



FOUNDATIONS FOR OPTIMISM OVER THE RESUMPTION OF PEACE TALKS WITH EGYPT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 27 (JTA)—Sources close to Premier Menachem Begin indicated today that despite his rift with President Carter there are grounds for optimism over the resumption of peace negotiations with Egypt. The sources suggested that President Anwar Sadat, having achieved through his peace initiative a "more neutral" stance by the United States, is now in a position to continue talks with Israel and advise the other Arab states to capitalize on the new situation and open their own negotiations with Israel.

Speculation was rife this morning that Defense Minister Ezer Weizman will go to Cairo very soon to renew his talks with Egyptian War Minister Mohammed Gamasy and other top officials. Weizman told newsmen that such a journey was not "imminent" and he "honestly does not know" when he would go to Cairo.

Nevertheless, informed sources believe that the Defense Minister will go there shortly on the pretext of delivering Begin's reply to the latest letter from Sadat, received just before he left for Washington last week. Weizman himself said in a press interview Friday that contacts with Egypt had been allowed to lapse and that the government must try harder to renew them.

Encouraged By Sadat's Moderate Reaction

There were broad hints after yesterday's Cabinet meeting that the government intends to do that. Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor spoke of "new initiatives" to be launched shortly. Officials here are encouraged by Sadat's relatively moderate reaction to Israel's incursion into south Lebanon and the decision by the Egyptian parliament Saturday that the peace process should continue.

Non-governmental observers, however, tend to be skeptical. They believe that Sadat, now at the peak of his popularity in American Administration and Congressional circles, will prefer to let Israel stew in "its crisis with Washington" and allow Carter to "do his work for him." Weizman is said to be aware of Sadat's options and intends to play upon the Egyptian leader's genuine desire to move toward a peace agreement with Israel. He is expected to try to induce Sadat to resume direct talks with Israel even if they are confined initially to the military level.

JAVITS URGES ISRAEL TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITIONS ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 27 (JTA)—Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-NY), insisting that there is no "crisis" between the United States and Israel, nevertheless urged Israel today to reconsider its positions on controversial issues where it does not see eye-to-eye with the U.S.

Javits, who arrived here last night, spoke to newsmen after a meeting with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. He is scheduled to meet Premier Menachem Begin and other ministers as well as Labor Party leaders Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Rabin and Yigal Allon, before he leaves tomorrow.

The Senator suggested that Israel should ponder whether there are real points of difference between itself and the U.S. or whether the differences stem from a misunderstanding. He said that for his part he would do whatever he could to clear up any misunderstandings.

Javits assured Israelis that they still have many friends in the Senate and enjoy a great deal of sympathy in the U.S. He said it was still possible to find 76 Senators prepared to sign a letter in support of Israel, as was the case during the Ford Administration's "reassessment" of Middle East policy in 1975.

With respect to Begin's difficult meetings with President Carter last week, Javits said: "I believe a sharp difference of opinion has developed, perhaps not even justified, between the President and the Premier. It may develop between friends, it can even develop between husbands and wives; that doesn't mean that they divorce."

GUSH GROUP ASKED TO EVACUATE SHILOH

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 27 (JTA)—The Gush Emunim campers at Shiloh on the West Bank were asked yesterday to evacuate the site by Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori. Although they have made no preparations to leave, the usually militant group offered no protest but asked the government to provide an alternative settlement site. The government will apparently consider their request at some later date.

Zipori said the Gush were asked to move because there obviously will be no archaeological excavations made at Shiloh, the original justification for the presence of would-be settlers at the site in the heart of Samaria. Prof. Zeev Yeivin, an archaeologist who was supposed to supervise the work, said last night that he had neither the budget nor the required permit from the authorities to undertake any digs at Shiloh.

The government's contention that the Gush group, which includes families with small children, was an archaeological party was widely disbelieved in Israel and abroad and became a source of embarrassment in relations with the United States. It appeared that the Gush will obey the Defense Ministry's order so as not to further aggravate Premier Menachem Begin's strained relations with the U.S.

BEIRUT'S TRADITIONAL JEWISH QUARTER TAKEN OVER BY SOUTH LEBANON REFUGEES

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 27 (JTA)—About a dozen Jewish families are left in Beirut's traditional Jewish quarter, Wadi Abu Jamil, now taken over by thousands of refugees from south Lebanon. The synagogue, which survived intact the bitter fighting of the 1975-76 civil war, has been taken over by the refugees and turned into a squatters' home. The Alliance Israelite School, Ecole Tarrab, has become a first aid and refugee information center for many of the reported 160,000 refugees now in Beirut.

