

flexible. It is less easy, however, to see the shape of an eventual compromise on the key question of the conference agenda. Egypt is obviously concerned to demonstrate the sincerity of its assertions that it is not negotiating a separate deal. Hence, its delegates' determination to press for the prominent inclusion of the Palestinian issue—both the immediate question of representation at the Geneva conference and the ultimate question of a political solution—high on the conference agenda. Similarly, Egypt is pressing for the territorial problem to figure prominently with the stress here being on withdrawal on every front, not merely in the Sinai.

In this demand, there is a good deal of disingenuousness, because Egypt's chief negotiator Ahmed Esmat Meguid knows as well as Ben-Elissar that this is neither the place nor the time at which the vital issue of real estate will be fought out. By tacit common consent that is to be left to higher echelons (perhaps the highest) to deal with in the more comfortable secrecy of some desert buffer zone site.

But for Egypt here, with its delicate problems of Arab hardline disapproval, it is important that the principle of Israeli withdrawal on all fronts be enshrined in the agenda of this conference as additional proof that Cairo has not betrayed or forsaken all Arab interests.

Probably the breakthrough on the agenda issue will come over the weekend when the conference goes ostensibly into a three-day lapse (to cater for every religious sensibility) and the reporters move off from Mena House to the tourist sights in Cairo and the environs.

A quieter and less pressured atmosphere may then prevail here and Ben-Elissar and Meguid may find the moment appropriate for some constructive exchange of concessions so that next week, at least, this conference can move ahead on the basis of an agreed agenda.

KNESSET COMMITTEE MEMBERS SAY THEY ARE BEING KEPT IN THE DARK ABOUT DIPLOMATIC EVENTS IN MIDEAST By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (JTA)—Members of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee complained bitterly to Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan yesterday that the committee is being kept "in the dark" about diplomatic events now occurring in the Middle East. Dayan, who had come to brief the committee, was told that virtually all the information it was given by the government also appeared in the press.

The MKs acknowledged that there have been some "leaks" from committee sources and were prepared to take measures to stop them. But they charged that the government was using the risk of leaks as a pretext to withhold information. Yitzhak Navon, of the Labor Alignment, a former chairman of the committee, said on a television interview that apart from Dayan, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Premier Menachem Begin, it was his feeling that the Cabinet itself was not being given the full facts on current developments.

Some sources said that Dayan was not totally informed and therefore was in no position to offer an in-depth picture of ongoing diplomatic moves. Committee chairman Moshe Arens has asked Attorney General Aharon Barak to investigate the legal aspects of leaks from the committee.

Secret Talks Claimed

Meanwhile, Haaretz's military correspondent

in Cairo, Ze'ev Schiff, reported today that Dayan has held secret talks with Egypt's Deputy Foreign Minister Hassan el-Tahami in Morocco to discuss the "next phase" of the Cairo conference. According to Schiff, the talks were arranged with the blessings of Morocco's King Hassan, one of the few Arab leaders to publicly support President Anwar Sadat's peace initiative. Schiff described Tahami as being very close to Sadat. He was a member of Sadat's party visiting Jerusalem last month.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry has vigorously denied that any secret talks have taken place or that Dayan has met secretly with Tahami. But Schiff reported from Cairo that Egyptian sources confirmed that secret meetings are taking place, presumably away from the formal conference at the Mena House now the focus of world attention.

HERZOG RAPS UN MEASURE CONDEMNING ISRAEL FOR RELATIONS WITH PRETORIA

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 15 (JTA)—The General Assembly adopted last night a resolution condemning Israel "for its collaboration with the racist regime of South Africa." The anti-Israel resolution was one of 14 resolutions condemning the apartheid policies of the Pretoria government. The vote condemning Israel was 88-19 with 30 abstentions.

Israel, as a protest for being singled out for condemnation even though many other countries have economic ties with South Africa, did not participate in any of the votes on apartheid except to support the resolution on International Anti-Apartheid Year.

In his address to the Assembly before the voting, Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, said that Israel's trade with South Africa last year amounted to two-fifths of one percent of South Africa's total trade of \$7 billion. He charged that many of the African and Arab countries which sponsored the anti-Israel resolution, are doing more business with South Africa than Israel does.

