

ISRAEL RETURNS TO EGYPT REVISED PROPOSALS FOR JOINT DECLARATION

Some Cairo Proposals Can Be Negotiated By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Israel is sending Egypt revised proposals for a joint declaration of principles. The new draft, submitted to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred L. Atherton this morning by Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, was said to contain new elements.

Atherton, who declined to say what progress if any, has been made in the course of his shuttle diplomacy so far, did observe that there are "each time some new ideas that provide some new basis for progress." He said the U.S. would submit its own ideas if necessary.

He will take the latest Israeli proposals to Cairo tomorrow and return to Israel Thursday, presumably with Egypt's response. "Obviously, there is still a gap. If there were no gap, the negotiations would have been completed," Atherton told reporters.

Begin spoke to newsmen later, on emerging from a meeting with visiting British Foreign Secretary David Owen. He said there was "reason to assume" that the negotiating process would continue, and Owen concurred. The British diplomat said Begin has not toughened the peace proposals he outlined to British leaders after his visit to the U.S. last December. "I have always thought that Sadat and Begin were resolved to have peace," Owen said.

Hardening Of Positions Noted

However, Israeli sources claimed there has been a hardening of the Egyptian position. Begin made it clear that there was no flexibility on the Israeli side either, on the question of the Palestinians and total withdrawal by Israel from occupied Arab territories.

Commenting on Egypt's proposals for a joint declaration which Atherton brought here from Cairo last week, Begin said: "Some of the paragraphs suggested to us can be negotiated. One paragraph is acceptable since it is identical with the Israeli draft. But we made it absolutely clear that total withdrawal to the 1967 borders or the creation of a Palestinian state were not acceptable to us."

Some observers noted that Begin spoke of a "Palestinian state" as unacceptable but did not mention Palestinian "self-determination," which Israel also has rejected up to now. President Carter, in his Jan. 4 Aswan formula, proposed that the Palestinians be given the opportunity to participate in the determination of their future. Israel accepted that formulation but says now that Egypt has retreated from it.

Atherton told reporters, as he has in the past, that he was "not going to characterize each discussion in terms of progress or no progress." "But," he said, "I have to add that there are each time some new ideas that provide some new basis for progress."

Role Of Jordan

Owen arrived in Israel from Jordan yester-

day for a two-day official visit. It was seen as timely because of Britain's close links to Jordan and that kingdom's crucial role in the peace process which it has yet to join. According to Dayan and other observers, Jordan's continued absence from peace talks is the most serious obstacle to further progress and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt seems to be making the resumption of the political talks conditional on Jordan's involvement.

Owen said on his arrival that Jordan felt the talks to date were "bilateral" and would consider joining them only if real progress was evident. He said he thought that attitude was "not unreasonable." Owen also noted that Israel's peace plan was presented originally as a scheme "for five years," subject to review after that period.

This important aspect seems to be "lost sight of," he said, at least in some Arab quarters where Israel's proposals "tended to be seen as permanent." He urged emphasis on the five-year aspect of the Israeli plan.

Asked whether Jordan would be prepared to break with Syria in order to join the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations, Owen said, "I think they are not going to make up their mind until they see a declaration of principles and until they get greater clarifications. I think they are very cautious about this and I think they don't believe it necessarily requires breaking from Syria." Owen met in Amman with Crown Prince Hassan. He conferred informally with King Hussein in London last week where the Jordanian monarch was on a private visit.

LABOR PARTY GROUP GOING TO RUMANIA

TEL AVIV, Feb. 27 (JTA)--A Labor Party delegation headed by party chairman Shimon Peres will make an official visit to Rumania next week where it is expected to meet with Rumanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. Peres has received a message from the Rumanian President that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat briefed him on the Egyptian leader's talk with Peres in Salzburg, Austria, earlier this month.

Peres said the invitation to the Labor Party indicates Rumania's great interest in Middle East affairs. He will be accompanied by MKs Chaim Barlev and Moshe Shahal, and Israel Gatt, head of the Labor Party's foreign relations department. A Mapam delegation is leaving for Rumania tomorrow. It includes party secretary general Meir Talmi, political secretary Victor Shemtov, Kibbutz Artzi secretary Nathan Peled, and Yousouf Hamis, a member of the party center.

