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BEGIN OPTIMISTIC ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE RESUMED

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin of Israel is "optimistic" and believes that the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations which were suspended last Wednesday will be resumed. He said the Egyptian government recalled its delegation in Jerusalem "to dramatize the situation and create a climate of tension. It (the Egyptian government) believes that Europe or the United States will use pressure" to make Israel change its position.

The Premier, in an interview due to appear in the forthcoming issue of the French weekly magazine, "Le Nouvel Observateur," added: "No one, and this should be known, no one can exert any pressure on us. I presented our peace plan to everybody. Everybody knows that our peace plan provides for settlements (in Sinai). (President) Carter knows it. (Secretary of State) Vance knows it. (British Premier) James Callaghan knows it."

Begin said that he had also made his position clear in his meetings with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Jerusalem and Ismailia. "Our position, our refusal to cut Jerusalem in two, could at no time have come as a surprise to President Sadat," he said. The Israeli Premier said he had told Sadat that Israel will not give up its settlements.

"I told him it is a tradition of our generation not to abandon Jews in a situation where they will not enjoy means of self-defense. I never told him (Sadat) that these territories (the settlements) will be torn away from us. I told him that we shall continue to settle and that we shall develop these settlements," Begin said. He could not reveal as yet Sadat's reply, "but we both agreed it was a matter for discussion," he said.

Begin said he also told Sadat in Jerusalem, during his November visit there, "that we are not prepared to return to the 1967 borders and have the Knesset within Arab gun-reach and our women and children threatened with death." Begin said he told Sadat, "no, never again." The Premier added Sadat "did not protest. Quite the contrary, the main thing is that everything was clear between Sadat and myself in this respect."

WEEKEND DEVELOPMENTS PEACE TALKS EXPECTED TO RESUME EVENTUALLY, BUT IN DIFFERENT FRAMEWORK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22 (JTA)--The general feeling in Israel today is that peace negotiations with Egypt will be resumed, eventually, but in a different framework than the talks which broke down Wednesday and probably in a different venue.

That assessment was based on President Anwar Sadat's speech to the Egyptian Peoples Assembly (Parliament) yesterday in which he demanded prior concessions by Israel on the key questions of territories and the Palestinians as the price of resuming the talks. But he pledged, at the same time, "The peace initiative will never be dropped."

Official Israeli responses to Sadat's speech and to his remarks at a press conference after meeting with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in Cairo Friday, were tough. But Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan did not, by any means, close the door to the resumption of negotiations with Egypt. Begin said Friday that he had the impression that Sadat wanted to continue the political negotiations, but in a neutral location. Nevertheless, the Cabinet decided at its weekly meeting today that Israel will delay going to the joint military committee talks in Cairo. (See separate story P. 3.)

Sadat Indicates Minimum Requirement

Sadat said, at his press conference with Vance, that the minimum requirement for continuing the peace process was Israeli acceptance of a declaration of principles embodying withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 and acknowledgment of the Palestinians' right to self-determination. Except for those two issues, Israel and Egypt reportedly were in agreement on a joint declaration of intentions when Sadat suddenly recalled his negotiating team to Cairo Wednesday.

In his speech to the Egyptian Parliament, Sadat elaborated on his press conference statements Friday. He accused the Israelis of playing for time and deliberately leading Egypt "into labyrinths to take us in circles so that we would find ourselves back at the starting point."

Sadat claimed Israel's purpose was to try to erode world support for Egyptian peace moves and to exploit his recognition of Israel's "need for security" to justify its continued occupation of the territories seized ten years ago. He called Begin "arrogant" and claimed that the Israeli leader was able to take a tough line on Israeli settlements in Sinai because of his ample stock of American weapons.

Seeks U.S. Arms

In that connection, Sadat declared, "I am telling the American people now, that this is the outcome of the arsenal which was given to Israel." He disclosed that he had told Vance that Egypt wanted to be equipped with "every armament" given Israel, not to attack Israel but to give Egypt equivalent bargaining power. He insisted that Egypt would not allow Israeli settlements on any part of its territory "even if it means we should fight again to the end of the world."

At his Friday press conference, the Egyptian leader said: "Whenever Israel chooses to agree not to tread on others' land and sovereignty, everything can resume again. . . . The minimum we accept is a declaration of principles stating withdrawal and self-determination."

