizman's ideas grew out of the talks he had with President Anwar Sadat and his aides during their visit to Jerusalem Nov. 20-21. Weizman himself has remained silent on all defense and foreign affairs policies. Premier Menachem Begin has asked all of his ministers to refrain from any public discussion of those delicate matters.

Meanwhile, rumors are rife that Israel and Egypt are already conducting secret talks on substantive matters. Israeli newspapers with correspondents already in Cairo quoted Egyptian sources for their reports while others cited "well-informed sources" in Israel as the basis for their reports. However, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said there was no basis for the reports and other government officials disclaimed any knowledge of such meetings.

**Precedent Breaking Development:
EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR, ADDRESSING JEWISH
ORGANIZATION, SAYS 'MY COMING HERE IS
MEANT TO STRETCH A HAND OF PEACE'**

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (JTA)—Ashraf Ghorbal, the Egyptian Ambassador to the United States, went before an audience of Jewish congregational and rabbinic leaders last night and told them that peace in the Middle East requires security not only for Israel but for the Arab states too. He said Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the creation of a Palestinian state there is necessary for Arab security.

Ghorbal made his statement in a speech before the board of directors of the Synagogue Council of America (SCA) at the Carnegie Endowment Center for Peace, the first time he or any other Arab ambassador had spoken before an American Jewish group.

Rabbi Henry Siegman, the SCA's executive vice-president who introduced the Egyptian envoy, said he had been friends with Ghorbal for several years. Ghorbal said he was friends with many other American Jews, including Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The Egyptian Ambassador said that he met with American Jewish leaders and was appearing before the SCA not to turn them against Israel but because he felt that as Americans and Jews they were important leaders of public opinion and he wanted them to understand the Arab position in order to help promote peace in the Mideast.

Receives Standing Ovarions

Ghorbal received standing ovations from the more than 100 persons that jammed the meeting room when he entered, when he was introduced and when he finished his speech. He was also warmly applauded when he began to speak again after he was interrupted toward the close of his address by two youths shouting "Sadat is a Nazi, Sadat is a fraud."

One of the two, Victor Vancier, of New York, almost reached the podium before he and his companion, Randy Medoff, of Hartsdale, N.Y., were

ejected. The two, who said they belonged to a recently formed ad hoc group called Jewish Committee of Concern, waited outside for Ghorbal to leave to again shout at him.

Asked by a reporter for his reaction, Ghorbal commented, "No one has a monopoly on extremists." In continuing his talk after the two were ejected, Ghorbal departed from his text to say "If I touched the sensitivities of some, I hope it is understood my coming here is meant to stretch a hand of peace and not a hand of war."

The diminutive 52-year-old Ambassador said that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat does not need any defense. "We seek not to destroy Israel, we are at odds with our Arab brothers because we seek peace with Israel," he declared. He said the issue is not politics "but to educate people to live in peace and harmony."

Ghorbal said that when former Israeli Premier Golda Meir told Sadat she wants to see peace in her lifetime she spoke "for all in the Middle East who have known war."

Ghorbal noted that in 1945 he took a trip by train and bus from Egypt to Lebanon and Syria with stops in Haifa and Jerusalem. He said he would like to make that trip again and wouldn't mind if an Israeli visa was stamped on his passport.

Sadat Seeking 'True Peace'

In his prepared text, Ghorbal said that for years the Arabs wanted peace but it was only when Sadat went to Jerusalem the "wall of suspicion" came down. "President Sadat did not go to Jerusalem to conclude a partial or separate settlement with Israel," Ghorbal said. He said Sadat went "to prove what we say, 'Here is our hand. We stretch it out in peace. Take it, but give us true peace in return.'"

Ghorbal said that unless Israel withdraws from the occupied territory it will not have security. He said for the same reason a Palestinian state is a "must" for peace. "To say that the Palestinians remain where they are and become nationals of their host countries is to vote against the Israeli Law of Return," he declared. "One cannot prescribe to others what one would not apply to oneself."

Ghorbal stressed the upcoming Cairo meeting "will lay the foundation for a meaningful resumed Geneva conference which, in turn, would build the structure of total peace in the Middle East." He said he was hopeful that the visit by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to the Mideast will persuade other Arab countries to join Sadat's initiative.

Ghorbal in response to a reporter's question, later said he believed the PLO should be brought into the Geneva negotiating process. He said all parties to the Mideast dispute should be included so that they will be committed to seeking peace.

Suggests Nobel Prize For Sadat

Rabbi Saul Teplitz, the SCA's president, in welcoming Ghorbal, said it was fitting that his first address to a Jewish group was the SCA which he called "the harmonious spokesmen of the religious community of American Jewry." He noted that Sadat's visit to Jerusalem had been a "spiritual venture."

