

WEIZMAN, GAMASSY TALKS INDICATE SUBSTANTIAL TALKS UNDERWAY ON ISSUES OF SECURITY AND TERRITORY IN SINAI

By David Landau

CAIRO, Dec. 21 (JTA)—Sources associated with both the Israeli and Egyptian negotiating teams here indicated today that the surprise visit of Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman for meetings with Egyptian War Minister Mohammed Gamassy yesterday and today near Alexandria means that substantive talks on basic issues of territory and security in Sinai are underway. Weizman returned to Israel this afternoon. (See related story.)

According to some sources, these talks are intended to prepare the ground for a joint declaration by President Anwar Sadat and Premier Menachem Begin when they meet at Ismailia Sunday. They are, in fact, expected to announce the principles of an Israeli-Egyptian settlement in Sinai. That would ensure that the Sadat-Begin summit meeting ends on a high note.

The Cairo conference is expected to be raised to the foreign ministers level immediately afterwards to work out details of the territorial-security aspects of a settlement as well as the "nature of peace" clauses. The fourth session of the Cairo conference due to convene this morning was cancelled. Eliahu Ben-Elissar, chief of the Israeli delegation, went to Ismailia to meet with Weizman, the Israeli delegation spokesman announced.

The official Middle East News Agency reported today that Weizman met with President Sadat at his Ismailia retreat at midnight last night following a day of talks with Gamassy. He and Gamassy were to continue their talks today.

Wide Gap Still Exists

Meanwhile, high level Egyptian sources indicated today that a wide gap still exists between Israel and Egypt on the issue of Israeli evacuation of Sinai. The sources said that Egypt would not tolerate the presence of a single Israeli soldier in Sinai after a settlement is signed. One source close to Sadat was reported to have remarked privately that any Israeli need to maintain an air or naval garrison at Sharm el-Sheikh would "disappear" the moment a settlement is achieved.

The source said that the hard-line Arab states would quickly fall in line behind Egypt so that Israel would have no cause to fear the possibility of a new blockade of the strategic Straits of Tiran. The source also referred to Yamit and El Arish in northern Sinai as places Israel would have to vacate under an agreement.

WEIZMAN SAYS TALKS WITH GAMASSY WERE TO FIND RIGHT MOVES TO PEACE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21 (JTA)—Defense Minister Ezer Weizman returned from Egypt today after two meetings with President Anwar Sadat in Ismailia and two prolonged working sessions with Egyptian War Minister Mohammed Gamassy near Alexandria.

The Israeli defense chief refused to reveal what subjects he discussed with Gamassy but stressed that they dealt only with questions re-

lating to Egypt, not the West Bank. He said the purpose of his meetings with his Egyptian counterpart was to find the right moves to the road toward peace, or, rather, what moves would ensure Israel's security in peace time.

Weizman, who began consultations immediately this evening with Premier Menachem Begin in Jerusalem, told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport that he might not be optimistic but was full of hope. It was learned that one subject he discussed was the establishment of "hot line" telephone connections between the Israeli Defense Ministry and the Egyptian defense establishment to prevent any possible outbreak of hostilities due to a mistake or misunderstanding.

The Defense Minister indicated that he might go to Egypt again before Begin and Sadat hold their summit meeting at Ismailia Sunday. He said that would be decided in the course of his consultations with Begin tonight. The meeting at the Prime Minister's residence was attended by Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin and other senior Cabinet ministers.

Weizman gave no details of his talks in Egypt, nor would he confirm reports here that he had brought with him detailed options for an Israeli-Egyptian security agreement in Sinai complete with maps. He was accompanied on his trip by two senior army officers, Gen. Shlomo Gazit, chief of intelligence and Gen. Herzl Shafir, commander of the southern front, as well as his military aide, Col. Ilan Tehila.

Held 'Broad Terms' Discussion

Weizman did confirm earlier reports here that he had expected his trip to Egypt to remain secret but it was announced by the Egyptians. Begin, who returned from the U.S. last night, also expressed surprise that the media knew of Weizman's trip. Before leaving Egypt today the Defense Minister met at Cairo airport with Eliahu Ben-Elissar, head of the Israeli delegation to the Cairo conference, and another delegation member, Gen. Avraham Tamir.

