



WEIZMAN THREATENS TO RESIGN IF WORK RESUMES ON WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 7 (JTA)--Defense Minister Ezer Weizman told Premier Menachem Begin by telephone from New York yesterday that he would return to Israel immediately and resign if his orders halting land development work at two Gush Emunim settlement sites on the West Bank is overturned, it was reported today by Israel Radio and Haaretz.

Weizman is in the U.S. to discuss Israel's weapons needs with Administration officials, beginning in Washington tomorrow and is due to join Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan in their meetings with President Carter next week.

The media did not say what Begin's reply was to Weizman's resignation threat. He reportedly telephoned the Premier after hearing that there were plans to resume development work at Beit Bl and Nabi Saleh, military bases on the West Bank near Ramallah, where Gush Emunim groups have encamped.

Earlier this week, the Defense Ministry barred further house building and land preparation at the sites. It acted, apparently, on the basis of Sunday's Cabinet decision to retain the status quo with respect to settlement activity in Sinai and on the West Bank. The Defense Ministry appears to have interpreted the decision as a freeze on development work in at least some of the West Bank settlements.

The latest developments brought to the forefront the sharp division within the Cabinet on settlement policy. Weizman, supported by dovish ministers, wants to suspend settlements in the occupied territories as long as the peace process continues. Cabinet hawks, led by Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, insist on continuing the settlement program regardless of political developments.

Petition Challenges Begin's Peace Plan

Begin has sought to play down the differences but is believed to side personally with the hard-liners. His settlement policies and entire peace plan were challenged in a petition signed by about 300 reserve officers and soldiers representing elite units of the army and air force.

The petition called on Begin to "choose the road to peace" and strengthen their belief in Israel's sincerity. It warned the Premier against "steps that will be regretted for generations." The signers declared that security can be achieved only through peace and expressed concern that the government will insist on keeping territories rather than improving the prospects for peace with the Arab states.

The petition is the second of its kind to Begin in recent weeks. Last month, the Premier received a letter from a group of Tel Aviv high school students warning that he would be responsible for shedding their blood if they were killed in another war. Begin's response was to denounce the students as an unrepresentative minority and lecture them on their patriotic duty. Within a few days, another letter appeared from high school students supporting the government's

policies.

But the soldiers' petition was phrased in moderate terms. They said they drafted it not as a political group but out of concern for Israel's image. They assured the Premier that they would follow any orders in case of war but asked him to remember that as citizens of the State their rights are no less than those of the Greater Israel supporters and the Gush Emunim.

ATHERTON WINDS UP PRESENT STAGE OF HIS SHUTTLE; INDICATES SOME PROGRESS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 7 (JTA)--Assistant Secretary of State Alfred L. Atherton met today with Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to report on his latest talks in Cairo with President Anwar Sadat and other Egyptian officials. There was no official word of what transpired at the meeting. The present stage of Atherton's shuttle diplomacy has apparently ended and he is expected to return to Washington to participate in preparations for Begin's meetings with President Carter at the White House next week.

Atherton arrived here from Cairo last night. He made no statement to reporters at Ben Gurion Airport. But at a press conference before leaving the Egyptian capital he indicated some progress in "narrowing the gaps" between Israel and Egypt on territorial withdrawals but not on Palestinian self-determination. Those issues are the major obstacles to a joint declaration of principles by Israel and Egypt that could open the way to a resumption of direct peace negotiations between the two countries.

Atherton told reporters in Cairo that his efforts had "succeeded in narrowing some of the differences with respect to the declaration of principles for a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East." He said "I have been very successful so far in not characterizing the status of the negotiations on the declaration of principles and I will simply stay with what I have said--we have succeeded in narrowing the differences in some respect."

Other American officials told reporters earlier that "the Palestinian concepts are about where they were. It cannot be said there has been any significant closing of the gap on this. On withdrawal, it is still not totally resolved, but that could be put in the category where there has been some narrowing of the gaps." Atherton said in Cairo that he would return to the Middle East after Begin's visit to Washington "to continue the process."