Denies Nuclear Cooperation

The resolution against Israel was sponsored, among others, by Angola, Cuba, Egypt, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Zambia and was described by them as following from the report of a special committee on apartheid that cited Israel's military and economic ties with South Africa.

Describing the resolution as "a cynical exercise in international hypocrisy," Herzog denied allegations about nuclear cooperation between his country and South Africa. He also refuted accusations that Israel gives military assistance to South Africa. He said that Israel acts in accordance with a recent Security Council resolution which calls for arms embargo against Pretoria.

Virtually all the Western countries, including the United States, voted against the resolution condemning Israel. Guatemala also voted negatively. Abstaining were many Latin American nations as well as such African countries as Swaziland, Malawi, Liberia, the Ivory Coast and the Central African Empire. Japan, Thailand, Singapore and Iran also abstained.

4 WEST BANK DELEGATIONS CAIRO-BOUND By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (JTA)—Four delegations of Palestinians from the West Bank will go to Cairo this week to express their support directly to President Anwar Sadat of Egypt for his peace initiative and to wish success to the Cairo conference

that opened yesterday. West Bank students continued to demonstrate against the conference in several towns today. But the projected trip to Cairo by local notables represented the first major setback for the Palestine Liberation Organization in the territory since PLO-backed mayors won landslide victories in the West Bank municipal elections of April, 1976.

Their decision to go to the Egyptian capital apparently was prompted by the warm reception the Egyptian authorities gave to a large delegation of Gaza Strip Arabs who went to Cairo earlier in the week to pledge Palestinian support for Sadat.

The first West Bank delegation will be headed by Abdul Rauf Fares, a former member of the Jordanian parliament who was one of the first West Bankers to speak out in favor of Sadat's initiative. About 200 people had signed up for the trip as of yesterday. The second delegation is headed by Hussein Shuyhi, a lawyer who has been trying to organize a political movement on the West Bank to counter-balance the PLO.

The third will be headed by Burhan Jaabari, son of the former Mayor of Hebron, Sheikh Mohammed Ali el-Jaabari, who has close ties with King Hussein of Jordan. Mustafa Doudin, former Jordanian Minister of Interior, will lead the fourth delegation which includes a group from Jericho.

None of the delegations will include top ranking West Bank leaders. Two of the latter, former Jordanian Defense Minister Anwar Nusseiba and Anwar el-Hatib, former Jordanian Governor of the Jerusalem district, are believed to be watching developments in Cairo closely before deciding which way to throw their support. Arrangements for the trip to Cairo were made through the Egyptian Ambassador in Amman.

Meanwhile, students demonstrated against the Cairo talks in Ramallah, Nablus and Bir Zeit, site of the Arab University. The campus demonstration was subdued and the students dispersed when an Israeli army unit arrived. Students of UNRWA-run schools in Ramallah staged noisy protests in the streets but also dispersed when troops arrived and caused no disturbances. But several students were arrested in Nablus for inciting others to leave their classrooms and demonstrate. The local Communist Party distributed leaflets condemning Sadat and denouncing the Cairo conference as "reaction and surrender."

CARTER SAYS HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT BEGIN WILL TELL HIM AT MEETING; SEES PLO AS OUT OF PEACEMAKING PROCESS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 (JTA)--President Carter said today that he does not know what Israeli Premier Menachem Begin will say to him at their scheduled three-hour session tomorrow morning at the White House. But, he added, he would have "no reticence" to tell Begin "privately" whether his proposals, should the Premier offer them, are in the "right direction" or "fall far short" of what Egyptian President Anwar Sadat "could accept."

In a White House news conference, in which he also criticized the Soviet Union and stated that the Palestine Liberation Organization has removed itself "from any immediate prospects of participation in a peace discussion," Carter said he and Sadat "exchanged communications several times a week" and "I think I know at least in general terms what would be acceptable to President Sadat."