French reporters in the Lebanese capital reported that the remaining Jews are of modest condition and barely manage to survive under current difficult circumstances. Contrary to what happened during the civil war, when the PLO reportedly brought food to the area, the Palestinian organizations seem

to take no interest whatever in what happens to the Jews of Wadi Abu Jamil.

The entire city has been taken over by the consecutive waves of refugees who have streamed into the north. The synagogue, which stood half abandoned; was one of the first buildings to be taken over by hundreds of squatters who now sleep and cook in the central worship hall.

The Lebanese forces, a French correspondent told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, have neither the means nor the time to deal with such "minor issues." The correspondent added that as far as he managed to ascertain, there have been no anti-Jewish demonstrations or any quarrels between the local Jews and the arriving refugees.

According to one French correspondent, the remaining Jewish families and the Palestinian refugees who have settled in the area seem to be getting along in a peaceful and neighborly way. Most of Lebanon's Jews fled the country at the time of the 1975-76 civil war, settling mainly in France. The French authorities continue to grant resident permits to those Lebanese Jews who now plan to join them.

DINITZ: U.S. PRESSURE IS NOT CONDUCTIVE TO MIDEAST PEACE TALKS

MIAMI, March 27 (JTA)--Simcha Dinitz, Israel's Ambassador to Washington, said that no Middle East peace negotiations will take place "as long as Arab leaders are led to believe the United States can produce concessions for them from Israel." In an address to the American Jewish Congress national biennial convention at the Doral Country Club, Dinitz criticized Egypt for breaking off the peace talks Jan. 18 after a day and a half of negotiations.

"It is a sad commentary on the situation that the President of the United States has spent more time seeking a solution to the Middle East conflict than the President of Egypt," he said. "Sixty years of Arab-Jewish conflict since the Balfour Declaration deserve more than 36 hours of negotiations from President (Anwar) Sadat," Dinitz told 500 convention delegates from throughout the country.

He said news reports of Premier Menachem Begin's visit to Washington had "tended to create an inaccurate impression about Israeli positions on a number of key points. For the sake of truth and fairness," he said, "these positions should be stated with clarity and frankness. Israel has taken grave risks for peace in offering a comprehensive peace plan..."

Dinitz said that "Israel has not gone back on her acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242. Indeed, Prime Minister Begin made clear during his visit in Washington that Israel accepts all the principles of 242 as a basis for negotiations with the Arab states concerned."

"This is all that Israel is required to accept--and this is precisely what Israel has accepted. Israel is not required by Resolution 242 to make any prior commitments in advance of the negotiations. Israel has agreed to negotiate in good faith any proposal offered within the framework of Resolution 242. We are still waiting for such a proposal."

U.S. Must Stay Out Of Israel's Politics

Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D. Md.) warned against any American involvement in the Israeli political scene. "The United States must do or say nothing to interfere in the domestic affairs of Israel," he said. "The decisions about Israel's

political leadership can be made only through the free and legitimate governmental processes of Israel, not by any outside power."

On efforts of American friends of Israel to influence U.S. policy in the Mideast, Sarbanes declared "the most fundamental thing to realize is that those American Jews and non-Jews who are concerned for Israel's security constitute not an Israeli lobby but an American lobby. As a member of this group I owe no apology for and have no regrets about asserting those powerful ties of friendship, mutual commitment to democratic values and mutual concern for peace that underly American-Israeli relations."

A resolution adopted at the end of the four-day convention, which ended yesterday, charged that the Carter Administration was "seeking to become an arbitrator rather than a mediator." It assailed any U.S. effort to "impose its own Middle East solution" instead of bringing the parties together to work out their own agreement and stated that the Administration had "apparently failed to grasp the flexibility and degree of compromise inherent in the new Israeli positions."

The resolution also criticized Carter's proposal to sell war planes to Saudi Arabia and Egypt and to link the sale of such "lethal and offensive weapons" with the previously committed sale of U.S. planes to Israel.

