

BEGIN WARNS EGYPT: RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S PRINCIPLES FOR PEACE SETTLEMENT OR IT WILL WITHDRAW ITS EARLIER PROPOSALS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 8 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin warned Egypt tonight that unless it recognizes Israel's principles for a peace settlement, Israel would withdraw its earlier proposals and demand a change in the international boundary. He also declared flatly that Israel will never recognize any Jordanian rights in Judaea and Samaria and that the Israeli army will never leave those territories. (See related story on today's Cabinet action.)

Begin delivered his speech, the toughest he has made since Egyptian President Anwar Sadat launched his peace initiative last November, at a meeting here of the Herut Central Committee. The meeting was called to nominate another Herut minister to the coalition Cabinet. Begin has proposed Herut's No. 2 man, Chaim Landau. But Landau is being challenged by Shmuel Katz, Begin's old Irgun comrade in arms, who resigned Friday as the Premier's advisor on propaganda and information.

Katz, one of the leading opponents of Begin's peace plan, attributed his resignation to differences with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan who blocked his attempts to establish new Israeli propaganda activities independent of the Foreign Ministry.

Begin's tough words, addressed to Sadat and to Jordan, were believed to be an attempt to recoup the prestige he has lost among many of his most ardent followers in Herut since publication of his peace proposals. He is also apparently anxious to ensure the nomination of Landau whose defeat by Katz would be a severe personal blow to the Premier.

Tough Words Will Impede Peace Process

Referring to Sadat's recent statements that Egypt would not tolerate the presence of Israeli settlements or settlers in any part of Sinai once a peace accord is signed, Begin warned that tough words will not contribute to the peace process or to a peace treaty. "We have agreed that each side will honor the principles of the other," he declared.

"Israel made it clear that the settlements (in Sinai) are there to stay. If this principle is not accepted, Israel will demand territorial changes which are permitted in an agreement after a defensive war. If one side does not accept the principles of the other, the other may withdraw from its previous suggestions."

With respect to the West Bank, Begin said: "Israel does not and will not recognize any rights of Jordan over the West Bank. In 1948 the grandfather of (King) Hussein invaded the West Bank from the eastern bank of the Jordan. It is a great rule that evil deeds do not grant rights. Jordan will never get rights to come back to the Samaria and Judaea district." He said that Israel's attitude in this respect was made clear by him in his talks with President Carter, Sadat, British Prime Minister James Callaghan and President Nicolae Ceausescu of Rumania.

Begin invited President Hafez Assad of Syria

to join the peace talks with Israel so that a comprehensive peace agreement can be reached with all of Israel's neighbors. But he hinted at no concessions to Syria on the Golan Heights. He reminded Assad that in the Yom Kippur War the Israeli army was 56 kilometers from Damascus while no Syrian soldier was within 258 kilometers from Jerusalem.

The Premier dismissed the Palestine Liberation Organization as a factor in the peace process. "It should be clear that with the present government the era of possible talks with the PLO has ended," he said. In fact, he added, the PLO was disintegrating.

SCHINDLER TO CONFER WITH SADAT

TEL AVIV, Jan. 8 (JTA)--Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, left here today for Cairo to confer with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt. He told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport that Premier Menachem Begin had asked him to meet with Sadat. Schindler also said that Ashraf Ghorbal, the Egyptian Ambassador to the United States, had previously invited him to visit Egypt to strengthen ties between the Jewish and Egyptian people.

The American Jewish leader, accompanied by his wife, flew to Athens from where they will continue to Cairo. The meeting with Sadat is to take place in Aswan Tuesday and Wednesday. The Schindlers will spend four days in Egypt and return at the end of the week to Israel. Schindler will report on his talks with Sadat to Begin.

CABINET APPROVES COMPROMISE RESOLUTION: CALLS FOR STRENGTHENING EXISTING SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI, BUT DOES NOT MENTION SETTING UP NEW SETTLEMENTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA)--The Cabinet approved a compromise resolution today that called for strengthening existing settlements in the Rafah salient and other parts of northern Sinai but did not mention the establishment of additional settlements in the region. The resolution pleased neither the moderate ministers nor the hard-liners. The matter is expected to be discussed by the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee tomorrow.