BACKGROUND REPORT THE ATHERTON SHUTTLE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA)--As America's roving Mideast envoy, Alfred L. Atherton prepared to return to Cairo on the second round of his shuttle diplomacy. The progress of his mission did not appear particularly encouraging.

Atherton told newsmen today that he did not propose to characterize each conversation in terms of progress achieved or not achieved, but it seemed clear enough that, were he to characterize them despite himself, he would have to admit that not much progress has been made so far on this week-old shuttle.

Israeli sources insist that Egypt has substantially hardened its previous positions and is now demanding totally uncompromising formulations and rejecting the vaguer and more ambiguous drafts that it had earlier indicated acceptance of.

Thus, whereas back in January, just before the abortive Jerusalem talks broke off, the Egyptians indicated they would make do with a Resolution 242-type ambiguity on the withdrawal question, and with President Carter's "Aswan formula" on the Palestinian issue, President Anwar Sadat was not saying that either of these would be good enough. However, he was pressing for a specific undertaking of withdrawal from all the occupied areas and had revived Egypt's initial insistence on specific recognition of the Palestinians' rights to self-determination.

According to these same Israeli sources, Israel for its part, had significantly softened its own position last week, relative to its stand at the start of the first Atherton shuttle that followed the talks' breakoff. This week, the sources said, Israel responded to the headline Egyptian draft by merely signifying which parts of it could be a basis for negotiation and which were thoroughly unacceptable.

Ploys And Counter-Ploys

The sources said the Egyptian hardening could be traced to Sadat's inter-Arab problems and his resolve, because of these problems, to insist on Jordan's entry into the peace process. Sadat was making it unequivocally clear that he would not resume the talks without Jordan physically present.

Jordan, for its part, is putting up stringent textual conditions, relating to West Bank withdrawal and the Palestinian question, before it would be prepared to consider joining the peace process.

Diehard optimists here say they believe Sadat's ostensible insistence on Jordanian participation is merely a tactical ploy, designed to up the ante, and that in the final analysis he would be prepared to go on negotiating alone provided he could first achieve a "declaration of principles" which, even though vague and ambivalent, gave him some rhetorical cover for his Palestinian flank.

But there are pessimists within the government who take the Egyptian President very much at his word—and the Hashemite King at his—and therefore conclude that the chances of progress are indeed bleak.

In this context it might be significant to mention Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's remark Sunday night, at a dinner for British Foreign Secretary David Owen, that if the sides failed to agree on a "declaration of principles," efforts would have to be made "to reach peace through other means." Aides said the Minister was probably referring to the possibility—always in the background—of an interim accord that would be much less than peace but would keep the hope of ultimate peace still alive.

U.S. May Propose Compromise

At any rate, the search for the saving formula for a "declaration of principles" is certainly not over yet—if only because Washington has patently not given up hope of achieving it.

Atherton, it is believed, will keep shuttling for the next two weeks or so, whether or not any tangible progress is made, in order to keep up the momentum in preparation for the visit to Washington in mid-March by Premier Menachem Begin, Dayan and Defense Minister Ezer Weizman. There,

President Carter himself is likely to move into the act, possibly even submitting to the Israeli leaders, with the full authority and prestige of the U.S. Presidency, an American compromise formula for a "declaration of principles." If this were on the lines of the "Aswan formula," which it very probably would be, Begin and company would be very hard put to reject it.

Aswan, after all, did not endorse a Palestinian state nor even "self-determination." It spoke of Palestinians participating in the determination of their own future, which Israel has indicated it could live with, and of "legitimate rights," which Israel says is awkward. But Israel's position in American opinion would itself be awkward were it to endanger the entire peace process over such an ostensibly textual issue.

U.S. MUM ON ISRAELI CABINET DECISION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (JTA)—The U.S. government, which had been intensely critical, publicly and privately, over Israel's policy of establishing settlements in the occupied territories, refrained today from discussing the Israeli Cabinet's position not to take new decisions regarding that policy.