Both Begin and Dayan indicated over the weekend that Sadat was badly mistaken if he thought he could extract whatever he wanted from Israel. "There isn't anybody, neither in the government nor in the Knesset who will give Sadat whatever he demands," Begin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee Friday. "I prefer to say it to him in a clear and straight way."

The Premier said he failed to understand why Egypt had rejected Israel's peace plan so quickly and easily. He reiterated that the parties had almost reached agreement on principles except for the settlements in the Rafah salient and the Palestinian question. Begin suggested that the U.S. would now

have to play a greater role than it had in the aborted negotiations. Sadat also had indicated that he wanted an expanded American role.

Begin Rejects Allegations

Begin rejected allegations that public statements by him had accelerated the breakdown of the Jerusalem talks. He said that whatever statements he made were in response to the demands by Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Ibrahim Kaamel, the head of the Egyptian negotiating team. When several MKs accused Begin of failing to understand the Arab mentality, he retorted angrily: "I was elected Premier as a Jew, not as an Arabist."

Dayan was equally adamant on a television interview Friday night. He said that if Sadat insisted on total Israeli withdrawal as the price for resuming the talks, "then the situation is at a dead end." He also said that he did not regret any statements he made that might have aggravated the Egyptians. He said it was Egyptian, not Israeli policy that had changed."

The Foreign Minister said that before the Sadat-Begin summit talks at Ismailia last month, Sadat had never conditioned negotiations on an Israeli commitment to dismantle its settlements in Sinai. Sadat, for his part, said in Cairo that when the Israelis said they would keep the settlements and defend them with Israeli forces even after Sinai was returned to Egyptian territory, he thought it was "a joke."

Dayan referred in his remarks to the expanded American role, noting that before the talks broke down they had acted not only as mediators but had advanced their own proposals to break the deadlock. Vance, who is returning to Washington, had little to say at the Cairo press conference Friday. He told reporters, "As President Sadat indicated, the door to peace is not closed. We all have the same objective of achieving a just and lasting peace."

Carter Sees Temporary Setback

(Speaking in Atlanta Friday, President Carter said the latest events in the Middle East were very serious but, hopefully, only a "temporary setback" that can be resolved. "We hope there won't be anything other than a brief interruption in the political talks," he said. He told reporters, "In my own private communications with President Sadat, my assessment is that he has been quite sincere in what he has done—that it is not posturing and not designed to influence our action one way or the other."

(But Carter indicated that the U.S. was not about to put pressure on Israel to make more concessions. He suggested that Israeli and Egyptian leaders be more careful of what they say publicly and concentrate more on private negotiations.)

Israeli press opinion was not uniform. Maariv and Yedioth Achronot said today that the peace process could not be renewed unless Egypt showed a willingness to make concessions. The Jerusalem Post said, however, that Israel should not be the party to slam the door on future talks.

But at least three Knesset members who had bitterly opposed Begin's peace plan, contended today that the peace initiative was over. Geula Cohen and Moshe Shamir of Likud and Rabbi Haim Druckmann of the National Religious Party (NRP) submitted an urgent motion in the Knesset stating that Israel's peace plan is no longer valid and mass settlements should begin, "throughout the land of Israel."

ISRAELI REPORTERS AT EGYPT'S PARLIAMENT

TEL AVIV, Jan. 22 (JTA)—Israeli correspondents and television crews yesterday for the first time covered a session of the Egyptian Peoples Assembly (Parliament). The Israeli journalists were invited to attend the session at which President Anwar Sadat delivered his address attacking Israel. A special gallery in the VIP section was reserved for the Israeli newsmen. Israeli photographers were allowed to move around the Assembly chamber freely.

Later, outside the Parliament building, a group of Israeli journalists met with Hermann Eilts, the United States Ambassador to Egypt, who told them he found Sadat's speech positive and one that did not close the door on further negotiations. However, Eilts said there were other ways to continue negotiations than by resuming the Egyptian-Israeli political talks in Jerusalem.