Begin, meanwhile, met with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis yesterday to reassure him that Israel accepted Security Council Resolution 242 and still regarded it as a basis for negotiations. The meeting was requested by Lewis, who is believed to be trying to ease the strain between Israel and the U.S. over the Begin government's interpretation that the territorial withdrawal clauses of 242 do not apply to the West Bank.

Although Begin reportedly said that Israel reserved the right to its own interpretation of the resolution, he apparently agreed not to raise the issue at his meeting with President Carter.

EGYPT AND SUDAN LAND ARRANGEMENTS

WASHINGTON, March 7 (JTA)--Egypt and

have had bi-national arrangements over large areas of land with each other's sovereign territories for the past 83 years that Israel is now asking Egypt to grant in Sinai, a Congressional hearing disclosed yesterday.

In a fresh development regarding Israeli security and Egyptian sovereignty, a map was introduced by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D. NY) that shows what he said is "precisely the same arrangement" Israel is seeking for the Rafah salient that adjoins the Gaza Strip.

The Library of Congress, Solarz said, is completing a study at his request on the Egyptian-Sudanese agreements that have been functioning smoothly since 1895. The study will be made public within a few days.

Solarz unrolled this geographic development at a hearing by the House International Relations subcommittee on the Middle East at which the State Department presented a security supporting assistance program of \$750 million for Egypt for the coming fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. The fund is the same as Egypt is receiving this year except that two-thirds of the amount will be gift.

This year, the fund is two-thirds in loans. Besides this program, the U.S. will again supply Egypt with about \$200 million in agricultural commodities under the Food for Peace program.

The Nature Of The Arrangement

The map Solarz presented for Congressional scrutiny is along the twenty-second degree parallel that separates Egypt and Sudan. The Sudanese government exercises authority over the large triangular area within Egypt in which Sudanese people live. The area is washed by the Red-Sea and runs about 400 kilometers along the Egyptian-Sudanese border.

On the same basis, Egypt controls a smaller area that is within Sudan and extends about 50 kilometers along their common border. In both cases, these areas are far larger than the Rafah salient which is only six-tenths of one percent of Sinai.

Israel has conceded Egyptian sovereignty over Sinai but wants Israeli-civilian police to control the Rafah area and three airfields in Sinai. Israel has been severely criticized as "intransigent" for seeking what is now revealed as exemplified for eight decades by Egypt itself with a neighboring country.

"If Egypt is able to live with this program for more than 80 years," Solarz said, "it can live with it in the Rafah area with Israel for the next eight years. If it's good enough for the Sudan, it's good enough for Israel."

"This analogous situation," Solarz told Nicholas A. Veliotis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs, is "an instructive precedent" for "a measure of agreement in the Sinai and an Israeli presence in the Sinai."

Veliotis responded that he was not aware of these two Sudanese-Egyptian agreements and commented he was "not sure they are analogous," but added, "We would be happy in whatever Egypt and Israel agree." (By Joseph Polakoff)

PROSTITUTES TO GET BENEFITS

JERUSALEM, March 7 (JTA)--The National Insurance Institute of Israel has a new job category in its list of occupations--prostitution. From now on, the women who ply the trade will be entitled to all benefits and privileges provided by the Institute.

As self-employed persons, they will have to

pay the premiums fully out of their own earnings. However, in return, they are assured of pregnancy payments, and compensation in the event they are invalidated or injured in on-the-job accidents. The prostitutes applied for coverage after one of them investigated the benefits offered and brought along five of her friends to sign up. A spokesman for the Institute said there are now 160,000 more Israelis covered by national insurance than there are tax-payers.

EEOC TO HOLD HEARINGS

NEW YORK, March 7 (JTA)--The federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the agency which administers provisions of the 1964 Civil Rights Act barring bias in employment, will hold fact-finding hearings to gather information on employers' accommodation to religious observance needs in employment, according to an announcement in the March 3 Federal Register.