Presidential News Secretary Jody Powell said the settlements will be among the subjects President Carter and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin will discuss when Begin visits Washington March 13-16. The leaders will meet March 14 and 15, Powell said, to review "the progress that has been made" in the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations and how to proceed towards a "comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

At the State Department, chief spokesman Hodding Carter said, "We have said what our position is on the settlements" and that he was "not in a position to judge" what the Cabinet decision yesterday "may or may not mean."

The U.S. refusal to comment publicly came in the wake of renewed attacks by Egypt on the settlements. Foreign Minister Mohammed Kaamal described the Israeli Cabinet's decision as a challenge to the U.S. and cited the oft-repeated position by Carter and his chief aides that they regard the settlements as "illegal" and an "obstacle to peace." Meanwhile, there was no immediate comment on a report from Damascus that Syria had refused to meet with Atherton or that Syria's Chief of Staff has gone to Moscow to arrange new arms deals with the Soviet Union.

FUTURE OF YIDDISH PRESS ASSESSED

TEL AVIV, Feb. 27 (JTA)—Yiddish journalists from various countries who are in Israel for the 29th World Zionist Congress, offered a gloomy prognosis for the future of the Yiddish press. Yaacob Tzipel, of Paris, Marc Turkow of Buenos Aires, and others attending a meeting of the World Federation of Jewish Journalists, spoke of lack of funds, the lack of Yiddish linotypists and a prevalent feeling that the Yiddish press is ignored by Israeli institutions, including Israeli embassies abroad.

Israeli journalists attending the meeting yesterday proposed changes in the image of Yiddish newspapers, not only their content but their appearance. The Federation resolved to ask the proper authorities here to consider advertisements in the Yiddish press by such institutions as the Israel Government, Tourist Office and the government-owned El Al Airline.

ZIONIST CONGRESS IN TURMOIL OVER EQUAL RIGHTS FOR REFORM, CONSERVATIVE JEWS IN WZO EDUCATION PROGRAMS

By Gil Sedan and Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The 29th World Zionist Congress confronted its first major crisis today and erupted in pandemonium after the plenum twice voted in favor of a motion calling on the World Zionist Organization to grant equal rights to the Reform and Conservative branches of Judaism in its education programs abroad.

The Orthodox Mizrahi delegates and some of their Herut supporters were violently opposed and for some 10 minutes this afternoon, chaos reigned in the huge conference hall as opposing delegates battled in the aisles and exchanged blows for possession of the microphone on the podium. Mizrahi threatened to quit the WZO.

The motion was presented by Aharon Yadlin of the Labor Zionist delegation, a former Minister of Education and Culture who is currently chairman of the Knesset's education committee. It was in the form of an amendment to a resolution adopted by the Congress' education committee yesterday, with Orthodox and Herut support, which called merely for strengthening Jewish education abroad in order to "get together all the groups in the Jewish people, each with its own system."

The Yadlin amendment was much more specific and aimed at granting equal status to the Reform and Conservative movements which have only recently affiliated with the WZO.

It said: All Jewish educational programs of the WZO should be based upon the principle of equality of the value and status of all streams of Judaism. The WZO will assist and support all the religious and ideological streams in their activities so as to reflect the pluralism which exists in Jewish life in the diaspora. The amendment added that Jewish education should emphasize the humane and moral values of Jewish culture and tradition.

Pandemonium Breaks Out

The amendment did not sit well with the Orthodox. They objected loudly when it was introduced to the plenum this morning. Some Mizrahi and Herut delegates demonstrated in the aisles to demand that the earlier education committee resolution be declared final. When Yadlin's amendment was adopted by a majority show of hands, the turmoil in the hall forced the presidium to adjourn the session until the afternoon.

The Mizrahi demanded a second vote. When the plenary session was reconvened, WZO chairman Leon Dulzin announced that the presidium agreed to a second vote because the delegates did not have the written text of the amendment before them when the first vote was taken. Dulzin was roundly booed by supporters of the amendment. But on the second vote, the amendment was carried by an unmistakably vast majority.

When the presidium announced the official results, some Mizrahi delegates began to leave the hall. Others, however, began to chant and jump in the aisles. A group of Mizrahi youth rushed the podium and tried to occupy the presidium table. Fistcuffs erupted as delegates grabbed for the microphone. When Dulzin finally regained it, he adjourned the session for 30 minutes as he was unable to restore order in the hall.