He said that he met with Sadat, at the President's request, immediately upon his arrival in Egypt yesterday and that the Egyptian leader wished him success. "This morning I came to see him to bid him farewell before my departure," Weizman said. He said Egyptian Vice President Hosni Mubarak and Gamassy were both present. An Israel Army Radio reporter said Sadat told him at Ismailia that he and Weizman had discussed in "broad terms" questions relating to a comprehensive settlement. He said Sadat emphasized "broad terms."

(Meanwhile, David Landau, reporting from Cairo, said there are rumors that Weizman will return for another round of talks in Egypt before Begin's summit with Sadat on Sunday. These rumors lend weight to the theory that Weizman is indeed involved in far reaching negotiations on the defense aspects of a settlement—and that the two sides want to have something tangible already concluded on this before the Sunday summit. Egypt officially confirmed that Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will accompany Begin and that Weizman might also take part in the summit talks.)

BEGIN SAYS HIS PEACE PLAN WON 'TREMENDOUS SUPPORT' FROM U.S.

By Yitzhak Shargil and Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21 (JTA)—Premier Menachem

Begin returned from the U.S. last night claiming that his peace plan had "won tremendous support" from the Carter Administration and leaders of both major American political parties. The Premier landed at Ben Gurion Airport after a five-hour stopover in London where he briefed Prime Minister James Callaghan and Jean-Francois Poncet, a special emissary of President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France, on his proposals.

Begin appeared well-satisfied with the results of his five-day visit to Washington and New York. "I went to the U.S. taking with me a good plan," he told reporters at the airport. "I am back today and I have good news with me. Our plan has won a tremendous support by the U.S.—by the President and his aides, the Secretary of State and others—as a fair basis for starting negotiations that will lead towards peace." He said the plan also had the blessings of former President Ford and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

(In Washington, State Department spokesman Hodding Carter declined to comment on press reports that the Carter Administration was not satisfied with Begin's proposals. He did say, however, "we believe Mr. Begin is taking a constructive approach... and we also believe that he and President Sadat are taking a very constructive step toward peace.")

Dismisses Domestic Discontent

Begin dismissed the growing disquiet within his own Likud faction and especially among his hardcore Herut supporters over elements of his peace plan as reported in the press, particularly his offer of "self rule" to the Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Begin insisted that the plan in no way deviates from the precepts of Herut and predicted that opposition would fade away once misunderstandings of his proposals are corrected.

Nevertheless, the Premier's first order of business today was a meeting with Likud leaders to explain the essence of his peace proposals. He will convene the Cabinet in special session tomorrow and despite doubts expressed earlier in the week by some ministers, he is expected to get unanimous endorsement of his peace package before he brings it to President Anwar Sadat of Egypt at their meeting in Ismailia Sunday.

Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, defended Begin against charges that he kept the Knesset in the dark about his plans while speaking freely to Congressmen and the American media. Arens said it was necessary to reveal the principles of his plan to the media in order to ensure the support of American public opinion.

Begin's return put a damper on criticism within Likud ranks and many MKs who were complaining that his proposals were tantamount to endorsing a Palestinian state were mute today. Even Herut firebrand Geula Cohen moderated her criticism and expressed "basic confidence" in Begin's leadership.

Labor Alignment Split

Meanwhile, Labor Alignment leaders whose only area of agreement in recent months has been opposition to the Begin government's policies, were split today on that issue. Paradoxically, Begin's peace proposals have won the support from Labor's right and left wings. Only the center, inhabited by Alignment leader Shimon Peres, former Premier Yitzhak Rabin and former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, continued to complain that Begin's "self rule" plan would create the infrastructure for a Palestinian state. But they seemed to be increasingly isolated within their own party.

Begin received an effusive greeting at the airport from Chaika Grossman of Mapam, one of his most severe critics in the Knesset. She praised him for his statesmanship and he kissed her on the cheek. Begin told reporters, "whoever speaks of a Palestinian state as a result of my plan does not know what he is talking about."