The hearings, which will begin here on April 6, are designed to gather information on the range of alternatives being used in the business and labor communities to deal with the conflict between employees' religious needs and work schedules, according to Sidney Kwestel, president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA). Additional hearings are tentatively scheduled to be held next month in Los Angeles and Milwaukee.

The Civil Rights Act provides that employers are required to make "reasonable accommodation" to the religious needs of their employees unless "undue hardship" would result.

Kwestel said the hearings will be the first broad-range exploration by a government agency of the problems faced by the Sabbath observer in employment and the means used to resolve them. He applauded the EEOC and its chairman, Commissioner Eleanor Holmes Norton, for acting to bring the job problems of religious minorities to a higher public awareness.

Kwestel said it had been COLPA's experience in hundreds of situations that accommodation to religious needs by employers is easily accomplished and should not be seen as presenting substantial problems for employers. He said he hoped the hearings would develop information demonstrating there are many ways to provide such accommodations.

Dennis Rapps, COLPA executive director, said the EEOC had been in contact with COLPA for information and assistance in connection with the hearings and that COLPA was providing full cooperation.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--The State Department would not comment Tuesday on a report in the authoritative publication, Aviation Week, that Taiwan is considering buying two squadrons of Israeli-built Kfir fighter aircraft. A spokesman said no comment would be forthcoming unless Israel made an official request to sell them. The U.S. vetoed an Israeli contract with Ecuador on the transfer of Kfir planes last year.

LONDON (JTA)--The first official visit by an Israeli Minister to the Irish Republic will take place on Thursday when Yosef Burg, Israel's Interior Minister, holds talks in Dublin with Premier Jack Lynch, Foreign Minister Michael O'Kennedy and other political leaders. The two countries established diplomatic relations two years ago.

BACKGROUND REPORT THE OUTLOOK IN FRANCE

By Edwin Eytan

(First part of a two-part series)

PARIS, March 7 (JTA)--France, once Israel's best friend and ally, has since become her main opponent in the Western world. The split started with Gen. Charles de Gaulle's advent to power. First, there were small misunderstandings which were followed by open frictions, mutual suspicions and severe crises. Even after de Gaulle's resignation in 1968, relations failed to improve.

It was under his successor, President Georges Pompidou, that France embargoed the 50 Mirages that Israel had bought and paid for. Both under Pompidou and under President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, France supported Arab demands for Israeli withdrawal from "the" occupied territories and for the creation of a Palestinian state. France has sold arms to all the Arab states who wanted to buy them, and Arab leaders from Egypt's President Anwar Sadat to Libya's Muammar Qaddafi have come to consider France as their "friend and ally."

It was a French Foreign Minister, Jean Sauvagnargues, who was the first Western statesman to meet Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat and publicly shake his hand. It was another French Foreign Minister, Michel Jobert, who legitimized the Arab attack against Israel during the Yom Kippur War.

Because of its central position within the European Economic Community (EEC), France has even managed to influence its eight EEC partners to adopt similar positions and turn Western Europe from a reliable pro-Israeli base to a neutral one, at best, and an openly hostile one, at worst.

Basic Questions Considered

The situation has slightly improved during the last two years. A Franco-Israeli dialogue has been instituted: French Ministers no longer speak about a Palestinian state and the government has abstained from launching diplomatic campaigns dealing with the Middle East. This improvement has, however, been more a matter of form than of essence as France and Israel basically advocate opposite policies in the Mideast.

The forthcoming French elections March 12 and 19 might change the regime for the first time since the Gaullists took over 20 years ago. Many in France hope that this country's approach to the Mideast and Israel will also change should the current opposition take the reins of government. Basic questions to be considered are: can France's policy change and what role will the country's Jews play in that process?

* Is there a Jewish umbrella organization in France and how influential is it?

There is nothing comparable to such Jewish groups as, say, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in the U.S. or the Board of Deputies of British Jews. The Representative Council of Jews in France (CRIF), an organization which wants to resemble the Presidents Conference, has been trying to fill this role.