Premier Menachem Begin declined to elaborate on today's discussions, which lasted more than five hours. He told newsmen after the meeting adjourned only that the joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee would convene in Cairo this Wednesday and that the political committee would begin its deliberations in Jerusalem on Jan. 16; after the arrival here of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. (Related story P. 3.)

The disagreement in the Cabinet was apparently between Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, chairman of the Ministerial Settlement Committee, who proposed creating new settlements in Sinai and moderates, chiefly of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC), who argued that now is no time to escalate settlement in the administered areas. Interior Minister Yosef Burg of the National Religious Party (NRP) cast the decisive vote when he agreed with the DMC that the prospects for peace justified a restrained settlement policy.

The DMC and NRP ministers said they would exercise their privilege, under the coalition agreement

with Likud, to bring up their reservations before the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee which would have the final word. The subject of settlements in Sinai and on the West Bank was on the committee's agenda before today's Cabinet meeting.

Begin Suffers First Defeat

Today's session was also significant in that it was the first time a motion submitted by Begin was defeated by the full Cabinet. Begin had proposed that Sharon be designated Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's deputy at the political committee talks. Ordinarily such a proposal by the Premier would have been tantamount to a fait accompli. But the Cabinet rejected Sharon's participation in the political committee partly because of his hawkish views. Opponents also argued that if Sharon is appointed to the committee, why not other ministers who are no less qualified.

The rejection of Sharon and the unsatisfactory compromise on the Sinai settlements constituted a double blow to hard-liners in the government. The Cabinet's moves today were explained by observers as a reaction to the widespread publicity over what was described in the media as Sharon's new settlement plans for Sinai and partly to anti-Sharon sentiment among the Agriculture Minister's colleagues.

There is also a growing feeling among ministers that any extreme measures now could jeopardize the momentum toward peace. It was implied that an understanding exists with the U.S. that "thickening" existing settlements would have adverse effects on peace negotiations.

Government secretary Arye Naor issued a communique on the Cabinet's resolution on settlements to newsmen and loosed a blast at Israel's print and broadcast media. He accused it of having "run wild in the past few days by publishing a lot of things which have no foundation and which only harm the interests of Israel." The communique said:

"The Cabinet decided to strengthen existing settlements in the Rafah approaches sector and along the Shlomo Gulf (Gulf of Aqaba) by expanding land for agricultural use and increasing the civilian population, both rural and urban. These civilian settlements, as proposed in the Israeli peace plan, will remain as they are, in accordance with the arrangements made known to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat at the Ismailia conference."

CARTER SAYS HE CAN DETECT NO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BEGIN AND SADAT ON VITAL PEACE ISSUES

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8 (JTA)—President Carter says that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin have "no differences" regarding "withdrawal of Israeli forces" from the West Bank with "minor adjustments" of the Israeli border and "resolution of the Palestinian problem" without a Palestinian state coming into existence.

Carter also said in an interview with six reporters who accompanied him on his nine-day trip to the Middle East and Europe that "there is a fairly good agreement between Begin and Sadat on matters concerning the definition of peace" and that "as far as I know there are no differences that separate us from Sadat." The President expressed himself in response to the reporters' questions en route aboard his plane from Brussels to Washington where he arrived Friday night and called Sadat "one of the bravest men on earth."

Speaking of having made "some progress" in the Middle East where he had met Sadat, Jordan's

King Hussein, King Khalid of Saudi Arabia and the Shah of Iran, and spoke by telephone with Begin, the President said "we reemphasized the same basic principles that we proposed six or eight months ago to Arab and Israeli leaders." A transcript of the Carter interview was made available to reporters at the White House.

Basic Principles Defined

The principles to which Carter referred were complete peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors, Israel's withdrawal to its 1967 borders with "minor changes" and settlement of the Palestinian Arab issue.