Says Syria Might Enter Talks

(It was reported from London today that Begin left his British hosts with the feeling that his apparent willingness to make everything negotiable would force Syria eventually to join in peace talks that are already tacitly supported by Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Begin told a press conference at London airport shortly before his departure yesterday that he thought Syria might enter the negotiating process at a later stage just as it belatedly signed an armistice with Israel in 1949, seven months after the other Arab states. He refused to discuss details of his peace plan but replied affirmatively when asked if Israel still sought a comprehensive settlement with all of its neighbors.)

NEW U.S. ARMS POLICY COULD AFFECT AMERICAN-ISRAELI ARMS ARRANGEMENTS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (JTA)—President Carter's new policy of restraint on the sale and transfer of weapons abroad could affect Israeli-American military arrangements, sources here confirmed today. The President announced Monday night his intention to cut down arms sales.

The State Department said yesterday that the U.S. "guidelines" on arms now is to ban the introduction of advanced weapons and equipment that would significantly elevate the recipient country's military power; to impose restraints on the "co-production" of advanced weapons systems; and to control the transfer of weapons to third parties.

A major issue between Israel and the U.S. has been Israel's request for co-production rights for the American F-16 jet fighter and other sophisticated military equipment. The U.S. so far has withheld that authority which Israel seeks for economic as well as military reasons. Israeli sources here confirmed that bilateral matters were discussed between Premier Menachem Begin and President Carter at their White House meetings last weekend. The specific subjects were not disclosed.

Carter's announcement of restraint in arms sales followed a five-day meeting here between U.S. and Soviet military experts that ended Monday. The State Department described the meetings as a "preliminary exchange of views on the arms trade." Further meetings will be decided upon later.

SEE IMPROVED FRANCO-ISRAELI RELATIONS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 21 (JTA)—France considers that the cold relations with Israel have thawed following Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's meeting in London with a French special envoy. French political circles believe that things "have now returned to normal" and that the two countries can "start all over again from scratch."

The Secretary General of the Elysee Palace, Jean Francois-Poncet, President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's representative who met with Begin yesterday in London, returned to Paris highly optimistic. His report to Giscard indicated that Israel is ready to renew its old "close and intimate ties" with France as they existed in the heydays of 1956.

as if nothing has happened in the meantime.

French diplomatic sources point to Begin's declaration in London prior to his departure suggesting a return "to the Franco-Israeli alliance of 1956," as proving that the two countries are on the dawn of a new honeymoon. Israel and France were de facto allied in 1956 at the time of the Suez campaign which aimed at toppling President Nasser after his nationalization of the Suez Canal.

France believes that it can contribute to a solution of the Middle East crisis by providing adequate guarantees and by maintaining its open bridges with Syria, Libya and Iraq. French officials here note that any lasting peace in the area will have to involve, sooner or later, these three countries and that France is the only Western state which has good and confident relations with their leaders.

France has wanted to improve relations with Israel since Giscard's election in 1974. Two events have given recent history an additional push: the forthcoming legislative elections in which every vote will count, especially the Jewish vote, and France's impression that Britain is replacing it as Western Europe's dominant political force in Middle East affairs.

AZF TRIBUNAL REJECTS API, UZR APPEAL

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Dec. 21 (JTA)--The American Zionist Federation Tribunal has rejected an appeal of the AZF's election committee's decision to mail out an informational booklet on the election for the 152 American delegates to the 29th World Zionist Congress in February without any campaign material from the eight competing slates.

In revealing the decision taken last Thursday, an AZF spokesperson quoted Samuel Rothstein, chairman of the Tribunal, as saying, "We heard the presentations and deliberated over several hours and came to a unanimous decision." Rothstein also noted that the complaint by the Americans for Progressive Israel (API) and the United Zionists-Revisionists of America (UZR) was "moot" since by last week more than half the ballots had been mailed out to the more than 900,000 registered Zionists in the United States.

The API and the UZR had appealed the AZF election committee's decision after the committee decided to reject a ruling from the central election committee in Jerusalem that the informational booklets, which were mailed out with the ballots, contain the party platforms but no pictures. The API and UZR had been the only ones to vote against the American election committee's decision.

The two groups called the decision "undemocratic" and noted that voters will not be able to make an educated choice since they would not know the positions of the various slates.