425 HARTFORD PEOPLE AND 425 ISRAELIS ON MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP FLIGHTS

HARTFORD, Conn., Jan 22 (JTA)—Over 2000 people are expected to be on hand for the arrival and departure of the Hartford-Tel Aviv Friendship Flight on Tuesday at Bradley International Airport, north of Hartford. Shortly after 3 p.m. on Jan. 24, 425 Israelis will land at Bradley Airport to begin an eight-day peace and friendship visit in Hartford. About four hours later, 425 Greater Hartford people will board the same plane and leave for a similar visit in Tel Aviv.

The Hartford "ambassadors" will be headed by President Carter's son and daughter-in-law, Chip and Caron Carter, and by Connecticut's Gov. Ella T. Grasso and her husband, Dr. Thomas A. Grasso. Gov. Grasso will greet the incoming Israelis in a joint arrival and departure ceremony.

The Governor, Mr. and Mrs. Carter and the departing Hartford "ambassadors" will be bade farewell by a crowd which will include local officials, families of the Hartford group, and local hosts with whom the visiting Israelis will stay while in Hartford.

President Carter has personally endorsed the national Friendship Force program, of which the Hartford-Tel Aviv Friendship Flight is part. The national program grew out of several exchanges of people from Georgia and Brazil while Carter was Governor of Georgia. Mrs. Rosalynn Carter is honorary chairperson of the national Friendship Force.

The Greater Hartford people going to Tel Aviv represent a cross-section of the area's populace, coming from different walks of life, income levels, age groups and ethnic backgrounds. All of those going committed themselves to the project before knowing their destination, which was revealed to them by Gov. Grasso on Oct. 29.

The Tel Aviv "ambassadors" also include a variety of people—diamond cutters, artists, aircraft workers, police officers of both sexes. Included in the group is the Ha'Maapil Kibbutz Trio, which will entertain in Hartford.

GENEVA (JTA)—Pierre Auber, who was appointed Foreign Minister last month, has resigned from his post as president of the Swiss-Israel Friendship Association. When Auber's name as candidate was brought up he was attacked even by members of his own party who declared that Auber was identified as pro-Israel and could not be Foreign Minister of a neutral country like Switzerland.

CABINET DECISION TO POSTPONE DEPARTURE DATE OF ISRAELI DELEGATION TO CAIRO IS SEEN AS POSITIVE STEP TO CONTINUE TALKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Political observers are stressing the "positive aspects" of the Cabinet's decision today not to send the Israeli delegation to the Cairo military talks. They pointed to the words, "decided to postpone the date of departure of the Israeli delegation," as deliberately conveying that Israel wanted to continue with the talks but was delaying for tactical reasons.

U.S. sources here in particular sought to play up this wording, perhaps in light of the pre-Cabinet meeting appeal from the U.S. to Israel not to stay away from the military committee. Israeli sources said the "review" of today's decision, promised in the Cabinet statement, would take place "within days rather than weeks."

Word from the Defense Ministry was that the present skeleton delegation of officers in Cairo, led by Gen. Abraham Tamir, head of planning at General Headquarters, will remain at the Tahara Palace near Cairo for the time being. Earlier reports said Tamir would return to Israel tomorrow.

Begin Himself Reads Statement

The Cabinet communique took a full-hour to draft, with Premier Menachem Begin himself taking time off his lunch siesta following the three-hour Cabinet session to attend the drafting process. He was aided by Attorney General Aharon Barak and the Foreign Ministry's legal aide, Meir Rosenne. Cabinet sources said the relative moderates within the Cabinet--believed to include Defense Minister Ezer Weizman--introduced significant changes in the original wording as proposed by the Premier, tending to lower the key of the statement. Begin read the final statement to waiting reporters:

"... since (the Ismailia conference) a campaign of grave vilification has been launched in Egypt against the State and government of Israel. Egyptian newspapers even used notorious anti-Semitic expressions...

"Whilst the political committee was deliberating and making progress towards an agreement on a joint declaration of principles, President Sadat suddenly decided to recall the Egyptian delegation to Cairo, thus disrupting the negotiations in which the U.S. Secretary of State also participated. Before the Egyptian National Assembly, President Sadat made an extremist aggressive speech and addressed to Israel ultimative demands that are totally unacceptable to Israel.

"Facing this situation the government of Israel has decided to postpone the date of departure.... The government will, in the near future, discuss again the issue of the departure of the Israeli delegation....