However, Carter added, "I would not be the ultimate judge of whether it would be acceptable to the Egyptians or not. That would be up to President Sadat." His remarks were in response to a

question whether it was his intention to endorse specific proposals that "Begin or anyone else presents to you of what they hope to do" and "be able to go back to a peace conference to say 'Jimmy Carter says this is what he likes.'" The President described the questioner's inquiry a fairly good assessment.

Hope For Acceptable Peace Moves

"Our immediate hope and goal," Carter said, "is that any peace moves made by Israel and Egypt would be acceptable to the moderate Arab leaders in the Middle East, certainly King Hussein of Jordan, certainly the Saudi Arabians. We have good indications in my personal visits with President (Hafez) Assad" of Syria that he "wants to resolve the difference. Lebanon is heavily influenced, as you know, by the Syrian presence there. The PLO has been completely negative. They have not been cooperative at all."

Continuing, Carter stated: "In spite of my own indirect invitations to them, and the direct invitations by Sadat and by Assad, by King Hussein, by King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, the PLO has refused to make any moves toward a peaceful attitude. They have completely rejected United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. They have refused to make public acknowledgement that Israel has a right to exist in peace, so I think they have, themselves, removed the PLO from any immediate prospects of participation in a peace discussion."

"But I certainly would not ascribe that sort of intransigence or negative attitude toward any of the other parties who have been mentioned as possible participants. We want to be sure that at least moderate Palestinians are included in the discussions." Carter did not indicate whether he meant at Cairo or Geneva.

Critical Of Soviet Union

Regarding the position of the Soviet Union, Carter said that "the Soviets have been much more constructive in the Middle East than they formerly had" but, he added, "obviously they have not been as constructive as I would like to have seen." Carter said "I have no evidence that the Soviets have had to use their influence on the Syrians to prevent their attendance" at the Cairo meeting. "I think this is a decision" made by Assad.

The President expressed hope that the Soviet government "will continue to cooperate in the future toward an ultimate Geneva conference." He summarized Soviet-U.S. relations with regard to the Middle East as "a mixed assessment" and added, "though in general it could have been much worse."

Shortly after his news conference, Carter met with some 15 representatives of five major Arab-American organizations for some 90 minutes, according to Joseph Baroody, president of the National Association of Arab Americans. The group protested America's policy in the Mideast and demanded the inclusion of the PLO in resumed peace discussions.

However, two representatives of the American Lebanese League did not mention the PLO in its statement to Carter but said "we concur with the scope of the Sadat-Begin talks" and expressed hope "these will lead to a more stable and secure situation." It suggested that the Cairo "effort" be coupled with "a similar one in Lebanon" and emphasized relief for the people of that war-torn country.

IN UNPRECEDENTED EVENT, WIFE OF EGYPTIAN ENVOY ADDRESSES JEWISH WOMEN

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JTA)—In an unprecedented event, Mrs. Samiha Badawi, wife of the Deputy Ambassador of Egypt to the United Nations, Abdal Hulim Badawi, broke bread, accepted a gift of a menorah and established warm relations with 100 members of the National Board of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism even as she said to them that the Palestinians must have a homeland and that "Israel's security cannot be underwritten by the insecurity of others."

Mrs. Badawi was warmly introduced by Mrs. Ruth Perry, president of the League, who presented the menorah to the visiting Arab dignitary. In her remarks, Mrs. Perry, who had invited Mrs. Badawi to address the League, pointed out that the meeting here was taking place on a very significant day, the opening of talks in Cairo that, hopefully, would lead to an ultimate peace. She added that the entire Jewish world applauded the sincerity and courage of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and prayed for Arab-Israel peace.

Despite Mrs. Badawi's seemingly hard positions—she also called for Israel to give up territories—her major thrust and emphasis was on the hopeful side. Several times she stressed the values and affinities that Jews and Arabs share "as grandsons of a common prophet, Abraham." Decrying the misunderstandings, prejudices and suspicions that had been allowed to develop between the two peoples, she accented the positive. "The light seems to glint at long last," she said, "at the end of the tunnel," and attributed the new atmosphere to the courage and visions of Sadat.