Ghorbal had watched as the Chanukah candles had been lit and the audience sang the blessings. "It isn't the military victory we celebrate but the spiritual victory of the Maccabees," Teplitz said.

Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld, the SCA's first vice-president, in thanking Ghorbal for his address, said Sadat should receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Lelyveld stressed that American Jews believed that

forming Mideast policy should be left for Israel and Egypt to be worked out. But he noted that the SCA members were not only religious leaders but also Zionists because Judaism is based on the redemption of Zion.

Siegmán, in introducing Ghorbal, noted that the Egyptian Ambassador was one of three envoys from Moslem countries that had helped negotiate the release of hostages held by members of the extremist Hanafi Moslem sect in the B'nai B'rith headquarters and two other Washington buildings last March. He noted that no matter how bad the situation, Ghorbal is a man who never forgets that behind the diplomacy "are real live human beings, Jews and Arabs, who grieve at the loss of their loved ones and rejoice at the hope of peace."

EGYPT RETURNS TO ISRAEL REMAINS OF THREE YOM KIPPUR WAR DEAD

TEL AVIV, Dec. 8 (JTA)--Egypt returned the remains of three more Yom Kippur War dead to Israel at military ceremonies in the Sinai buffer zone today. Eye-witnesses, who included nearly a dozen Israeli journalists currently in Cairo, reported that the atmosphere between the Israeli and Egyptian officers was far more relaxed than on similar occasions in the past.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori, representing the government, took note of the recent events in the Middle East. "We stand at the beginning of a new era," he said. "The largest of the Arab states--Egypt--has opened a new era in the Middle East, an era of dialogue."

Three coffins were handed over to an Israeli guard of honor on the Egyptian side of the buffer zone. The remains of the soldiers who had been listed as missing in action, were discovered by Egyptian work men last week at the site of a new development project in the Suez Canal zone.

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS, JEWISH LEADERS SUPPORT U.S. EFFORT IN MIDEAST

DALLAS--Dec. 8 (JTA)--More than 150 Southern Baptists and Jewish leaders concluded a three-day conference here yesterday with the adoption of a resolution that was sent to President Carter, saying that "Southern Baptists and Jews support the efforts of our government to serve as a constructive catalyst for the advancement of peace and reconciliation between Israel and Egypt and the other Arab countries through face-to-face negotiations."

The resolution said, "We urge our government not to be deterred from its reconciling role as peace-maker by those who would repudiate the ideals of peaceful co-existence in a pluralistic Middle East." The resolution was signed by the Rev. Dr. Jimmy Allen, of San Antonio, president of the 13 million-member Southern Baptist Convention and Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee.

Rep. James Wright (D.Tex.), the House Majority Leader who addressed the conference, deplored the hatred and hostility of the rejectionist Arab states at Tripoli, saying that "they are not the wave of the future, they are the ebb tide of the past." Wright said "The day of war has passed. All people in the Middle East are weary of war and hatred." Wright was in the region last month as head of a Congressional delegation and was in Jerusalem at the time of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit.

The conference issued a statement affirming

that Baptists and Jews "will seek to strengthen human rights in this country and abroad through our firm support of both political and civil liberties as well as economic justice." The statement expressed the solidarity of Baptists and Jews "in the common effort to assure the human rights of our brethren in the Soviet Union."

The conference, held at the Southern Methodist University, was sponsored jointly by the AJCommittee's Interreligious Affairs Department and the Christian Life Commission of the Texas Baptist Convention, the largest Baptist Convention in the country. Its theme was "Agenda for Tomorrow--Baptists and Jews Face the Future."

TWO SENATORS RAP ADMINISTRATION FOR TRYING TO SIDE-TRACK A POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (JTA)--Two Republican Senators have lashed out at the Carter Administration for allegedly trying to sidetrack a possible Egyptian-Israeli settlement in favor of a "comprehensive" agreement at a Geneva type conference. Sens. Robert Dole of Kansas and Lowell Weicker, of Connecticut, accused the Administration of following an obstructionist course in speeches to Zionist and pro-Israel groups this week.

Dole, who received the Louis D. Brandeis Award from the Baltimore district of the Zionist Organization of America, told a ZOA audience in the Pikesville Armory last night that "the Administration's line, from the moment Prime Minister Begin finished his speech in the Knesset, has been that Israel jeopardizes the peace initiative by not announcing concessions."

Dole charged that the Administration's course is "more pernicious" than the proposal by United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to hold Middle East peace talks under UN auspices. He also charged that the Administration "now works through the media to insist that its role will be one of pushing Israel to be 'flexible.' It is precisely this kind of meddling which has robbed this government of the moral and political credibility to exert any influence whatsoever over Israel."

