

## CAIRO CONFERENCE GETS UNDER WAY

### TALKS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE WITHOUT A BREAK THROUGH DEC. 22

Israeli and Egyptian Delegates Greet Each Other With Smiles And Handshakes  
By David Landau and Maurice Samuelson

CAIRO, Dec. 13 (JTA)—The Israeli and Egyptian delegations to the Cairo conference will hold their first working session here this evening. Officials said it would be an "informal" meeting to work out procedures for the conference that opens formally tomorrow morning. The talks are expected to continue without a break through Dec. 22. (See related stories.)

The Israeli negotiating team arrived at Cairo airport this morning and was whisked by helicopter to the Mena House, the luxury hotel overlooking the pyramids and the sphinx which will serve as conference headquarters. The chief Egyptian delegate, UN Ambassador Ahmed Esmat Meguid, greeted his Israeli counterpart, Eliahu Ben-Elissar warmly as he emerged from a black limousine with his fellow delegates, legal expert Meir Rosenne and Gen. Abraham Tamir.

The tall, bearded Ben-Elissar wore a determined smile on his face, stood ramrod straight and told Meguid "I am terribly pleased to meet you" as he clasped the Egyptian diplomat's hand. Rosenne and Tamir were less able to conceal their excitement. Both looked pale and were perspiring as they shook hands with Meguid. Before the group entered the hotel, Ben-Elissar told Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent Maurice Samuelson, "We had a wonderful flight." He would say nothing more.

The American party that will represent the U.S. at the Cairo talks, headed by Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs Alfred L. Atherton, was due at the Mena House later today, as was the United Nations contingent. There was no sign this morning of the Vatican's representative who has reportedly arrived in Cairo.

Observers here said he was unlikely to participate in the conference but would be accorded some sort of observer status. Israeli sources were pleased by the Pope's decision to send a representative since it lent weight and standing to the Cairo talks and provided welcome support for President Anwar Sadat's peace initiative.

### Heavy Security At Conference Site

The entire Mena House complex, a resort patronized by affluent Egyptians and well-to-do visitors from abroad, was sealed off by helmeted police and plain clothes security men today. All Israeli nationals, including journalists, will be quartered at the hotel for the conference. Hundreds of other correspondents will be housed at the Jolie Ville Hotel a half mile away.

The Egyptian government is picking up the tab at Mena House as a reciprocal gesture for the hospitality extended Sadat and his party when they visited Jerusalem last month. The hotel, a conglomeration of modern and classical architecture, is owned by the government and managed by an Indian firm whose personnel was trained in Austria. The manager told the JTA that everything is "on the house" except hard liquor.

When the hotel was selected to be conference headquarters, the management made preparations to provide the Israeli delegation with kosher food. It tried to enlist a local Jewish ritual slaughterer but the project proved too ambitious, the JTA learned. The manager has made tentative arrangements with Austrian Airlines to fly in pre-packaged kosher meals. "I am awaiting instructions of the Israeli delegation," he told the JTA this morning. An Israeli spokesman said Ben-Elissar has not decided yet whether that service will be required.

### Spontaneous Rendition Of Shalom Aleichem

The first Israeli aircraft to land at Cairo airport arrived here last night with 65 foreign correspondents, including many Israelis, among them the JTA's news team. An excited stewardess aboard the chartered Arkia BAC-111 broke into a spontaneous rendition of "Havenu Shalom Aleichem" over the plane's PA system as it touched down at the airport.

The plane returned to Tel Aviv immediately after landing its passengers, but not before the stewardesses handed out colorful Arkia flight bags to the Egyptian ground crew and others on the tarmac.

The journalists, under heavy security guard, spent the next five hours undergoing "formalities" which included filling out countless forms at the airport and the laborious process of accreditation at the government press office in Cairo. This lasted until 4 a.m. local time today which allowed only a brief nap before rushing to Mena House to witness the arrival of the Israeli delegation.

