

JTA daily news bulletin

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Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency/ 165 West 46th Street/ New York, New York 10036

Vol. XLV - 61st Year

Friday, February 3, 1978

No. 24

MILITARY TALKS ADJOURN BUT ARE EXPECTED TO RESUME LATER THIS MONTH

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA)--The Israeli delegation, headed by Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, returned to Israel this afternoon following adjournment of the second phase of the joint military talks with Egypt in Cairo which lasted less than two days. Neither Weizman nor his Egyptian counterpart, War Minister Mohammed Gamassy, would comment on the substance of the latest meetings.

An official communique issued in Cairo last night announced that the talks had been adjourned and that both sides would make arrangements to resume them. No date was given.

Weizman told reporters on his plane en route to Ben Gurion Airport that the talks would be resumed later this month. Israeli circles believe the military committee will reconvene in about two weeks, when President Anwar Sadat returns from his meeting with President Carter at Camp David, Md. and his visits to seven other countries which he began today.

At Cairo airport, Gamassy asked Weizman to "remember me to Begin." Weizman said, "We shall meet again soon." A small Israeli military delegation remained in Cairo headed by Col. Eliezer Rimon, an aide to Gen. Abraham Tamir who is a member of the Israeli negotiating team.

Meanwhile, Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton, who had been shuttling between Jerusalem and Cairo for the past two weeks in an effort to get both sides to agree to a declaration of principles on peace negotiations, left here today to return to Washington. His mission did not succeed.

BEGIN DENOUNCES TERRORIST ACT OF POISONING ISRAELI ORANGES

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin today angrily denounced Palestinian terrorists who injected mercury into Israeli citrus fruits in Europe in an attempt to sabotage one of the country's principal exports. During a visit to the Sultan plant, a metal tools factory that also produces artillery pieces, Begin said, "Never before in the annals of humanity did we witness such barbarism like the recent case of the poisoned citrus."

Referring to five Dutch children who fell ill with food poisoning after eating Jaffa oranges, Begin said that "never before was there an attempt to harm the economy of Israel on the bodies of Dutch or other children." He vowed that "we shall not return to the borders of 1967. We shall not enable the creation of a state neighboring us that will be governed by those who poison citrus."

It was reported, meanwhile, that Israeli security services are cooperating with their European counterparts to apprehend the perpetrators. The Israeli fruit was contaminated with non-lethal doses of mercury after it was unloaded at Antwerp for distribution to markets all over Europe. Security circles said today that efforts will be made to locate the terrorist command post which issued the orders to poison the oranges. But they

acknowledged that it will not be easy to protect the fruit.

Israeli citrus exporters are facing a disastrous season. With much of the crop yet to be shipped abroad, Israel's merchant marine has been paralyzed by a strike for the past two weeks. The striking seamen have asked stevedores abroad to support them by refusing to unload foreign ships chartered by the Israeli shipping companies. As a result, much of the citrus exports may rot on the docks here and citrus reaching Europe may be contaminated by terrorists. The panic in Europe over the citrus poisoning has already drastically cut sales.

Reactions In Europe

(Meanwhile, the sale of Israeli oranges was halted in London's fruit and vegetable markets today. But the Israeli Citrus Marketing Board said the panic was restricted to London where the press gave prominent coverage to the contaminated fruit found on the Continent.

(The situation was worse in West Germany where many importers and supermarkets cancelled orders for Israeli citrus after small quantities of poisoned oranges were found in Frankfurt and Darmstadt. The Bonn Health Ministry warned people not to eat the Israeli fruit.

(The Netherlands Health Ministry disclosed today that not only Israeli oranges but oranges imported from Spain were found to be contaminated. The fruit reached Holland through Antwerp. It was supplied by the Belgian firm of Spitz, near Liege.

(The Belgian Health Ministry is investigating whether the Israeli oranges were injected with mercury after they were unloaded at Antwerp. Checks of food stores in Belgium failed to turn up any contaminated fruit but food inspectors were ordered to keep checking new supplies.