Unfortunately, the organizations which adhere to it are themselves small and unimportant. These organizations not only have few members, but they have never managed to attract the country's influential Jews--the successful executives, academicians or politicians.

Problem Of Leadership

France, contrary to America, is not a country

of immigration, nor, like Britain, a country of easy assimilation. The successful Jews usually come from old French Jewish families and try to assimilate into French society. Most of the adherents to the Jewish organizations are either East European Jews who arrived in France before or shortly after World War II or even more recent arrivals from North Africa.

The CRIF has not managed to develop close links with French political leaders or political parties. Because of its structure and lack of any strong personality at its head, the few actions it has taken are timid and appear half-hearted.

CRIF President Baron Alain de Rothschild announced last week that the Jewish community will be influenced by the personal record of the various candidates on Israeli or Jewish issues and will not back any one single party or list of candidates.

It sent out a questionnaire but most candidates referred it to their party headquarters, thus returning stereotyped answers. The only organization with some political influence is the Alliance France-Israel. The Alliance is close to Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac but by influencing his policies on the subject, it has indirectly forced, to varying degrees, his competitors to do the same.

Role Of The Arab Lobby

* Is there an Arab lobby?

There are two main pro-Arab lobbies. One consists of the oil companies and the big corporations which do business with the Arab states and which have close links mainly with the center-right coalition now in power. The other, consists of leftist elements, generally pro-Palestinian, and is closely connected with the left-wing of the Socialist Party.

They have to take into account, however, the basically anti-Arab feelings of the French population. The anti-Arab French racism is still strong. It started with France's colonies in North Africa, erupted into the open during the Algerian war and is being fanned on now by the presence in France of some two million North African workers and dependents.

They often openly clash with the local French population and many French workers feel that in this period of unemployment, the North Africans are taking away their jobs. This strong anti-Arab feeling, which runs throughout the French population, helps to disarm the pro-Arab lobbies in the country.

The Political Spectrum

* Are the political parties trying to woo the Jewish electorate?

This is a double problem: on the national and on the local level. On the national level, no party, with the exception of the small Left-Wing Radicals, has tried to win over the Jewish vote by openly making a play for it. The major parties feel that the Jewish electorate is too small, about one percent of the population, to make a real impact on the election results.

The major parties' strategists also believe that by making an open appeal to the Jewish voters they would antagonize other, more numerous sectors of the population. Most parties are also split within themselves on their policy on Israel and the Middle East.

On the local level, the matter is different especially in the areas where Jews are concentrated. This affects, however, only about a dozen electoral areas at the most--certain quarters of Paris and Marseilles. In these constituencies the

candidates, often Jews, openly woo the Jewish electorate, make pledges about their friendship and "admiration" for Israel, attend mass rallies for Soviet and Syrian Jewries and even arrange for pro-Israeli films followed by electoral speeches. (Part two: tomorrow)

WEIZMAN FORESEES EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS AFTER BEGIN'S VISIT TO THE U.S.

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 7 (JTA)--Israel's Defense Minister, Ezer Weizman, said last night that following the recent exchange of letters between Premier Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and after Begin concludes his visit to Washington next week "another attempt, and I hope a fruitful one, not only to resume negotiations, but to conclude them positively, will be undertaken."

Addressing more than 250 Israeli officials and emissaries to the United States, at Congregation Bnai Zion here, Weizman indicated at one point that a separate peace agreement between Israel and Egypt might be possible. He added, however, that "the problem is Jordan." He did not elaborate. He described himself as an optimist and said that the next few weeks will determine the course of events in the Mideast.

Weizman arrived here Sunday night for a 10-day visit and talks with top Administration officials. He is in Washington today where he is scheduled to hold talks beginning tomorrow with Secretary of Defense Harold Brown on Israel's military needs. He said he will also confer with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and "maybe" with President Carter.