Discussing these three "principles," in the interview on the basis of his Aswan meeting last Wednesday, the President said "one aspect" was that Sadat admitted he was "completely wrong" when Sadat said in the Carter-Sadat April meeting in Washington that complete peace between Egypt and Israel would never happen in his lifetime. Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and Begin's to Egypt proved that he was wrong, Sadat said, according to Carter.

"The withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank, with minor exceptions and a western boundary is a principle we espoused back in February or March publicly," the President continued. "I think this is still an acceptable approach to the Arabs, although publicly I won't expect them to espouse it now because it violates, in effect, the statements in Rabat" where the Arabs established the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1974 as the representative of all Palestinian Arabs. "They are able and, obviously, willing to speak for themselves but this is something we have been very clear on."

Resolution Of Palestinian Problem

On the other question, "the resolution of the Palestinian problem, I think can be resolved with an interim solution for a joint solution," the President added. "I don't want to be definitive about it but possibilities including Israel, Jordan, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Palestinians, perhaps the United Nations, for periods of time, specifically outlined ahead of time, and then the right of the Palestinians to decide their own future between whether they should continue that kind of administration or affiliate with Jordan—those are the kinds of principles that we have described very clearly and in writing, beginning eight months ago."

"So the details are going to be a problem but on those expressions of principle, I don't know of any differences separating Begin and Sadat," Carter said.

"Do you call that self-determination?" a reporter asked with reference to the Palestinian Arabs. "I have never thought and do not think that it is advisable for us for the Middle Eastern countries or for the world to have an independent Palestinian nation located between Israel and Jordan," the President replied.

"I think that would be a target of subversion. I think there would be a concentrated influence, perhaps exerted there by some of the more radical other leaders of the world, and I think that Palestinian entity or homeland ought to be tied in at the least in a very strong federation or confederation with Jordan. But now I want to say that is our preference. If Israel and Jordan and the Palestinians and Egypt should work out something different, we would not object."

Carter said that his own preference is for the Israelis and Egyptians to negotiate an "interim

procedure with a final referendum themselves." However, he added, in this connection, "we will try to find some compromise" between Israel and Egypt on this issue.

"I think if we can evolve an acceptable set of principles, then it would be much easier for King Hussein, and perhaps later on the Syrians, to join in the discussions," he said. "I did not try to convince Hussein to participate now. I feel and he feels also that Sadat is adequately representing the Arab position."

The President said that "so all of us feel for now until Sadat specifically requests it, that Hussein should stay out of the direct negotiations. The Shah will be supportive; the Saudis were very encouraging about the future, and Hussein and we agree completely." Carter said he could not assess "the feeling of Syria" because he had not conferred with President Hafez Assad.

JOINT ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN MILITARY COMMITTEE TALKS TO BEGIN WEDNESDAY

TEL AVIV, Jan. 8 (JTA)—Israel has agreed to a request by Egypt to advance the date of the joint military committee deliberations on Sinai which had been expected to start in mid-January. They will open instead Wednesday afternoon at a site near Cairo.

The Israeli delegation, headed by Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, will leave for Cairo Wednesday morning. He will be accompanied by Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur, intelligence chief Shlomo Gazit, chief of the General Headquarters branch of the army Gen. Rafael Eytan, and commander of the southern region Gen. Herzl Shafir.

Sources here said today that Israel's original intention was to hold the military talks only after the Israeli-Egyptian political committee which meets in Jerusalem later this month, makes some headway. The idea was that progress on the political front would aid the military discussions. But the Egyptians, who have set the pace of the peace momentum ever since President Anwar Sadat announced that he would go to Jerusalem last November, apparently decided to give the military talks priority. The request to advance the date was made by Egyptian War Minister Mohammed Gamassy to Weizman last week.

Sources said the Egyptians are anxious to have something substantive to show to the Arab world and the world at large. But Israel's declared intention last week to strengthen and expand its settlements in the Rafah salient and northern Sinai appears to have prompted the Egyptians to hasten negotiations on the future of the peninsula. The fate of those settlements now looms as the major gap to be bridged at the Cairo talks.