"We do hope that in the coming days the Egyptian government will act to prevent any repetition of statements injurious to the dignity of the Jewish people and the Jewish State thus creating a suitable atmosphere for the calm conduct of negotiations in which Israel continues to be interested."

Supported By Peres

The statement ended by noting that Begin would lead off a political debate in the Knesset tomorrow in which he will "respond" to Sadat's Saturday speech.

The Cabinet decision, which Begin said had

been taken unanimously, won immediate backing from the chairman of the Labor opposition Shimon Peres. But Labor doves, and some doves on the coalition benches, were much less comfortable with it. David Glass of the National Religious Party said "Israel should do nothing to close paths to negotiation." But it seemed that Begin could expect support from a large majority in the Knesset, with the official Labor line likely to be abstention.

U.S. Role More Crucial

With the hiatus in negotiations now complete, the role of the U.S. diplomatic mission still in the area will become even more crucial for the continuation of the peace effort. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred L. Atherton and his aides were said to be "out visiting old friends in Tel Aviv" all day today. But they are expected to maintain close contact with both sides in the days ahead, looking for an honorable way out of the impasse.

Some Israeli press reports suggested today that Sadat--perhaps spurred on by the Americans--would propose a new venue, possibly somewhere in Europe, for reconvening the political committee talks which were suspended last Wednesday. Most observers now consider it unlikely that they will resume in Jerusalem in exactly the same format as before. Israel, however, would probably not agree to having talks in Cairo and not in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, the "progress" attested to by all sides before the political committee talks were suspended appears clearly to have extended even to the thorny Palestinian issue, with the U.S. delegation pressing for the "Carter compromise" formulation on both sides.

This speaks of "participation in the determination of their own future" by "Palestinians." The word is that Israel was prepared to go along with that. But the Israeli team was still balking, however, at President Carter's parallel call for "legitimate rights" for the Palestinians, which is seen here as the Arab codeword for the right to political independence.

All delegates apparently hoped and believed, however, that an agreed formulation on this and six other principles for a Mideast settlement could have been approved by the political committee's plenary session that had been due to convene Thursday morning.

CHAIM NACHMAN KOWALSKY MEMORIAL SERVICE SET FOR JAN. 26

BALTIMORE, Jan. 22 (JTA)--A memorial service for Rabbi Chaim-Nachman Kowalsky will be held here at the Ner Israel Rabbinical College on Jan. 26. He died Jan. 3 at the age of 85 and had been associated with the college for close to 40 years. He had been described as the aristocrat of "meshullachim" (money collectors for charitable causes) and over the decades reportedly collected some \$3 million going door-to-door throughout the United States and Canada.

Born in Warsaw, he studied in the most prestigious yeshivas of Gerer and Sorochover and with the Lubavitcher rebbes in Russia. He came to the U.S. in 1927 to collect for the Meah Shearim Yeshiva in Jerusalem and in 1938 began to work for the college here. At that time there were only 40 students, but today more than 400 students attend from all over the world. Shortly before his death, Kowalsky was planning a \$10 million condominium-social center-complex in Florida.

SHAPIRO TELLS ORT CONCLAVE THAT CARTER IS USING MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS AS A PAWN IN THE SOVIET-U.S. POWER STRUGGLE

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Declaring that the current Middle East peace negotiations are only a minor factor in the rivalry between the Soviet Union and the United States for control of Asia, Africa and Latin America, Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance, warned Israel not to succumb to the blandishments of President Carter but to "be guided by its own tests for security."

Addressing 500 delegates from across the country attending the National Conference of the American ORT Federation here, Shapiro said that "President Carter is not motivated by any abstract commitment to the 'self-determination of peoples' in seeking an independent Palestine homeland." He stated that Carter is "rather hoping to bring Saudi Arabia, the Persian Gulf oil states, Jordan and Syria into the region of American influence and security by yielding to the Arab demand for a Palestinian state."

Shapiro noted that the current episodes in the Middle East negotiations may obscure the larger context of what is happening in Cairo and Jerusalem. He said: "Without minimizing the significance of President Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem two months ago and the new encounters of Israelis and Egyptians, the developments are only the tip of the iceberg in the maelstrom of that part of the world."