About 30 Israeli reporters accompanied the Israeli negotiators on an El Al jet that landed this morning after what they described as a "jolly flight" replete with singing and hand clapping on touchdown. Many of them sported carnations handed out by the El Al flight staff enroute. Israeli officials told the JTA they were not sure yet whether an air link between Tel Aviv and Cairo would be maintained for the duration of the conference.

### LAST JTA CAIRO DATE-LINED STORY APPEARED JULY 2, 1948

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (JTA)—Today's dispatches from Cairo by Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondents David Landau and Maurice Samuelson are the first Cairo date-lined stories to appear in the JTA's Daily News Bulletin in 29 years and five months. The last was dated July 2, 1948. It was headlined: "Arab States Reject Bemadotte's Peace Proposals; Refuse To Recognize Jewish State."

### LAST MINUTE PROCEDURAL HAGGLE STALLING PREPARATIONS FOR CONFAB

By Maurice Samuelson and David Landau

CAIRO, Dec. 13 (JTA)—A last minute procedural problem appeared tonight to be stalling preparations for the Cairo conference scheduled to open officially tomorrow morning. After an "informal" 90-minute session between the two top Israeli negotiators and their Egyptian counterparts this evening, an Israeli spokesman said "further work would be needed" before the conference could begin.

Because of the hitch, the nature of which was not disclosed, the Israeli and Egyptian negotiators met with Assistant Secretary of State Alfred L. Atherton, the U.S. representative to the Cairo talks, for 45

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## TWO ZIONIST GROUPS RAP AZF DECISION TO MAIL BALLOTS WITHOUT PLATFORMS

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (JTA)—Two Zionist organizations, on opposite ends of the ideological spectrum, today labeled as "undemocratic" and "ludicrous" the decision to go ahead with plans to mail out an informational booklet on the election for the 152 American delegates to the 29th World Zionist Congress without any campaign material from the eight competing slates.

Both the Americans for Progressive Israel (API) and the United Zionists-Revisionists of America said they are appealing to the American Zionist Federation's Tribunal the decision by the AZF's election committee not to include the party platforms despite a ruling by the central election committee in Jerusalem that they do so. The decision was made last week by the AZF election committee with only the API and the Revisionists dissenting.

Moshe Kagan, associate director of the AZF Executive who heads the U.S. election committee, said the ballots and booklets were mailed out yesterday by the American Arbitration Association to the more than 900,000 registered Zionists in the U.S. He said the informational booklets only list the individual candidates on each slate.

### Move Called Undemocratic

Robert Brown, a spokesman for the Revisionists, said the decision was "ludicrous" and a "fraud on the voters" since they will not know what each party stands for. He noted that when the Revisionists asked for a list of all the voters they were denied it on the grounds that it was unnecessary since all voters would receive every party's platform in the informational booklet. Brown said the latest election committee's decision was a means by which the large Zionist organizations hoped to keep the smaller groups from getting votes.

Linda Rubin, the API's executive director, called the move "undemocratic," stressing that the voter will not have the material needed to make an educated choice.

The API had asked the Jerusalem body to make a decision after the AZF election committee had originally decided late last month to eliminate the party platforms following a dispute between the Revisionists and the Zionist Organization of America. The Revisionists had gone into a New York court to get the ZOA to remove pictures of Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and Defense Minister Ezer Weizman from its election material.

The Revisionists withdrew their suit after the Jerusalem committee ruled that the party platforms should be included in the informational bulletin but without pictures. The AZF election committee majority said the Jerusalem group had no authority over the American election.

The Jerusalem committee had been willing to give the U.S. group an extra two weeks to get the informational material in the books. Kagan, earlier this month, had expressed concern that the ballots should not be delayed in the Christmas mail rush. Voters must return the ballots to the American Arbitration Association which is supervising the balloting by Jan. 3. The Zionist Congress will start Feb. 20 in Jerusalem.