BRZEZINSKI SEES ROLE FOR MODERATE PALESTINIANS IN RESOLVING MIDEAST CONFLICT; ROLE FOR PLO LEFT OPEN

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8 (JTA)—Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's National Security Advisor, while saying today that the Palestine Liberation Organization is not part of the negotiating process in the Middle East did not explicitly rule out the PLO from future participation.

Appearing on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation" shortly after his return with the President from their nine-day trip abroad, Brzezinski emphasized that "moderate" Palestinians must be involved in the ultimate resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He described "moderate" to mean willing to participate in the negotiating process on the same basis as

all other participants, including acceptance of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as well as all the progress that has already been made by the participants.

Asked whether the PLO had ruled itself out as Carter has said, Brzezinski replied: "We know the PLO is not in the process because it has not taken a moderate position." He said the PLO's intransigence "has put it outside the negotiating framework. Asked about a quotation in a French publication quoting him as saying, "Bye, Bye, PLO," Brzezinski said he did not remember using that expression.

But when he was pressed on whether an effective peace could be established without the PLO, Brzezinski replied that "we ought not to be in a position to say if the PLO is or is not in the process." He said that U. S. should not be the one to define who is in the process or the nature of the political rights that are to be negotiated. "We are not a directly affected party, we are not a belligerent and it doesn't behoove us to be precise," he said.

Says Israel Shows Good Will

Brzezinski said he thought Israel is approaching "with good will" the matter of establishing broad principles on which the negotiations could be guided. He foresaw "a complicated, complex, frequently painful, process ahead" in the negotiations. But he predicted 1978 would be "a very significant year for progress and resolution." He said 1977 was one of "giant progress."

On the issue of Israeli settlements in northern Sinai, Brzezinski said it might complicate peace negotiations. He said such a move by Israel "might be a sign of poor judgement" and hoped Israel would decide against it. His remarks came just before the Israeli Cabinet's decision on this issue was made public.

CONGRESSMEN MEET WITH ARAFAT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8 (JTA)—Rep. Paul Findley (R-Ill.), a member of the House International Relations Committee, said yesterday that Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat would accept a United Nations peacekeeping force in a Palestinian state. Findley revealed this comment in Aswan, Egypt, where he and other 14 members of the committee had met with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Findley and four of the Congressmen met with Arafat in Damascus last Thursday. The Illinois Congressman quoted Arafat as saying, "I am ready to accept a peacekeeping force after the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip."

Findley also quoted Arafat as saying that he would consider a force drawn from the five permanent members of the UN Security Council—the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China—but would not decide until the possibility of a Palestinian state arose "whether to exclude Soviet and American troops from such a peacekeeping force."

Findley said that when Sadat was told of Arafat's comments the Egyptian President replied, "excellent." He said that Arafat told him he considered Sadat a friend, who had embarked on a "mistaken course." The Republican Congressman is expected to report on his talks with Arafat to President Carter. Carter has agreed with the Israeli view that a Palestinian state would result in a radical Soviet-dominated country that would be a threat to the area.

72 LAW SCHOOL DEANS, 100 PROFESSORS OF LAW DEPLORE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ACTIONS IN CASE OF SHCHARANSKY

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 8 (JTA)--The deans of 72 law schools in the United States, including Puerto Rico, have signed a resolution deploring the actions of the Soviet Union in the case of Anatoly Shcharansky. The resolution, which was also signed by more than 100 law professors, was sent to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

The signatories charged that the Soviet government has held Shcharansky incommunicado since March 15; that no counsel has been provided or permitted to the imprisoned human rights activist; that on Dec. 15 the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet "in a special, secret decree applied only to Shcharansky, has extended for an additional six months his incommunicado investigation and interrogation despite the absence of any express provision of law or constitution authorizing such action"; and that the Soviet government "will give no assurances that Shcharansky's trial, if one is held, will not be secret."

The resolution, which was adopted at the recent annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools in Atlanta, Georgia, said all these actions "run counter to the Rule of Law, minimum standards of justice and Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant of Political and Civil Rights, and the Helsinki Final Act."

