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ATHERTON SEEN FACING UPHILL TASK

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA)--The Cabinet met in special session this morning to discuss future peace prospects and the issue of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories which appears to have the ministers sharply divided. Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and several others are known to be pressing hard for a freeze on all new settlement activity as long as the peace-making process with Egypt continues.

Their position has been bolstered by recent U.S. pressure on the settlements issue. But the American condemnation of the settlements has only reinforced the position of the hardliners, headed by Minister of Agriculture Ariel Sharon, who want to push ahead with new settlement activity regardless of the opinion of Washington.

Meanwhile, political circles here are less than optimistic that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton will score a quick or easy breakthrough in his efforts to secure Israeli and Egyptian agreement on a joint declaration of principles. Atherton came back here late today to resume his shuttle diplomacy between Jerusalem and Cairo and, possibly, other Mideast capitals.

Resumption of the stalled peace talks depends on finding a formula for the basic elements of a settlement acceptable to both sides. The outstanding issues on which Israel and Egypt remain far apart are Palestinian self-determination and the future of the West Bank.

Observers here see no signs that a shift by either side is imminent. Nor is it certain, by any means, that King Hussein of Jordan would join in the peace process even if Israel and Egypt agreed on a set of principles. Atherton will go to Amman next week to sound out Hussein on that crucial question. According to Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Jordan's absence from the negotiations is the "fundamental obstacle" to their progress.

Following today's four-hour Cabinet session which met as the ministerial security committee, Premier Menachem Begin explained that it was held because of the "accumulation of problems concerning the settlements." Because not all the ministers had a chance to express themselves on this issue, Begin said the session would continue at the regular weekly Cabinet meeting next Sunday. Begin expressed optimism that the Cabinet would unanimously support the majority's stand on the settlements issue.

WEIZMAN SAYS PROPOSED U. S. SALE OF AIRCRAFT TO ARABS MAY AFFECT ISRAEL'S CONCEPT OF SINAI ACCORD WITH EGYPT

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Defense Minister Ezer Weizman has warned that the Carter Administration's proposed sale of combat aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Egypt will cause Israel to reassess its concept of a Sinai agreement with Egypt.

Speaking on a television interview Friday night, Weizman, who goes to Washington next month, said the worst aspect of the U.S. proposal was not the threat to Israel's security but the

fact that the Administration has lumped aircraft sales to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia into a single package. He said the Administration apparently ignored the fact that Israel was promised a number of planes under its 1974-75 agreements with the U.S. at the time of the first and second Sinai interim accords.

Serious Question Of Timing

According to Weizman, the political aspects of the deal are more serious than the military because of the timing. The Americans announced their plans at the very moment when Israel was in the midst of tough negotiations, he said. "The American move will affect some of our thinking, at least in the military committee, as to the way we see the Sinai agreement and has given us other second thoughts which may or may not be helpful to the negotiations," he said.

Weizman said Israel must now "weigh" how the American move will affect the components of a possible peace pact with Egypt "on the wings of a plane--I hope it will not be on a tank tomorrow." He said General Headquarters and other defense experts were studying all aspects of the new situation.

Anger Over Carter's Remark About Saudi Arabia

Israel's anger and consternation over the Carter Administration's arms package was further aggravated by President Carter's remark last Friday at a press conference in Cranston, Maine that Saudi Arabia "has never had any active aggression against Israel."

Circles here said the President was apparently unaware that a Saudi unit of brigade strength took part in the fighting on the Golan Heights during the Yom Kippur War, participated in Israeli-Syrian skirmishes after the war and did not pull out until 1976. They also claimed that the Saudis stationed troops in Jordan in 1967 and, in 1973, turned over to Egypt 38 Mirage jets they had acquired from France.

(Carter, during his press conference, expressed optimism that Congress would "go along" with his Administration's proposal to "sell a limited number" of planes to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel; thought "it's very good for nations to turn to us for their security needs, instead of having to turn to the Soviet Union as they have in the past"; and denied that the timing of the plane sale to Egypt was a message to Israel to become more flexible in the current negotiations.)