Basis For The Decision

The AZF spokesperson said that the AZF Tribunal accepted the arguments presented to it by Martin Markson, the AZF's general counsel. These were that the central election committee in Jerusalem is an administrative body with no power to hear appeals, that its decision was a unilateral one without hearing arguments from either the American election committee or any of its constituent organizations, and that the decision not to include party platforms was a discretionary matter not subject to review or reversal by the central election committee.

Markson also argued that the voters will be able to make an "informed choice" and displayed

examples of advertisements and other information that has appeared, the spokesperson said.

Five of the AZF Tribunal's nine members took part in the hearing. In addition to Rothstein they were Brooklyn District Attorney Eugene Gold, Helen Lusterman, Chaim Dubno and Nathan Zelikow. The decision, however, is being appealed by API and UZR to the World Zionist Congress Court in Jerusalem, according to Moshe Kagan, associate chairman of the AZF Executive.

Meanwhile, the AZF said the ballots for the election must be returned to the American Arbitration Association, which is administering the election, by Jan. 3.

ISRAELI SCHOOLS WILL TEACH ARABIC

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21 (JTA)--The Education Ministry has approved a five-year plan to promote the study of Arabic in Israeli schools aimed at doubling the number of students of that language. The Ministry acted on the recommendations of a special committee headed by Prof. Moshe Piamonta, a veteran teacher of Arabic.

The study of Arabic will be made a compulsory part of the elementary school curriculum. Although Arabic is presently taught in many schools, many others do not offer it and students prefer to study French as a foreign language. The Piamonta committee attributed this in part to the poor quality of Arabic teachers and the Education Ministry plans to make a special effort to improve teacher training. Another recommendation calls for the use of instructional television to teach Arabic. At present only English lessons are given on educational television.

The panel proposed that the study of Arabic start at the fourth grade level and be limited at the first stage to the spoken language. There is considerable difference between spoken and written Arabic.

PRO-ISRAELI NAMED SWISS FOREIGN MINISTER

GENEVA, Dec. 21 (JTA)--Pierre Auber was appointed Monday to the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs. He is a member of the Swiss Socialist Party and is president of the Swiss-Israel Friendship Association. A lawyer by profession, Auber took an active interest in Israel and the Jews after he learned about the Holocaust.

He was born in the town La Chaux de Fond where there is an active Jewish community, and many of his childhood friends were Jews. Auber also studied Jewish history and visited Israel several times. Some members of his own party opposed his appointment, stating that his ties with Israel disqualified him from being in charge of foreign relations for neutral Switzerland. In spite of these attacks Auber was elected by a large majority.

BUENOS AIRES (JTA)--The Arabic daily As Salam wrote Tuesday that the Argentine Arab community, which it claimed, numbers over two million, has contributed much to build this country and should not import overseas differences. Peace and work should replace hate and conflicts, the paper said. In an apparent reference to the Middle East peace momentum launched by the "impossible dialogue" between Egypt and Israel, As Salam said the Arabs must recognize that Israel exists, that Jews have their country and nobody can deny their right to it. But Jews must equally admit that they appropriated part of other peoples' country and must return it, As Salam wrote. Palestinians also exist and have their rights. Accepting both realities will ease the way to peace and hatred will diminish, the paper said.

SPECIAL REPORT**AFFECT OF VANDALISM ON SYNAGOGUES**

By Ben Gallob

(Part Two Of A Two-Part Series)

NEW YORK, Dec. 21 (JTA)—Officials of central agencies for Conservative and Orthodox synagogues in New York City, responding to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency survey on the impact of the severe cuts in police and fire protection services in New York City in 1974 and 1975, reported their affiliated congregations had also been compelled to change procedures. But, in contrast to the Orthodox synagogues, no Conservative synagogues had to be closed or abandoned during the difficult periods.

Rabbi Morris Feldman, executive director of the Metropolitan region of the United Synagogue, said he doubted there had been a major increase in vandalism against Conservative synagogues in New York City during the 1974-75 period, adding there were few Conservative synagogues in deteriorating neighborhoods.

But, he said, some of the 176 Conservative synagogues in the metropolitan area had reported difficulties. A notice in the November news bulletin of the regional office said "there has been an increase in the vandalism perpetrated" against affiliated synagogues. The bulletin quoted Feldman as suggesting that every affected congregation consult with its local police precinct to get recommendations on the most effective means of coping with such problems.