The resolution, written by Dean Peter J. Liacouras, of the Temple University Law School, and by Prof. Burton Caine, also of the university law school, was forwarded last Friday to Brezhnev. "Never in memory have so many law school deans united in support of a single cause," Liacouras said. "This is an indication to me of the gravity and urgency of the Shcharansky case. I hope this action will persuade the Soviet authorities to release Shcharansky and permit him to emigrate, a right guaranteed to him under law."

Meanwhile, Soviet security police told Shcharansky's family to find him a lawyer by Jan. 13, according to reports from Moscow. The reported request by two senior KGB investigators to Shcharansky's brother, Leonid, indicated pre-trial investigation would be completed by then, if it was not already over. The reports added, however, that it could be several more weeks or even months before any final decision about the trial would be known. One of the KGB investigators indicated that the charge against Shcharansky remains that of treason.

Kuznetsov Continues Hunger Strike

In a related development, Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience, Edward Kuznetsov, is in his third week of what he declared was a hunger strike "to the death" in the Potma labor camp. The 38-year-old translator, who was sentenced to 15 years in the December 1970 Leningrad "hijack" trial, has declared that he will remain on strike until he and all the other Jewish POCs are released. His wife, Sylvia Zalmanson, was released after serving four years of a 10-year prison term and is now residing in Israel.

The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, which reported the hunger strike, also said that Kuznetsov has been hospitalized as a result of his fast and is being force-fed.

ISRAELI GETS RARE-FRENCH AWARD

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA)--Dr. Andre

Chouraqui, well known author and scholar, former Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem and a prominent leader of the North African Jewish community, has received a rare French award--a gold medal of the French Academy.

The medal, usually reserved for foreign heads of state, was bestowed on Chouraqui for his literary work, particularly his recently published 26-volume French translation of the Old and New Testaments. The presentation was made last Thursday by Pierre Bitard, Consul General of France in Jerusalem.

Chouraqui has written 25 books, in addition to the translation, which were translated into nine languages. One of the books, "A Letter to an Arab Friend," was read by King Hassan of Morocco who invited Chouraqui to visit him last March. Thus, Chouraqui became the first Israeli ever to be openly invited by an Arab head of state.

Chouraqui was born in Algeria 61 years ago. He received a doctorate in law from the Sorbonne and served as a lawyer and judge in Algeria. During World War II he was one of the founders of the Maquis and was awarded the Legion of Honor by President Charles de Gaulle. He settled in Jerusalem and served as Deputy Mayor from 1965 to 1973. He is one of several prominent Sephardi Jews under reported consideration by Premier Menachem Begin as the next President of Israel to succeed President Ephraim Katzir when his five-year term ends in May.

DULZIN: EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO FORM ALL-PARTY COALITION IN THE WZO

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 8 (JTA)--Leon Dulzin, Jewish Agency treasurer, announced that efforts would be made at the World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem next month to form an all-party, wall-to-wall coalition in the World Zionist Organization.

Dulzin, who is virtually certain to be elected chairman of the Jewish Agency and WZO Executives, told a meeting of the Liberal Party Central Committee last Thursday night that he has discussed that matter with the leaders of all Zionist factions, including Labor and they have agreed to begin negotiations immediately after publication of the Congress' election results.

Labor is expected to demand the key post of treasurer since it has agreed not to nominate a candidate to oppose Dulzin. But Dulzin would not discuss those reports. He said only that when negotiations begin "we shall speak of everything, including the post of treasurer."

He promised to change the way portfolios are allocated to WZO Executive members. He said he would not grant portfolios to parties that decide in advance who will receive them. Instead, Dulzin said, he would ask each party to submit its list of candidates and he would assign the portfolios on the basis of each one's qualifications.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--A bomb explosion Sunday in a crowded bus station in East Jerusalem injured three Arabs. A police spokesman expressed belief that the bomb was to have been placed on a bus carrying Arab workers to their jobs in Israel, but exploded prematurely.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund and the Education Ministry have introduced a new study program intended to instill Israeli school children with a love of trees. Each student will be expected to plant at least one tree a year in the school yards or their vicinity and classes will visit afforestation areas where the youngsters will participate in tree-planting ceremonies.