(Israeli oranges continued to be sold throughout Switzerland today. No poisoned fruit has been found in that country. Most of Switzerland's citrus imports from Israel come via the Adriatic rather than Western European ports.)

SCHINDLER: ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ISSUE IS NOT A MATTER FOR U.S. JEWS BUT FOR ISRAEL AND HER NEIGHBORS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said yesterday that the controversy surrounding Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories is "not an issue" for the American Jewish community but a matter to be resolved "in direct face-to-face talks" between Israel and its neighbors.

Schindler also said that he didn't think that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's "open letter" to the American Jewish community, published in the Miami Herald and other newspapers last Sunday, was part of an "invidious" campaign to drive a wedge between American Jewry and Israel. He said that any person who believed that the Jewish community's support of Israel can be weakened is "naïve or a simpleton and Sadat is neither."

Schindler made his remarks to reporters in the diplomatic lobby of the State Department after he and four other Jewish leaders had a 50-minute meeting with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

On the question of settlements, Schindler said the Presidents Conference does not have "any policy" because "that is a matter" for Israel and the neighboring governments to decide. He said that "there isn't any problem between Israel and her neighbors that cannot be resolved in direct, face-to-face talks."

Schindler said he was "certain" that the issue of Israeli settlements in Sinai can be resolved by Israel and Egypt and those in other areas by Israel "with appropriate partners." However, he said, "the problem cannot be resolved if a surrogate is chosen like the Jewish community" to take a role.

Schindler acknowledged that the settlements issue was "serious" but claimed that it has been "overblown" and "magnified." He defended the settlements, however, contending that they cannot "justly be considered imperialistic" since there are only about 3000 Jews among 750,000 Arabs in Judea and Samaria. He also said the settlements do not represent "expropriation or displacement" of Arabs. He claimed their presence was, in fact, beneficial because they bring industry and higher living standards to the whole area.

Views On Sadat's Letter

On the question of Sadat's "open letter" to which Schindler replied in an "open letter" of his own, he said the Egyptian President had received requests for weeks from the Miami Herald that he address the American Jewish community before he finally sent it.

Some American Jewish leaders took a different view of Sadat's letter. Among those seeing it as a deliberate ploy to weaken American Jewish support for Israel and trying to appeal to the American Jewish community over the head of the Israeli government were Faye Schenk, president, American Zionist Federation; Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president, American Jewish Congress; Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president, Zionist Organization of America; and Theodore R. Mann, president, National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council. However, Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, said Sadat has as much right as anyone to try to influence public opinion in a free society.

Schindler, who met with Sadat at Aswan last month, said he is "certainly sympathetic" with Sadat's motives and peace yearnings which "all Americans share with a whole heart." However, he said, there are "some specific points on which we don't agree." He observed that Sadat says he has "given everything to Israel and Israel has given nothing." Schindler said that, on the contrary, he believes that Israel has made "far-reaching political and territorial concessions" and that President Carter agrees with this view.

Schindler declined to discuss the Middle East aspects of his talk with Vance today which was apparently devoted largely to Soviet Jewry affairs. However, it is believed that a purpose of the meeting was to ascertain whether statements inimical to Israel would be forthcoming during the Sadat-Carter meeting this weekend.

Will Not Seek Meeting With Sadat

Meanwhile, the Presidents Conference announced today that it had voted unanimously not to seek a meeting with Sadat while he is in this country. Schindler explained, "We did so lest the Jewish community be interpreted as seeking to take part in these negotiations and lest such a meeting be construed as a surrogate for direct Egyptian-Israeli talks."

Schindler said, "We welcome President Sadat to our country as a man of peace but peace can come only if the parties that fought the wars sit together and negotiate in a spirit of good will and compromise. It can neither be imposed by outside powers nor arranged through intermediaries. We have no role in such negotiations as a Jewish community." There were reports which could not be immediately confirmed that some Jewish leaders were seeking to meet with Sadat during his stay here.

'ALL ASPECTS' OF PALESTINIAN QUESTION NOT LIMITED TO REFUGEE ISSUE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA)--The State Department said, in a written response to queries, that President Carter's press conference statement Monday that Arab-Israeli negotiations must cover "all aspects of the Palestinian question" means "the many ramifications" of that question including but "not limited to the refugee issue."