## DUTCH COURT ASKED TO ORDER THE DISSOLUTION OF NEO-FASCIST PARTY

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 13 (JTA)—The Public Prosecutor has asked the Amsterdam District Court to order the dissolution of the neo-Fascist Netherlands

People's Union (Nederlandse Volksunie) for alleged racist activities. It is the first time the courts have been called on to outlaw a political party in Holland on the basis of the civil code which forbids organizations whose goals or activities are contrary to public order and ethical behavior.

The party, established two years ago, is not specifically anti-Semitic. Its leader, Joop Glimmerveen of The Hague has directed its activities mainly against the influx of Black workers and their families into Holland from Suriname, formerly Dutch Guiana. It also propagandizes against Turks and other emigre laborers. Last May, the Minister of Justice, replying to questions by two labor members of Parliament, promised that the judicial authorities would act against the Volksunie. Glimmerveen said that if the District Court moves against his party, he will appeal to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

## LATE NEWS DEVELOPMENT MEGUID TO OPEN CAIRO CONFAB WED. MORNING WITH FORMAL STATEMENT

By David Landau and Maurice Samuelson

CAIRO, Dec. 13 (JTA)—The Cairo conference will open officially tomorrow morning at 11 a.m. local time (4 a.m. Eastern Standard Time) with a formal statement by Egypt's chief negotiator Ambassador Ahmed Esmat Meguid. He will speak for about 15 minutes and will be followed by other heads of delegations, it was announced here tonight by Egyptian information spokesman Dr. Mursi Saadeddin. He told reporters that the ceremonial opening would be followed by a private session to decide on the conference agenda.

The Egyptian spokesman said the press would be admitted in groups to the first portion and could also watch the live television coverage. He gave the details of tomorrow's events at a hastily called press conference late tonight as the Israeli and Egyptian delegates met for a second time to iron out what were described as procedural matters.

Saadeddin described the initial meeting this evening as friendly and marked by good will. He said the issue of Palestinian representation has not been raised so far. He said there would be seating at the conference table for nine parties invited to the talks, including the Palestinians. The Palestine Liberation Organization has not accepted Egypt's invitation nor have any of the Arab states or the Soviet Union. It was learned that the labeling of the Palestinian seat has yet to be agreed on.

BRUSSELS (JTA)—The Palestine Liberation Organization was authorized Tuesday to operate an information bureau in Luxembourg. The Luxembourg authorization will enable the PLO representative to engage in similar activities to those conducted in Belgium. The PLO has been operating an information bureau in Brussels since 1976. It is believed that this office will also cover Luxembourg.

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA)—Mrs. Rachel Geiger, of Rio de Janeiro, was elected Woman of the Year by the Council of Brazilian Women's chapter here. Mrs. Geiger is the president of WIZO in Rio and has been active in the Brazilian Zionist movement for many years.

TEL AVIV (JTA)—The decimated Independent Liberal Party, reduced from four seats to one in the Knesset in last-May's elections, may disappear from Israel's political map if its sole MK, Gideon Haysner, joins Likud. Rumors abound that such a move is imminent.

## FUND FOR THE ARTS SET UP BY NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (JTA)--The establishment of a first-time, nationwide program of yearly grants in support of creative Jewish expression and excellence to be given to individual American artists in all media, those exceptionally promising as well as established, was announced by Amos Comay of Pittsburgh, nationally prominent communal leader and business executive. He was elected president Sunday of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture (NFJC) at its annual board of directors meeting held at the Hotel Warwick.

Comay succeeds Earl Morse of New York. The NFJC, organized 18 years ago, provides assistance, guidance and support to agencies, organizations, institutions and activities through a broad range of programs, for the advancement of Jewish culture.

Grants to individual artists, according to the NFJC prospectus, will range from \$5,000 to \$12,500, in keeping with the circumstances of the artist and his/her project requirements. The first nationwide field of entries will be opened in spring, 1978; inaugural grants will be awarded that autumn. Grant disbursements totalling up to \$250,000 each year are contemplated for an initial three-year phase of the program's operation.