Appeals For Enduring Peace

Mrs. Badawi, 36, who has sons aged 13 and 8, appealed to women everywhere—as mothers and sisters of sons and brothers who die in battle—to bend their utmost efforts toward a just and enduring peace in the Mideast, for which she saw bright hopes.

Saying that she was speaking "as an ordinary Egyptian woman and mother," she declared: "The Middle East is a land not only rich in its spiritual treasure, but also abundant in human and natural resources. The ingenuity of all the peoples in the area working together can restore to that region its past glory. Hopes have been reborn, on both sides. Peace must not be delayed much longer."

The occasion marked the first time that the wife of a high-ranking Arab official was paid a tribute by a major American Jewish organization. The League is the parent body of 800 sisterhoods of Conservative synagogues in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Israel. It is associated with the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

The League had also invited Mrs. Eglal Esmat Meguid, wife of the Egyptian Ambassador to the UN, Ahmed Esmat Meguid, but she was unable to attend because she returned to Cairo with her husband where he is Egypt's chief delegate at the Cairo conference.

STUDENTS END HUNGER STRIKE

TORONTO, Dec. 15 (JTA)—The 14 York University students who two weeks ago began a 15-day hunger strike on behalf of Soviet Jews, especially Anatoly Shcharansky, the Soviet Jewish activist who faces treason charges, called off their fast after 11 days on Tuesday after a Cabinet Minister promised immediate action to press the Soviet Union for Shcharansky's release from prison.

Norm Cafik, Minister for Multiculturalism, visited the university campus here and assured the hunger strikers he would call on the Soviet Ambassador to appeal on behalf of Soviet Jews and Shcharansky. He also stated that he would ask the government to waive immigration procedures and accept Shcharansky as an immigrant if the Soviets agree to release him.

External Affairs Minister Donald Jamieson told the Parliament yesterday that he had spoken to Soviet Ambassador A.N. Yakovlev on behalf of Shcharansky, that the government was ready to sponsor him as an immigrant and that the government was willing to pass a Cabinet order clearing his admission if the USSR releases him.

JEWISH JOURNALISTS IN MOROCCO

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JTA)—Twelve Jewish editors, members of the American Jewish Press Association, left Tuesday for a 10-day tour of Morocco as guests of the government. They were invited by the government's Tourism minister as part of King Hassan's policy of trying to establish friendly relations between Arabs and Jews.

The group, which arrived yesterday in Casablanca, is due to visit Morocco's main cities where most of the country's 30,000 Jews live: Casablanca, Rabat, Fez, Meknes, Tangier and Marrakesh. The group represents publications in Philadelphia, Cleveland, Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles, Kansas City, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, St. Louis and Jersey City.

LOUIS STULBERG DEAD AT 76

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JTA)—Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Louis Stulberg, who died yesterday at the age of 76. He was president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) from 1966 to 1975. Born in Poland, he was brought to Toronto at the age of three. He became a cutter as a teenager but had to leave Toronto when he was blacklisted for union activities.

Stulberg went first to Chicago and then to Toledo, Ohio where he began his activities in the ILGWU as an organizer in Toledo and the Midwest. After holding many union offices he joined the ILGWU's general staff in 1945 as assistant executive secretary and was elected a vice-president in 1947. In 1956, he became executive vice-president and was elected secretary-treasurer in 1959. He was elected president in 1966 after David Dubinsky resigned.

Stulberg had been a vice-president of the AFL-CIO and was a United States representative to the United Nations. He was a Fellow of Brandeis University and was a member of HIAS, the National Committee for Labor Israel and American ORT.

FIRST JEWISH SCHOOL SINCE 1492 IS DUE TO BE OPENED IN MADRID

TEL AVIV, Dec. 15 (JTA)—Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef is leaving soon for Spain to attend the dedication of the first Jewish school in Madrid, the first such school in Spain since the expulsion of Jews from Spain by the Inquisition in 1492. Israeli religious circles are attaching great significance to Yosef's visit to Spain as it would mean the annulment of the "herem deraban"—the boycott of Spain declared by the rabbis of the Inquisition era. There are some 9000 Jews presently in Spain, 3000 of them in Madrid.