The five-line statement given to reporters said: "The final exact meaning will have to be delineated through negotiations. This phrase indicates that a final settlement agreement must fully take into account the many ramifications of the Palestinian question which includes, but is not limited to, the refugee issue."

United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 which the United States has consistently said underpins Arab-Israeli negotiations, mentions the Palestinian question only in terms of the refugee problem. Israel's view, according to an Israeli Embassy source, is that the words "all aspects" apply to the matter of refugees alone.

MOVE TO HAVE ISRAEL BUILD COUNTERPART TO THE AMERICAN F-16 FIGHTER JET

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 2 (JTA)--A Knesset subcommittee recommended yesterday that Israel build its own counterpart of the American F-16 jet fighter, an aircraft for the 1980s that Israel is seeking from the U.S. The subcommittee, headed by Likud MK Yosef Rom, said such a project was of "vital national interest" and "a precondition for political independence and the vitality of Israel's industry."

The proposal was presented to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee which will begin deliberations shortly. A heated debate is expected in the Knesset, mainly because the Defense Ministry says it has no budget for such aircraft which would cost an estimated \$400 million. Supporters, however, say the funds should come out of the "total resources at the State's disposal."

The subcommittee report warned that continued dependence on the import of sophisticated weapons from abroad makes Israel vulnerable to political pressures. "It is essential to take into consideration a situation in which channels for vital arms will be closed for an extended period," the report said. It assumed that Israel will continue to require highly sophisticated warplanes for many years to come.

Improved Version Of Kfir

The projected aircraft would be an improved version of the Israel-made Kfir jet fighter and would be called Arye (Lion). An attempt would be made to duplicate the F-16 which will be in the American arsenal in the 1980s.

Negotiations have been going on with the U.S. for some time for a commitment to provide Israel with F-16s when ready. But they bogged down last year over Israel's insistence on co-production rights.

that would permit it to manufacture parts and assemble the American plane at its own plants. The U.S. has balked against granting such rights. The F-16, though representing a new generation of combat aircraft, is less advanced than the ultra-sophisticated F-15s already in production.

Like the Kfir, the projected Arye will have to be powered by engines manufactured abroad because Israel still does not have the ability to produce such engines. But Israel Aircraft Industries, which designed and built the Kfir, says it is capable of duplicating the F-16 in all other essentials.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

ELIAV OPTIMISTIC ABOUT MIDEAST PEACE

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Arie Eliav, a member of the Israeli Knesset and chairman and founder of the Sheli peace movement, says that he is optimistic about the prospects for peace in the Mideast but he predicts, nonetheless, a long and difficult road until peace is attained. "We are going to face many crises, disappointments and stalemates along the way but it is clear that neither the Arabs nor the Israelis have a choice but to find a way to live in peace," Eliav said.

In a special interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the former Labor Party leader who was at one time Premier Golda Meir's right-hand man, contended that the core of the Mideast conflict is the Palestinian issue. "The Israeli government must declare its readiness to give the Palestinian people the right of self-determination, while seeking the moderate elements among the Palestinians and keeping strict safeguards (such as buffer zones) to ensure Israel's security."

Eliav, who arrived here yesterday for a three-week lecture tour and official meetings in Washington under the sponsorship of the American Friends Service Committee and an ad hoc committee of public figures, said that Premier Menachem Begin's plan to give self-rule to the West Bank is not sufficient and does not answer the needs of the Palestinians.

"Begin's plan denies (the Palestinians) the elemental right of self-determination and cannot give Israel a moderate partner among the Palestinians. We hope that a formula will be found soon with the help of the Americans that could bring together moderate Palestinians as well as Jordanians to the negotiating table with Israel and Egypt."

As to the touchy and sensitive issue of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and elsewhere in the occupied territories, Eliav said emphatically: "I and my friends (in the Israeli peace camp) thought, and still think, that creating facts in the form of settlements is an obstacle to the current negotiations (with Egypt) and future negotiations in the Mideast." As far as he is concerned, the settlements don't even serve Israel's security. For that we have the army.