### Pioneering Venture Of Jewish Spirit

Hailing the new grants program, officially designated as The Fund for the Arts, as "a pioneering venture of the Jewish spirit," Comay noted that it was designed "to encourage and aid in the creation of new works that give fresh and powerful expression to the Jewish experience and milieu."

Project applications by artists working in the following fields will be eligible: music, theater, dance, painting, sculpture, belles lettres, film, television, photography, and museums. Applications will be reviewed by Selection Panels, composed of outstanding artists and practitioners in each of the relevant fields. Grants will not necessarily be made each year in all areas, Comay reported.

Financing for The Fund for the Arts, he emphasized, is currently being drawn, and will be sought as well in the future, exclusively from the private patron sector and from public and private foundations, and not from the organized Jewish community. It is anticipated that the NFJC initiative will qualify in time to receive matching financial support from federal agencies and state councils which recognize artistic creativity as a top national and communal priority.

### Program Culminates 18-Month Study

Addressed to "the broad spectrum of Jewish creative energy in America ranging from prayer to protest to prophecy," the arts program culminates an 18-month study by Comay who as NFJC vice-president headed a special Development Commission "that assessed the needs and considered lead options for channeling all--artists, patrons and public--with a vital stake in encouraging American artists to fresh contributions to Jewish cultural tradition."

In a statement upon assuming the presidency of the NFJC, Comay commented on "a phenomenal merging in recent years of three outstanding currents which account for our present initiative in creating The Fund for the Arts." He referred to "the emergence of new cadres of talented and aspiring young artists opting strongly for their Jewish 'connection'--a generation in fact nurtured by

the very Jewish studies programs and climate on campus across the nation that the NFJC was so instrumental in fostering these past 10 years."

Julian Freeman, of Indianapolis, founding chairman of the agency and vice-president who, in the late 1950s, as president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, authorized the study which generated country-wide support for the creation of the NFJC, was unanimously elected by the board to its specially created post of National Honorary Chairman.

Comay is a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and serves on the national executive bodies of the United Jewish Appeal and the Joint Distribution Committee. He is a member of the Jewish Agency Assembly, a trustee of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and serves on local boards of the Israel Bond Organization, America-Israel Cultural Foundation Chapter and Zionist Organization of America.

## BEGIN URGES INCREASED EFFORTS TO AID JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Dec. 13 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin urged the entire free world last night to raise its voice and increase its efforts on behalf of Jews imprisoned in the Soviet Union and denied the right to emigrate. Begin addressed a special session of the Knesset convened on the last night of Chanukah which marked the end of a week devoted to the plight of Soviet Jewry.

Begin spoke in response to a motion by MK Geula Cohen who noted that the narrow opening of the gates for emigration from the Soviet Union was due to the courageous struggle of Soviet Jews themselves and the pressure of world opinion. She said the free world and Israeli public opinion must continue relentlessly to pressure the Soviet authorities so that the gates are widened and the prisoners are freed.

Begin said he accepted the motion wholeheartedly. He called for an end of indifference toward suffering, persecution and ill-treatment of Jews in the USSR. He said most of the world now accepts the axiom that the persecution of any minority is not the internal affair of any state.

It is the duty of everyone to become involved to save people from persecution, Begin declared. He expressed hope that the day would soon come when all "prisoners of Zion" are freed. The Knesset held a reception for the many Soviet emigres, former prisoners and relatives of Jews still imprisoned in the Soviet Union who attended the session.

## MOSHE ROLNIK DEAD AT 65

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 13 (JTA)--Moshe Rolnik, a Yiddish poet active in the Jewish cultural life in Brazil, has died here at the age of 65. Born in Poland, he came to Paris before World War II where he was a teacher in a Jewish school and lectured in West-European Jewish communities on Yiddish literature. He escaped from Paris when the Nazis invaded France and came to the United States after the war where he worked for the Jewish Encyclopedia. Rolnik came to Brazil in 1951.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Mapam has elected Meir Talmi general secretary of the party, Victor Shemtov, political secretary replacing Naftali Feder, and Elazar Granott, secretary. These three will constitute the new leadership of Mapam.