A meeting of the Conservative Brooklyn-Statens Island Presidents' Council at Temple Shalom of Flatbush last Oct. 20 heard a list of recommendations from police officer Anthony Luizzo of the 63rd Precinct on security procedures. The officer recommended surveys of all synagogues by the police crime prevention bureau to determine how safe doors of the synagogue building were, places where the building was vulnerable and on whether a burglar alarm system was needed. He disclosed that each police precinct has a team of officers who visit houses of worship to help protect them from vandalism.

Orthodox Synagogues Hit

Acts of vandalism against Orthodox synagogues in New York City have increased in recent years but "there seems to be no correlation between this and the police cutbacks," according to David Merzel, community relations director of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (UOJCA).

On the basis of replies to questionnaires sent to affiliated synagogues in the New York area, he reported, "in the stable areas of the city, vandalism remains low while in deteriorating areas, the rate is increasing as neighborhoods deteriorate still further." Merzel said the UOJCA did not have the statistics on how many member synagogues have closed in recent years, "although some have." He said it was difficult to compile such data because some congregations move to new neighborhoods "and others slowly die out over a period of time."

Merzel said it was his impression that the police cutbacks "had little to do with these closings since the neighborhoods had long been deteriorating and the closings were inevitable." He said the UOJCA office is asked for advice on reducing vandalism and that it recommends burglar alarms, gates or wire mesh on windows, better lighting of the exterior of the synagogue building and similar security measures.

Merzel reported that information was lacking

on the precise impact of police cutbacks on synagogue procedures but that "some synagogues provide an escort service for elderly congregants." He said the UOJCA office had not received any reports of arson attempts on any affiliated synagogues.

Vandalism, Arson Widespread

Rabbi Ephraim Sturm, executive vice-president of Young Israel, an association of Orthodox congregations with more than 100 member synagogues in the metropolitan area, stressed that vandalism and arson in changing New York City neighborhoods "is not confined to houses of worship. In our present moral standards, neither private nor public property is sacred."

However, he added, he did not believe there had been any significant increase in burglary against Young Israel synagogues in the metropolitan area since 1974. Sturm reported that two Young Israel synagogues, one of which was forced to close in 1970 and one this year, were sold to Black Jews for "pittance" prices.

He said a third synagogue, the Young Israel of Mesilath Yeshurun in The Bronx, was abandoned, not because of vandalism "but simply because there were no more Jews in the immediate neighborhood." Sturm stated he had not received any reports of arson attempts. He said the Young Israel of the Rockaways in Queens, which is no longer functioning, is now in the process of being sold. Because the building is empty, "it has been broken into several times."

He expressed the belief that all the Young Israel synagogues which have ceased to function during the past three years—those in Laurelton and Arverne in Queens, Mesilath Yeshurun and University Heights in The Bronx, and Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn—were victims of changing neighborhoods rather than of the cuts in police and fire protection.

BRITISH JEWISH COMMUNITY CRITICIZED

By Elon Salmon

LONDON, Dec. 21 (JTA)—Dr. David Patterson, director of the Oxford Center for Post-Graduate Hebrew Studies, severely criticized the Anglo-Jewish community, describing it as "a cemetery with ornamental tombstones."

Speaking on the contemporary Jewish world at a Joint Israel Appeal seminar, Patterson lamented the "long period of neglect" of Jewish culture, particularly where the young were concerned. While the community was well-organized, he said, on Jewish culture and things Jewish, it was philistine. "The real priorities of Judaism and Jewish learning have been bypassed and substituted with those less sound and based on sentiment and gastronomy," he said.

Stressing that Jewish education was most important at university level, Patterson criticized the Jewish community for failing to establish posts in modern Jewish studies and modern Jewish history in British institutes of higher learning, a failure, he warned that put young Jewish people at a disadvantage. He called for an immediate effort to correct this deficiency.

CORRECTION

A story in the Dec. 16 Daily News Bulletin reporting 12 Jewish editors on a tour of Morocco inadvertently omitted Dallas-Fort Worth as one of the 12 communities represented by the 12 editors.

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletin dated Dec. 26 due to Christmas, a postal holiday.