REPORT THAT ORGANIZED CRIME EXISTS FLOURISHES IN ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA)--A special committee submitted a report to the Cabinet yesterday stating that organized crime exists in Israel and flourishes because of police laxity, weak laws and close connections by top crime figures on all levels of government.

The committee, headed by former State Attorney Erwin Shimron, recommended tough countermeasures including a revamping of the criminal code, improved police procedures and cancellation of the general amnesty for criminals that was planned in connection with Israel's 30th anniversary celebrations this spring.

Responding to the harsh criticism of the police, Police Inspector General Haim Tabori convened his top officers yesterday morning to discuss the situation. He said, however, that he would not resign because the report made clear that the present state of affairs was not new but the cumulative result of criminal activity since the State was established.

Shimron himself said at a press conference yesterday afternoon that the State had neglected the fight against crime for 30 years. The Cabinet did not discuss the report at its weekly session yesterday but decided to devote a special session to it at a later date. Interior Minister Yosef Burg promised that the government would implement the committee's recommendations "to a maximum extent in a minimum time." (See separate story for reactions to the report.)

The Shimron committee was empaneled last year to determine whether organized crime did, in fact, exist in Israel. The press has been insisting all along that it did. But others contended that while there was criminal activity in the country, it was not organized. Former Attorney General Meir Shamgar, now a Justice of the Supreme Court, said four years ago that there was no organized crime in Israel.

Increase In Crimes Of Violence

Nevertheless, crimes of violence have increased steadily over the years as have crimes involving black marketeering, fraud, blackmail and intimidation. The news media kept up a steady drumbeat of pressure on the authorities, supported recently by Likud MK Ehud Olmert who has launched a personal crusade against crime. A police committee was established last year but its proposals were limited to a reorganization of police work.

The Shimron committee rejected police complaints that their limited budget prevented them from coping adequately with crime. The report accused the police high command of failure to make proper use of available resources and charged that little was being done to develop new crime-fighting techniques or to train the younger generation of officers to deal with criminal offenders.

The committee also faulted the income tax authorities for failing to prevent the rapid growth of "black capital" which it estimated at billions of pounds circulating outside of the regular economic framework and funding organized crime. The committee did not elaborate on its findings of criminal connections in government, at least not in the published sections of its report. It identified numerous top criminal leaders by name but these appeared in 10 unpublished supplements to the report.

Ways To Cope With Crime

To cope with the alarming rise in crime, the Shimron committee recommended an abridgement of the civil rights of persons accused of serious crimes such as trafficking in drugs, blackmail and intimidation of witnesses. It proposed that witnesses be forced to give testimony even if self-incriminating. Under present law, such witnesses have the right to remain silent.

The committee also recommended that recorded confessions made before a police officer should be admitted as evidence in court without requiring the defendant to appear in person. It cited many cases in which a suspect confessed a crime to police only to plead not guilty in court.

It recommended that defendants found guilty of drug or sex offenses, crimes of violence or grand theft should not be entitled to a reduction of sentences for good behavior if they are second or third offenders. After a third conviction for the same crime, the offender should be given double the maximum penalty under law, the committee proposed.

The committee also reported that 70 percent of the criminals released under the general amnesty granted after the Six-Day War were returned to jail for other crimes.

CRIME REPORT GETS MIXED REACTIONS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20 (JTA)--The report charging that organized crime infests many areas of business and commerce in Israel drew mixed reactions today. The diamond trade objected furiously to allegations that much of its transactions are illicit. The seamen's union acknowledged that smuggling was widespread and pledged cooperation with the authorities to end it. Politicians who have been crusading against crime expressed satisfaction that they were shown to be right while many officials had been denying that organized crime exists in the country. Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir hailed the report's recommendation to establish a permanent ministerial committee to enforce the law.

But Moshe Shnitzer, president of the Diamond Exchange, threatened to sue the committee members for libel unless they withdraw their charge that black market money controlled by criminal elements runs much of the diamond business. He called the accusation unfounded and convened an emergency meeting of the Exchange members to consider counter-measures.