Paradox And Irony

In Eliav's view, the peace camp in Israel has been in a "paradoxical" and "ironic" position since Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem last November. "Since the beginning of Sadat's initiative, we have been supporting any step by the Begin government, that we deemed correct, with our own conception," Eliav said. "But at the same time, we criticize the government for taking what we consider wrong positions. We congratulated Begin for his readiness to make far-reaching concessions in the Sinai, but we criticized him on the Palestinian issue."

The "ironic" situation of the peace camp in Israel, Eliav said, is in the fact that a "large part of what we preached in the last ten years is now carried out by our political opponents. We said in the Knesset that we will support any positive step by the government. The Sadat initiative has created openness towards our position within the Israeli public, but things and attitudes (among Israelis) can still harden and change in case of any complications in the negotiations."

Asked about the apparent transformation of Begin from a "hawk" to a "dove," Eliav replied: "Hawks become less hawkish when they assume positions of power. The first ones who charged that Begin turned to be a dove were his own party members. And they are right. In the Labor Party there are many hawks who are less flexible than Begin and his Cabinet members."

No Role For The PLO

Eliav, who was known to have met "secretly" with members of the Palestine Liberation Organization before the Sadat peace initiative started, said that the PLO can no longer be considered as a partner for negotiations since they joined the "rejection front" against Sadat's peace moves. "We believe that only if the PLO abandons the 'rejection front' and recognizes Israel can it be a partner in peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians," he said.

Being a long-time advocate of social justice in Israel's society, Eliav was asked about the present situation and the ways to improve it. "Behind the international drama of bringing peace to the Mideast, the process of social polarization in Israeli society is continuing. The gap between those who have and those who have not is increasing. This fact only increases the need for peace, to enable us to deal with Israel's social problem with new financial and human efforts."

ARAB EDITORS TO MEET WITH JEWISH EDITORS AND JEWISH COMMUNAL OFFICIALS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Ten Arab editors from seven countries, visiting for three weeks in the United States under the State Department's auspices, are scheduled to meet Monday afternoon in Freedom House in New York with journalists from American Jewish publications and representatives of Jewish communal organizations.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed today at the State Department that the meeting is part of a program for the Arabs that was mainly arranged by the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in conjunction with the Department's Bureau of Cultural and Educational Affairs.

The Arab journalists are from Egypt, the Sudan, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Syria. However, the JTA was told that while the visitors have been notified of Monday's and other meetings scheduled for them, they are not under obligation to attend. It was expected, however, that at least the two Egyptian members--Mahab Abdel Fatha Hassan, diplomatic editor of Al Akhbar, and Riad Atar, assistant editor-in-chief of Al Ahram--would attend, inasmuch as Egyptians are now accustomed to conversations with Jewish and Israeli journalists.

The JTA was informed that when the program was being arranged last month it was stressed by a high State Department bureau official that "these people have to meet Jewish Americans as one part of the picture in the United States." (By Joseph Polakoff)

NEW BLACK-JEWISH EFFORT TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE UNITED STATES

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Applications are now being accepted from Black and Jewish college students to work as summer interns in Washington on issues of concern to both groups as part of a new Black-Jewish effort to promote human rights in the United States, an official of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations reported today.

Albert Vorspan, vice-president of the association of American Reform congregations, said the UAHC and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) had agreed to work together on such common concerns as joblessness, housing, equal educational opportunities, quality of urban life and crime.

Benjamin Hooks, NAACP executive director, said "we can no longer afford the divisiveness that has cropped up in recent years between Blacks and Jews." Vorspan and Hooks described the joint program as an effort to revive "the 1960's civil rights coalition adapted to current challenges of joblessness and urban blight." To facilitate such joint efforts, Vorspan said, the UAHC and the NAACP had established the Kivie Kaplan Human Relations Institute, named for the Jewish leader who died in May 1975. He had been NAACP president from 1966 until his death.