He said a possible reason for such activity by the U.S. is "to position ourselves with the Arab world so that we can claim credit for urging upon Israel concessions which she might have been prepared to make in any case." He claimed that this would convince the Arab states "that they should take an unreasonably hard line toward Israel in the hope that U.S. pressure on Israel will force concessions which may not have been gained otherwise."

Says Arab Radicals Aided

Weicker, addressing the Philadelphia chapter of the Technion Society of America earlier this week, claimed that U.S. insistence on "the comprehensive approach gave the most radical elements in the Arab world veto power over the actions of the most moderate." Seldom, he said, has the U.S. government acted "with such blind, arrogant incompetence." He urged American Jews to provide Egypt with the kind of "moral and material support" they have provided Israel and to reach out to Egypt "in recognition of a common purpose."

Meanwhile, Rep. Dante B. Fascell (D. Fla.), hailed President Carter's handling of the current diplomatic situation in the Middle East but indicated approval of a separate Egyptian-Israeli peace should that become likely.

Waldheim Explains His Call For Talks

In a related development, Waldheim, responding to a complaint by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, has defended his call for Mideast peace talks as "simply a suggestion" to help convene a Geneva conference "in a constructive atmosphere."

Waldheim's letter was released by Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Schindler had sent a telegram to the UN official assailing the proposal and charging that any Middle East talks attended by the Palestine Liberation Organization--which had been invited by Waldheim--would "sabotage the momentum toward peace."

Waldheim in his letter stated, in part, that "my suggestion for a preparatory meeting for the Geneva conference... is simply a suggestion that all parties consider the value of a meeting of all those invited to Cairo in order to engage, if it is so agreed, in a follow-up action to facilitate the convening of the Geneva conference in a constructive atmosphere."

ORTHODOX JEWS LESS PRONE TO CERTAIN DISEASES THAN ARE SECULAR JEWS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 8 (JTA)--A survey of over 10,000 Israeli males has indicated that Orthodox Jews have a lower incidence of angina pectoris--chest pains usually due to coronary artery disease--than secular Jews but are more prone to diabetes. The believers also have less fear of heart disease than secularists, the study showed.

The survey, believed to be one of the most extensive of its kind anywhere in the world, was a joint venture of Dr. Meir Shneider of Bar Ilan University, Prof. Henry Neufeld and Uri Goldbort of the Cardiac Institute of Tel Hashomer Hospital and Prof. Jack Madly and Dvora Oron of Tel Aviv University.

It showed that 2.9 percent of the religious suffered from angina against 5.8 percent of the non-religious, almost double. Among observant Jews, 5.3 percent were diabetic compared to 4.3 percent of the non-observant. The latter, however, had a much higher incidence of ulcers--10.4 percent against 7.5 percent.

POLAKOFF INVITED TO STATE DEP'T SEMINAR

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (JTA)--Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has invited Joseph Polakoff, chief of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Washington Bureau, to attend the State Department's seminar for editors and broadcasters at the Department Jan. 16-18. The annual event dealing with top foreign policy subjects attracts some 300 leading media representatives. This marks the first time that JTA has been invited to participate.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio) Wednesday provided the Senate with the texts of the "hard hitting, practical nature of the papers" presented an energy conservation at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds last month. In a floor speech, the Senator hoped "others will benefit from this fine work." He pointed to their "practical solutions" to meet the "crucial" energy situation. The papers were by Dr. William Rice of Washington, Billie Tisch and Rachel Lieberman of New York, and Harry Rosen, director of the Jewish Community Center in Dallas where the CJF Assembly was held.

ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF SOVIET JEWRY

LONDON, Dec. 8 (JTA)—In a bid to dramatize the plight of Anatoly Shcharansky, the Soviet Jewish activist who faces treason charges, two members of Parliament left for Belgrade last night carrying with them a Bible addressed to Shcharansky and inscribed by more than 300 members of Parliament, including government ministers.

Greville Janner, Labor MP, and Tim Sainsbury, Conservative MP, both leaders of the All-Party Parliamentary Committee for Soviet Jewry, said before their departure that they intend to present the Bible to the chief Soviet delegate to the conference dealing with the Helsinki Act and to ask him to deliver it to Shcharansky in Lefortovo prison in Moscow where the Jewish activist has been held since March.

At a ceremony earlier yesterday, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Donald Coggan, signed the Bible on the first page of the Book of Exodus. At a press conference in the House of Commons, Avital Shcharansky detailed the plight of her husband. She left the Soviet Union for Israel in 1974, after one day of marriage but Anatoly was not allowed to accompany her. Sainsbury described the Bible as "a symbol of the universal concern and anxiety felt on all sides of the House of Commons for the state of this courageous young man."