Capt. Yeshayahu Grauman, head of the seamen's union, said the union accepted the committee's recommendations. He promised that any seaman who is prosecuted more than once for smuggling would have his license revoked. Farmers in general, were happy with the committee's report. They claimed that thefts of agricultural products cost them IL 110 million annually. The committee recommended that the control, inspection and transportation of agricultural produce be integrated under a single authority which gives the farmers reason to hope that thefts can be cut down.

Wholesalers and retailers of fruits and vegetables had no immediate comment on the section of the report charging that much of their business was carried on with black market money provided by organized crime. Some wholesale merchants claimed that the huge gap between what the farmer is paid and what the consumer must pay for produce did not reflect organized criminal activity but merely the presence of too many middlemen.

Likud MK Ehud Olmert, who claims credit for initiating the anti-crime crusade, said the report vindicated his accusations that top government and police officials had been covering up the pervasiveness of organized crime. He specifically charged former Police Minister Shlomo Hillel and incumbent Police Inspector Haim Tabori with brushing aside his repeated warnings against criminal activity.

BNEI BRAK OFFICIALS TO FACE CHARGES OF MANSLAUGHTER

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Attorney General Aharon Barak will initiate manslaughter charges against the Mayor and municipal council members of Bnei Brak on grounds of non-criminal negligence

that resulted in a traffic fatality there last July. Herzl Attiyah, 22, was killed when a car in which he was a passenger collided with a chain that residents of the town stretched across a main road to block traffic on the Sabbath.

Barak's decision triggered an outcry in the Orthodox establishment but also raised legal questions in secular circles. Some critics said the legal proceedings would re-ignite the bitter conflict between the ultra-Orthodox residents of Bnei Brak and their non-Orthodox neighbors that touched off riots in the town last summer. The decision is the first in Israel's judicial history in which a Mayor and local council members will be hailed to court on grounds that they are collectively responsible for a traffic accident.

Mayor Pinhas Ailon of Holon, a non-Orthodox township south of Tel Aviv, who heads the union of local authorities, observed that no one would want to stand for election to municipal office if they are liable to prosecution for accidents connected with local public works.

Except for the Orthodox quarters in Jerusalem, Bnei Brak, north of Tel Aviv, is the only place in Israel where the Sabbath is strictly observed by virtually all residents. Of its 15 council members, 11 are members of the religious political factions. It was the town council that voted to place a physical barrier across Hashomer Street after non-Orthodox residents, also served by the road, protested against the enforced closing of the thoroughfare from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday and on religious holidays.

Jurist's Move Raises Questions

One question raised was who would have to serve a prison term or whatever penalty is prescribed if the town officials are found guilty: would it be the Mayor who is the chief official, the full council or only those members who voted to erect the chain?

Barak contends that the road was blocked illegally because no permission was obtained from the Transport Ministry to close the road, and, in any event, a road sign would have sufficed. Bnei Brak Mayor Israel Gottlieb said he feared renewed public disorder if the case materializes. According to Gottlieb, a modus vivendi has been reached between the religious and secular elements and Bnei Brak has been quiet since the incidents last summer.

Meanwhile, a strong police presence was credited with averting a clash between Orthodox and non-Orthodox Jews in Bnei Brak Friday night. The Orthodox congregated to protest Barak's decision. Non-Orthodox groups turned up to stage a counter-demonstration in support of the Attorney General. Insults were exchanged but all dispersed quietly under the watchful eyes of police.

SPECIAL TO JTA

RABBI BARRED FROM ENTERING MALAYSIA BECAUSE HE IS A SUPPORTER OF ISRAEL.
He Terms The Move 'A Moral Tragedy'

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, who was barred last week as a member of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) fact-finding mission by the Malaysian government because he was an "active supporter of Israel," said it was "a moral tragedy" that the Malaysian government had "stooped to exploit human suffering for cheap political gains."