Israel Facing New Situation

Weizman said that Israel is now facing a situation entirely different than it has known in the last 30 years. "The question is: do we do our most to seize the opportunity?" he asked, adding: "I believe we ought to take very important and basic decisions, to make an effort while being alert to the dangers."

Answering a question on the sensitive issue of Israeli settlements in Sinai, Weizman said, briefly: "The issue of settlements is a little confusing... After Begin's visit (to Washington) we will have to make a few decisions that will clarify the situation."

Weizman thanked the United States for all the assistance it has been giving Israel, especially since the Yom Kippur War. "In the last four years we have received a tremendous amount of assistance and military aid from the U.S.," he said. He estimated American aid to Israel in the last four years to be about \$5 billion.

However, he expressed dissatisfaction with the proposed sale of fighter planes to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. He said that Israel was promised American military aid as part of the second disengagement agreement with Egypt and it is incomprehensible why the Administration now proposed a "package deal" to sell fighter planes to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

DULZIN: MOSCOW IS A WORLD CENTER FOR DISSEMINATING ANTI-SEMITIC MATERIAL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 7 (JTA)--The Presidium of the Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, meeting here, decided today to launch a world-wide campaign against anti-Semitic propaganda. Leon

Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization, speaking at the closing session, claimed that Moscow has become an international center for the dissemination of anti-Semitic materials in various languages to many parts of the world, specifically the Arab countries. He said Soviet television has joined the process of late, concentrating its attack on aliyah activists in the USSR.

According to Dulzin, it is "Soviet policy to make Jews repugnant to the Russian citizen." He likened the attacks to Nazi propaganda in the thirties. He said that only 1819 Soviet Jews were allowed to emigrate last month, although, he claimed, about five times that number requested visas or renewed their applications.

Dr. Raphael Nudelman, a Soviet immigrant, told the Presidium that a series of anti-Semitic articles appeared recently in Ogoniok, a popular magazine in the USSR. One article alleged that the Eichmann trial was staged to conceal collaboration with the Nazis by such Jewish leaders as Chaim Weizmann, David Ben Gurion, Moshe Sharett and Levi Eshkol. A pamphlet written by Soviet Jews describing their plight will be published in several languages shortly, the Presidium was told.

The Presidium was established as an on-going body by the first Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry in 1971. The second was held in 1976. The Presidium consists of representatives of the WZO, World Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith and national Soviet Jewry councils in the U.S. and Europe.

TOP WOMAN REFUSNIK RECEIVES VISA

NEW YORK, March 7 (JTA)--After seven years, Dina Beilina, considered the USSR's leading woman Jewish-refusnik, has received an exit visa to Israel along with her husband Joseph and daughter Ruth, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews and Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported today. The groups said that the 39-year-old chemical engineer "is a genuine heroine of the Jewish emigration movement," and she and her husband have been arrested innumerable times for their Jewish activities. Soviet authorities have given the Beilinas two weeks in which to leave.

ISRAEL EMIOT DEAD AT 69

ROCHESTER, N.Y., March 7 (JTA)--Israel Emiot, a well-known poet and coordinator of Yiddish cultural events at the Jewish Center of Rochester, died last night at the age of 69. Four books of his poetry were published in Poland, where he was born, and numerous poems and short stories which he wrote appeared in magazines, newspapers and the Yiddish press in Poland. These were later compiled into six volumes. In the United States he was a contributor to the Jewish Daily Forward, other Yiddish newspapers and magazines. Emiot was the recipient of many awards. These included the Kessel Prize in Mexico, the World Congress for Jewish Culture Award, and an award from the Jewish Book Council of America.

BRUSSELS (JTA)--Some 50 pro-Palestinian demonstrators tried Monday night to disrupt a seminar organized by the Belgian Jewish Students Union at Brussels University. The demonstrators, who wore steel helmets and carried truncheons and chains, were beaten back by the audience. The seminar was able to continue after a brief interruption. Two of the attackers were arrested by police and several of the Jewish students who attended the meeting were injured.