Opponents of the Yadlin amendment claimed it was introduced as a deliberate provocation intended to divide the Jewish people. Interior Minis-

ter Yosef Burg, of the National Religious Party, said Mizrahi has "nothing else to look for in this Congress." But as of this evening, the Orthodox faction made no move to carry out its threat to leave the WZO and some delegates do not expect them to cut their ties over this issue.

Victory For Reform, Conservative Movements

Supporters of the Yadlin amendment said nothing provocative was intended. Labor MK Uzi Baram told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that if the Zionist movement wants the Reform and Conservative branches in its fold, why should they be denied equal rights and the same status as all other bodies in the WZO?

The outcome of today's vote was a clear victory for the Reform and Conservative movements, the first in fact in their long struggle for equal status with the Orthodox. Many delegates expressed bitterness that the session exploded into violence. Many blamed the Mizrahi youth for being poor losers and undemocratic.

Except for today's outbreak, the Congress has moved fairly smoothly. The major hurdle before it adjourns tomorrow night is a settlement of the dispute between Likud and Labor over the key post of WZO Treasurer. Likud insists on retaining that office, vacated by Dulzin. Labor is equally adamant that it will not join the WZO Executive unless it receives the treasury post.

GOLDSTEIN MAY GO ON TRIAL THIS WEEK

TORONTO, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Grigory Goldstein, a 46-year-old Illinois physicist, may be put on trial this week for parasitism, according to the Canadian Committee for Soviet Jewry. The Canadian Committee learned of this in a phone conversation with Jewish activists in Moscow over the weekend. Goldstein lost his job when he applied for a visa to emigrate to Israel.

The Canadian Committee also learned that Pavel Abramovich, a Moscow Jew seeking to emigrate, is also being threatened by the Pervomaysky district of the militia in Moscow with being put on trial for parasitism. Abramovich has a job but refuses to reveal its location to the militia for fear of being fired. He also works part-time as a tutor of Hebrew. He has been ordered to report to the militia district tomorrow.

The Moscow activists also told the Canadian Committee that Constantine Ivan Zotov, head of the All-Union Ovir, has offered to meet with 12 women seeking emigration visas, four at a time, tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday. The women had met with Zotov and Albert Ivanov, deputy head of the administrative department of the central committee of the Communist Party. Zotov then had asked to meet with three of the women, but they had refused, saying all must meet with him. They are now considering his latest offer, according to the Canadian Committee.

BRUSSELS (JTA)--Yeruham Meshel, secretary general of Histadrut, will pay an official visit to Spain next month as the guest of the Spanish Socialist trade union movement. Meshel, who will be accompanied by Aharon Barnea, Histadrut's European representative, is expected to confer with Socialist leaders and try to further develop relations between the labor movements of Israel and Spain. Histadrut delegates attended the Socialist trade union congress in April, 1976, the first in Spain since the Civil War, and a Spanish delegation attended the Histadrut congress last November in Jerusalem.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**A MAJOR ROW ON THE IMMIGRATION ISSUE**

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Feb. 27 (JTA)--A sizzling row has broken out between leading Jewish politicians following an attempt to involve the Jewish community in the latest arguments about immigration between the Labor government and the opposition Conservative Party.

The row was touched off by Sir Keith Joseph, the foremost Jew in the Conservative Party, who tried to enlist Jewish support for his party's tough new line against colored immigration. Sir Keith, chief policy advisor to Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, the opposition leader, made his appeal to voters at Ilford North, a London constituency where a parliamentary election will be held this week, and where the Jewish vote is decisive.

Sir Keith cautioned British Jews against identifying themselves with present-day immigrants simply because their own families had been immigrants to Britain. He said that whereas the Jews had assimilated successfully by their own efforts, the present immigrants, from different cultures, were far too numerous to do so. The Jews, "who are just like everyone else only more so," should therefore support the Conservatives on immigration, Sir Keith said. "We ignore this at our peril," he warned.

The protests sparked off by Sir Keith's appeal were on two levels--firstly, against the policies he was preaching, and secondly, against his attempt to enlist a distinct Jewish vote.