Tanenbaum reported on the development in a cable to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency from Bangkok, in which he confirmed reports that the

Malaysian government had cited his Zionist activities in informing the U.S. State Department he was being denied entry. The IRC mission was organized to investigate the plight of the Vietnamese boat people, those who fled Vietnam and adjacent countries after North Vietnam took over South Vietnam following the American pullout and denied permission to enter by other countries, live in often dangerously inadequate boats. Sixty-six of these boat people were invited to come to Israel by Premier Menachem Begin shortly after he became Premier last year.

Charges Subversion Of Humanitarian Cause

Tanenbaum asserted in his telegram that the Malaysian Foreign Minister had claimed that his visit would be "exploited" by the opposition Pan Malaysian Islamic Party among the 55 percent Muslims in local elections March 18.

The rabbi, who is also director of the department of interreligious affairs of the American Jewish Committee, reported that the IRC had cabled a protest to the State Department, charging that Malaysia "subverts" the humanitarian cause of the Indonesian refugees by linking it to an "extraneous" Middle East conflict. He said the Christian members of the IRC unanimously refused to visit Malaysia.

Tanenbaum said the IRC group went last Wednesday to meet Vietnamese boat people in Indonesian refugee camps and with Indonesian government authorities who "are also predominantly Moslem."

The rabbi said that at a press conference in Bangkok, he and IRC co-chairmen Leo Cheme and William Casey issued a statement that "our interviews with Indonesian refugees during the past 10 days in Hong Kong, Manila, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand persuades us that this is one of the greatest neglected humanitarian problems of this decade."

Masked Anti-Jewish Bigotry

In denouncing the Malaysian authorities for exploiting human suffering, the three IRC members said "it is deeply heartening that Americans of all faiths and races repudiated decisively Malaysian efforts to deny" Tanenbaum's "fundamental human rights and treating Jews as second class citizens to be isolated from fellow Americans." The statement added: "The political fanaticism masked by anti-Jewish bigotry will not deter the American Jewish Committee nor myself (Tanenbaum) from continuing activities with the IRC to alleviate the suffering of hundreds of thousands of human beings."

Richard Maass, president of the AJCommittee, in a telegram to Zain Azraai, Malaysian Ambassador to the U.S., protested the barring of Tanenbaum. Noting that the IRC mission was "a humanitarian effort completely apart from any political implications," Maass added: "If your government does not disavow this action, it will be guilty of exploiting a humane cause for purely political purposes as well as violating the human rights of one who has devoted a lifetime to such causes."

JERUSALEM (JTA)--A man was killed and a woman was injured Sunday by a bomb explosion at the Hebrew University. The identities of the victims, both Arabs from the West Bank, were not disclosed. University sources said neither were students. According to police, the bomb exploded under a bench on the main square of the campus. Another explosive device found nearby was defused.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW DULZIN UNVEILS PLAN FOR A "COUNCIL OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE"

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA)—A "Council of the Jewish People," embracing Israeli government leaders and Jewish leaders from the diaspora is planned by Premier Menachem Begin and the chairman-designate of the World Zionist Organization, Leon Dulzin. Dulzin unveiled the grand design in a special interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on the eve of the 29th World Zionist Congress that opened here today.

The Council will evolve soon after the Congress, out of the present "Mossad Letium" (or coordination agency) which is a committee of top ministers and top Jewish Agency officials that convenes at infrequent intervals. Both Begin and Dulzin regard it as the possible nucleus of their plan to construct a "Council of the Jewish People," and to this end they will invite to the next session of the "Mossad Letium" a fairly large number of top-flight Jewish leaders who are not formally connected with the WZO-Jewish Agency.

The meeting is scheduled for some time in the spring and the "Council," if it develops as Dulzin hopes, would become a forum for high-level consultations between Israeli and diaspora leaders on Israeli and Jewish problems.

Would Serve As Sounding Board

Obviously, Dulzin says, Israel's sovereign decision-making process on its own policy would not be affected. But the "Council" would serve as a much-needed sounding board and opportunity for exchanges of views.