Representations At Belgrade Parley

In other Soviet Jewry related events, torch light parades were held in Berne, Basel, Geneva and Zurich this week to demonstrate Swiss Jewry's solidarity with Jews in the Soviet Union. The Swiss Committee for Soviet Jewry said it planned to collect signatures on a petition protesting the Soviet government's breach of the human rights provisions of the Helsinki agreement. The petition will be delivered to the Swiss delegation attending the conference in Belgrade which will be asked to raise the question of the treatment of Jews in the USSR.

Another delegation representing the national committees for Soviet Jews in Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg left for Belgrade for meetings with the representatives of those three countries at the Helsinki compliance conference. Socialist Deputy Andre de Groeve, president of the Belgian committee, told reporters in Brussels that a number of important personalities and groups, such as the Belgian League for the Rights of Man, are backing the delegation.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Embassy in The Hague refused to accept a petition demanding adherence to the Helsinki Act and equal rights for all citizens of the Soviet Union. The petition was delivered by Rabbi Avraham Soetendorp, honorary secretary of the Dutch Solidarity Committee for Soviet Jewry, and the Rev. Dr. Albert Van Den Heuvel, secretary general of The Netherlands Christian Councils of Churches. The petition was subsequently sent to the Embassy by registered mail.

Students In 15-Day Hunger Strike

In Toronto, 14 York University students, in the eighth day of a 15-day hunger strike on behalf of Soviet Jews, have sent a telegram to Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau demanding that the Canadian government publicly denounce the Soviet Union for its violation of the human rights provisions of the Helsinki accords.

The group, representing the Jewish Student Federation of York University, also called on Trudeau to speak out against injustices perpetrated against Soviet Jews and specifically, to make

"direct representations" to Moscow over the continued imprisonment of Shcharansky.

A spokesman for the strikers told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that Trudeau promised that Minister of State Norm Cafik will meet Saturday with members of Shcharansky's family living in Toronto to discuss the basis for direct representations. He said that 40 relatives of Shcharansky live here constituting a "Canadian connection" with the case.

In Washington, 36 members of Congress from both major parties have asked Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev to allow Lev Ovsischer, a Soviet aviation hero in World War II, his wife and daughter to emigrate to Israel "as soon as possible." The letter pointed out that the Ovsischer family had applied to emigrate four years ago and that since then Ovsischer has been "harassed, threatened and lost his military pension."

CJC COMPLAINS TO GOVERNMENT OVER ADMISSION TO CANADA OF TRIFA

MONTREAL, Dec. 8 (JTA)—The Canadian Jewish Congress renewed today its complaint to the Canadian government over the admission to Canada of Bishop Valerian Trifa who was a member of the fascist Iron Guard in wartime Rumania. The complaint was made by Alan Rose, CJC executive vice-president, in a letter to Bud Cullen, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Rose noted in his letter that proceedings have been started against Trifa, who lives in Grass Lake, Mich., by the U.S. Justice Department for cancellation of Trifa's citizenship on charges he lied about his membership in the Iron Guard when he applied for U.S. citizenship after World War II. Rose declared that the Canadian Jewish community was "dismayed" that Trifa was permitted to enter Canada and that "Canadians of all faiths" would find Trifa's presence in Canada "utterly repugnant."

The letter also pointed out that "some survivors of the massacres perpetrated by the Iron Guard and relatives of those who were murdered are presently living in Canada." Trifa entered Canada about two months ago, spurring rumors he planned to settle there. He spoke at a Montreal rally recently but his exact whereabouts now in Canada are not known.

NEW YORK (JTA)—The new relationship between Israel and Egypt will be reflected on a golf course far from the Middle East. According to reports from Manila Thursday, two Israelis and two Egyptians have been paired in the third round of an international golf tournament there to be played this Saturday. They are Laurie Been and Barry Mandel of Israel and Abdel Halim and Mohammed Moussa of Egypt. Such a foursome would have been out of the question before President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem broke the ice between the two countries.

TEL AVIV (JTA)—President Ephraim Katzir and Mrs. Katzir returned Thursday from an 18-day visit to Mexico and Central America. The President told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport that there was a great deal of support and friendship for Israel in those countries which was expressed in their mass media. The Katzirs visited Costa Rica and Guatemala in addition to Mexico. They were greeted at the airport by Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, Knesset Speaker Itzhak Shamir and other dignitaries. Premier Menachem Begin remained at his home today resting from his five-day visit to Britain.

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