To launch the Institute, the Kaplan family has provided an initial grant and other money has been raised by the two organizations. Vorspan estimated the money raised so far as totaling \$20,000 and said "that's a start."

He said the Institute will seek to mobilize adult Blacks and Jews into "action squads" to create an awareness of problems and issues among members of their communities, to enlist their support on specific national issues and legislation that affect their common goals.

Many Talks Planned

Vorspan told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the effort to create the action squads will follow talks at the local level similar to those which have been held between national officers of the NAACP and the UAHC in San Francisco and New York City, which he said was the first in what was planned to be many such talks. He said "we are talking frankly" on issues on which there are "honest differences." Vorspan said both organizations hoped that from such talks would emerge specific joint programs to cope with issues of common concern.

He emphasized that the Institute did not involve a new office and a new staff. He said each organization was setting up a desk to supervise its share of the planned joint programs. He said he was directing the desk at the UAHC and that Ed Muse, an NAACP official, was in charge of the project at that organization.

Vorspan said the intern program would be modeled on one now in existence, working out of the UAHC Religious Action Center in Washington, in which students learn the mechanics of government. He said they are paid a modest stipend. He said no target had been set for the number of interns planned for the UAHC-NAACP program because "we don't want to be flooded with applications" before sufficient funds can be raised to finance the program.

Since the UAHC internship and the new joint program are aimed at college students, the joint program, as a practical matter, will probably not begin until summer. Noting that at present Blacks

and Jews "have often opposed each other on divisive issues, permitting themselves to be swept along in angry confrontations," Vorspan said that Blacks and Jews "continue to have much in common despite honest differences on various policy issues."

MOVES TO CURTAIL ARAB BOYCOTT IN BRITAIN

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Feb. 2 (JTA)--Attempts to curtail the Arab boycott in Britain took an important step forward this week when the House of Lords referred draft legislation outlawing compliance with foreign boycotts to a select committee for detailed consideration.

The move was taken despite strong opposition by both the government and Conservative opposition. The draft legislation, entitled the Foreign Boycotts Bill, had been introduced by Lord Byers, the Liberal Party's leader in the upper house. It now faces a tough battle in the committee stage, where opponents will try to weaken it. To become law, it must then be carried by both houses of Parliament.

During Monday's lengthy debate, Lord Byers said the Arab boycott had involved Britain in economic warfare against Israel. Under his bill, businessmen who illegally complied with such a boycott could face fines of up to 10,000 Pounds Sterling or jail sentences of up to two years.

More than 1000 British companies had been blacklisted for failing to comply with the Arab boycott, Lord Byers added. Fear of the boycott had caused a loss of business and of jobs in Britain and had even aroused anti-Semitism. By adopting such legislation, Britain would be setting a lead in the European Economic Community.

Says Britain Needs Arab Trade

For the government, however, Baroness Stedman, Environment Undersecretary, said that while all trade boycotts lacking international authority were deplorable, hundreds of thousands of jobs possibly depended on the maintenance and growth of British exports to the Arab world.

Last year, these were worth 2,700 billion Pounds Sterling, an increase of 452 percent since 1973 and more than eight percent of Britain's total exports. Exports to Israel last year totalled 274 million Pounds Sterling, an increase of 46 percent since 1973.

Meanwhile, major British companies which have boycotted Israel in order to win big contracts in the Arab world are expected to be asked to testify before a committee of members of the House of Lords which will begin work in about one month's time.

Lord Byers told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that it is still not clear whether the committee will be able to force witnesses to testify before it. However, he expected its inquiries to go very deeply into the operations of the Arab boycott in Britain. The committee's sessions will be held in camera and could last up to six months.

TORONTO (JTA)--Herbert S. Levy, who is due to retire in June as executive vice-president of B'nai B'rith District 22, has been named to the post of Citizenship Judge. A Citizenship Judge determines the naturalization of applicants for Canadian citizenship. Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, who retired last month as senior rabbi of Holy Blossom Temple, was among three new appointees to the Ontario Human Rights Commission, a provincial body which administers and oversees the workings of the province's Human Rights Code.