As an example of an issue which could well be brought before the "Council" Dulzin cited the recent controversy in the U.S. Jewish community over whether or not Jewish leaders should meet with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and other high-ranking Egyptians, in Egypt or abroad. For himself, Dulzin says, "I see nothing bad in such meetings because I believe in the loyalty of our Jewish leadership."

Looking ahead to his term as WZO chairman, Dulzin stressed the two themes that he intends to dwell upon in all his addresses to the Congress: Jewish education, and aliya. "The Jewish people," he said, "faces a spiritual holocaust." The growing generation have neither the trauma of Hitler's physical holocaust nor the drama of the creation of Israel upon which to anchor their Jewishness. And, with only 20 percent of Jewish children in the diaspora receiving any sort of Jewish education at all, "a great number of Jews are in danger of simply disappearing as Jews."

The World Zionist Organization, said Dulzin, is in effect the only comprehensive international Jewish body which bears collective national responsibility and thus it is the only body that can meaningfully address itself to this challenge. "If we don't do it--no one will," Dulzin asserted.

Hitherto the WZO has tended to focus its efforts on Israel. Now, radiating from Israel, the WZO "must turn its face to the diaspora which we have been neglecting," Dulzin said.

A Single Education Center Planned

In practical terms he proposes to set up, in tandem with the Israeli government and the Israeli universities, a single "education-center" which will be equipped materially and professionally to put his ideas into operation. These call for: setting up

day schools around the world; training teachers; preparing textbooks and other learning aids; initiating and assisting educational projects within the Jewish communities.

Dulzin declared that the long-hallowed division between the WZO education department and its Torah education department ought to be ended. "But the time is not yet ripe to take the formal step: in practice, though, I shall see the division as merely technical and will hope to end it at the next Congress," he said.

Need For Secular Jewish Education Questioned

According to Dulzin "there is no place for secular education. To the extent that this has existed in the past it has not succeeded. All Jewish education has to be based on the Jewish heritage. I think almost everyone agrees with this by now," he claimed. "I would certainly hope that the person who is to head the WZO education department during my term will appreciate this...."

Summing up on education, Dulzin termed the WZO's work in this field hitherto as "ordinary," and pledged that the new momentum he proposes to inject will be "revolutionary."

On aliya, his prognosis of the future without it is equally stark. "If Israel's Jewish population remains in the order of three to 3.5 million, the State is in danger. Israel's security cannot be ensured in the long term merely by peaceful borders." Dulzin, "once regarded as a candidate for Foreign Minister in the Begin government," believes the peace process has gone too far to be turned back.

He feels, however, that once peace does come, Israel's drawing power will immeasurably increase. But peace alone is not the sole criterion of that drawing power. "Our ability to absorb newcomers, and the quality of our society, its Jewish content--these are the vital factors on which our future depends," he said.

Issue Of Equality

The 29th Congress, Dulzin said, will be incomparably more representative of the great masses of Jewry than any of its predecessors. The Reform and Conservative movements, with their millions of members, have become affiliated, as has the World Sephardi Union and World Maccabi. These groups will all have representation in the Congress and in all the elected bodies but their rights will still be less than equal, for their delegates may not vote on election of office-holders.

Dulzin said he opposed this "injustice," but cannot overcome opposition to any further concessions from within the party organizations. In general, he said, he favors a diminution of the near-exclusive hold of the Zionist political parties over the WZO and pledged to work in this direction during his term as chairman. "I'm all for Zionist ideology," he said. "But not for a narrow, party approach."

TEL AVIV (JTA)—The second heart transplant operation in Israel's history was performed at Beilinson Medical Center Friday by Prof. Morris Levy, a prominent Israeli cardiologist. The patient was a 21-year-old Arab from Taibeh village and the donor was a 60-year-old Jew. Neither was identified. A hospital bulletin Monday morning said doctors were continuing to study the patient's post-operative condition and watch for possible rejection problems. Dr. Levy performed Israel's first heart transplant 10 years ago.