'The Lowest Of The Low'

Ian Mikardo, MP, an outspoken left-wing Laborite, describing the attempt to involve Jewish electors in the anti-immigrant campaign as "the lowest of the low," declared that "a Jew, appealing to Jews in Sir Keith's terms, degrades the ethical traditions of the Jewish community."

The great majority of the Jewish electors in Ilford North were themselves the sons and daughters and grandchildren of immigrants who fled from Tsarist Russia and settled in the East End, he said. "The racists of those days attacked that Jewish community in the same terms, almost word for word, as today's racists use about the Asian communities," Mikardo said.

The Board of Deputies of British Jews issued the protest against Sir Keith's bid for a distinctly Jewish vote. Greville Janner, MP, the Board's vice-president, stressed that Jewish citizens in Britain belonged to all the main parties, and voted according to their consciences.

Other critics of Sir Keith, accusing him of inconsistency, recalled his own wariness of the Jewish vote at the election shortly after the Yom Kippur War. Sir Keith was then a member of the Conservative Cabinet which stopped vital ammunition from being shipped out to Israel. His public silence on the matter is believed to have cost him Jewish votes in his own constituency in Leeds, despite his attempt to concentrate on purely domestic matters and to attack the Labor Party's Middle East record.

Despite the storm which Sir Keith has provoked, it is doubtful he has alienated the entire Jewish community. Observers here believe that the Conservative Party was deliberately using the Ilford North by-election to test its attempt to win votes over immigration and that Sir Keith's speech was thought out well in advance.

A Survey Of Ilford's Jews

To find out the feelings of Ilford's Jews, the Conservative Party carried out a discreet inquiry there, conducted by Alfred Sherman, a right-wing Jewish journalist who works for a Conservative policy research institute.

Sherman is said to have discovered that Ilford's Jews were indeed, in Sir Keith's words, like the rest of the British public "only more so" in their attitude towards national political issues, including colored immigration.

Sherman's findings are partly confirmed by evidence that Ilford's Jews had awakened very late to the anti-Semitic implications of the anti-immigrant National Front Movement. Although the Board of Deputies has waged a lengthy campaign to expose the Nazi inclinations of the Front's leaders, Jewish Conservatives in Ilford had turned a deaf ear to the Board's campaign.

What woke up the Ilford community at the last minute was the sudden prospect of street battles in their own neighborhood between the National Front and its militant left-wing opponents who were planning to assemble in Ilford for another bloody confrontation. Local communal leaders sought the Board of Deputies' help in opposing the National Front's plan to hold a parade through their district, and Jewish taxi drivers threatened to counter the march with a cavalcade of cabs.

The last-minute decision of London's police chief to ban a march Saturday, together with other marches throughout the capital for the next two months, was partly caused by fear that Ilford Jewry, whatever its feelings about colored immigration, could not stomach the sight of racists marching past its front doors and would go into action.

Ironically, the Front's march was banned under a law passed to prevent repetitions of the anti-Semitic marches Oswald Mosley organized through London's East End in the 1930s. The attempt to make British Jews forget their own fight against racism may not be so easy after all.

UJA WALK-A-THON SET FOR MAY 7

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (JTA)--On Sunday, May 7, as Premier Menachem Begin of Israel climaxes his scheduled state visit to this country by reviewing the annual Salute to Israel Parade in New York, hundreds of thousands of people of all ages will be walking millions of miles through some 200 American cities and towns in a massive expression of solidarity with Israel's people. They will be participating in the second annual United Jewish Appeal Walk-A-Thon--We Walk As One--which was announced here by UJA general chairman Leonard R. Strelitz.

Planning for the Walk-A-Thon includes: registration of walkers who then contact sponsors to pledge a pre-determined price per every mile walked; and formation of public relations, community involvement, sanitation, finance, transportation, medical and other committees. The national office of UJA will lend its support to all community planning efforts, said Steve Schiffman, director of the UJA Office of Special Appeals.

Commenting on the up-coming Walk-A-Thon, Strelitz said: "The single purpose guiding the footsteps of the young and old, parents and children, teachers and students, friends and neighbors through millions of 'people miles' will be to raise as much money as possible to support the humanitarian services critically needed by Jews in every corner of the world."