Shapiro estimated that by the end of the 20th Century, "80 percent of the world's population will inhabit Asia, Africa and Latin America. It is over those three continents that the struggle has already begun, with the major rivals for influence and control there being the Soviet Union and the United States. The Middle East is the hinge of this rivalry which has already expelled Europe from any role in those areas."

Washington Seeking Mastery

For the U.S., the Mideast is "the passage way for deliveries of oil from the world's largest reservoir; it is the point of control of movement of ships, men and materials to Asia and down the eastern coast of Africa; it is the potential base of operations for any military action in the control of Asia and Africa, or for the extraction of the resources of those lands," Shapiro said.

"Washington's hope is that it can achieve its mastery by winning the peaceful cooperation of the inhabitants of the vast regions of Asia and Africa; Moscow can only achieve entry into the area through turmoil. That difference throws its shadow over the present negotiations between Israel and Egypt, with the active participation of the United States. The Arab rejectionists who oppose and resist the peace efforts are the clients of the Soviet Union," he said.

The difficulties in the meetings in Cairo and Jerusalem "do not pertain to the settlements in Sinai or the drawing of borders, but they lie in the attempts to gain for the American position in the region a wider support in the Arab world," Shapiro declared. "Israel must, however, be guided by its own tests for its security, and while surely accepting the American to the Soviet option, it cannot yield its independence and security in the struggle of the two superpowers for the control of Asia and Africa."

RABBI WARNS AGAINST 'SOUL EROSION'

NEW YORK, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Dr. Immanuel

Jakovovits, the Chief Rabbi of Britain, declared today that just as plants must be guarded against soil erosion, the Jewish people must be safeguarded against "soul erosion" to prevent it from losing thousands of its members.

Speaking to some 600 persons at the 39th Ma'acabean Award Dinner of the Jewish National Fund, Jakovovits said, "soul erosion is today a greater threat to Jewish survival than soil erosion because we are today suffering hundreds of thousands of casualties as Jews who no longer identify as such unless we can regenerate them by calling them to strike roots in the soul of our heritage."

Jakovovits said there is probably greater loss of Jewish identification in the West than East Europe because there "everyone knows he is Jewish." He said the problem can be solved through a massive education program and said he saw welcome signs in "the spectacular advances in the Jewish day schools and institutes of higher Jewish learning now gracing the Jewish landscape in all parts of the world."

He noted that nearly 25 percent of Jewish children attend Jewish schools. "It is through this spiritual affirmation that the erosion of Jewish life will eventually be stopped and after that it will be generated," he said. The British Chief Rabbi also warned that Jews are in physical danger in Israel, the Soviet Union, South Africa and South America.

The dinner honored Morris Awegbuch, a communal and religious leader, with a forest to be planted by the JNF in Safed. Also participating were Rabbi William Berkowitz, the JNF's president, and Dr. Samuel I. Cohen, JNF executive vice-president, who made a special presentation to Jesse Eisen who is retiring after many years as chairman of the JNF's religious department.

KADDISH FOR HUMPHREY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 (JTA)--Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey was eulogized at a Jewish memorial service Thursday in Yiddish terms as a "mensch" and with having "a Yiddishe hartz" and a "Yiddishe nashome" while his contributions to civil rights, social justice and support of Israel were remembered with expressions of love and respect by a large number of men and women who crowded the Religious Action Center of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The mourners joined Rabbi David Saperstein, the Center's director, in reciting in Hebrew the Kaddish and chanting the Oseh Shalom that concluded the service.

Vice President Walter Mondale, in a letter to friends of the late Vice President and Senator, which was read by Hyman Bookbinder, the Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee who led the service, said that "of all the ways Hubert has been remembered in recent days, he would have especially appreciated this memorial service by the American Jewish community with whom he was closely bound."

"For more than thirty years," Mondale wrote, "you fought all the good fights together--for civil rights and social justice, for Israel's security in the world. Sometimes, Hubert has been described in terms that are larger than life but I believe a phrase in Yiddish describes him best. He was a 'mensch' in the truest sense of the word."

Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz said "Humphrey loved us not because of what he wanted us to be but what we are." He recalled Humphrey telling him, "You are fighting with your life for those things that we take for granted."