SAYS CARTER MADE 'FUTILE ATTEMPT' TO PRESSURE ISRAEL DURING BEGIN MEETING

NEW YORK, March 27 (JTA)--Ehud Avriel, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry of Israel, said that he considered the meetings in Washington between Premier Menachem Begin and President Carter to have been "a futile attempt" by Carter "to tell Israel what its best interests are and to tell Israel what it should do in pursuit of those interests."

Addressing the Zionist Organization of America's National Executive Committee (NEC), Avriel also commented on "American media speculation that Begin's days as Premier are numbered."

"There is absolutely no chance of a change in the majority with which Begin is running the affairs of the State of Israel," he said. "It is also quite apparent that the campaign against Begin is having the opposite effect and is strengthening public support for him in Israel."

Avriel noted that it is a politically naive illusion to think that Begin's position is unique to him. "There is no man who could be Prime Minister of Israel who could make peace on (Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat's terms," he said. "The important thing is that Israel is not willing to yield for something that might look good on paper but which might well be equal to the destruction of Israel."

Rabbi Joseph P. Sternstein, ZOA president, also told the NEC, which over the weekend met in New York, that there was now an "open rift" between Israel and the United States and that the U.S. was clearly supporting Arab demands with regard to the territories. "The truth is," Sternstein said, "that the United States is obstructing a separate peace between Israel and Egypt. It is not justice the Administration seeks but the profit of Arab petrodollars." He expressed confidence that the American people would not support the policy of appeasement of the Arabs.

The NEC unanimously passed a resolution promising full support for Begin and committing the ZOA to a nationwide educational campaign on the issues of the Middle East. Iyan Novick, execu-

tive committee chairman, termed the U.S. move in the United Nations Security Council last week-end calling for Israel's immediate withdrawal from south Lebanon "an act of appeasement of the Arab states and of the Soviet Union, the godfathers of the PLO terrorists."

CONSERVATIVE RABBINICAL LEADER RAPS CURBS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN ISRAEL

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., March 27 (JTA)--The lack of "religious freedom in Israel" with its refusal to recognize the Conservative and Reform movements was assailed by Rabbi Stanley S. Rabinowitz in his presidential address to the 600 delegates attending the 78th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly at the opening session yesterday of its five-day meeting at the Concord Hotel.

In a strong attack on the concept that "Orthodoxy" is synonymous with religion and with Halacha, Rabinowitz, who is the spiritual leader of the Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, called on the 1000-member Conservative rabbinical association to adopt a resolution challenging the idea that Judaism in Israel "is to be supervised and administered only by the Orthodox rabbinate." "The 'presumptuous assumption that Orthodoxy is the only legitimate form of Judaism,'" Rabinowitz further stated "is the sin of Orthodoxy," and it must be challenged.

Rabinowitz retailed that through the cooperation with the Reform movement and with the general support of other voting blocs at the recent World Zionist Congress, "two far-reaching resolutions requiring equality of treatment for each of the religious approaches to Judaism" were adopted at the Congress.

Though he said he finds expressions of criticism of Israel against his grain, Rabinowitz declared: "It is because we are unconditionally committed to the security and well being of the State of Israel that we have a duty to address the insecurities of non-Orthodox Judaism in Israel. Orthodox people should be just as disturbed as we are about religious coercion in Israel, or lack of religious freedom in Israel: Indeed, some few are, but painfully few."

The Orthodox, he added, "are quite consistent in rejecting us, and so are we in reaching our hand out to them. In refusing to make adjustments to the contemporary challenge, they run the risk of becoming the new Karaites. We shall continue in our way, and they shall continue in theirs, and let Eliyahu resolve."

Resolution Criticizes Administration

In an unprecedented action, the Rabbinical Assembly at its opening banquet adopted a resolution criticizing the Carter Administration for "unfairly painting Israel as being intransigent and unwilling to accept the risks for peace." The resolution "urged the Administration to focus its energies on bringing other Arab states to the peace table and pressing them to take a reasonable attitude of compromise. We sincerely hope the U.S. will seek for Israel the open and fair negotiating process that it would demand for itself."

TAY-SACHS CONCERNED ABOUT CUTBACK BY MARCH OF DIMES

PHILADELPHIA, March 27 (JTA)--Tay-Sachs is an inherited, degenerative disease which attacks primarily Jewish babies and results in their death by the age of five. There is no cure, but the disease is preventable through careful genetic

counseling. Carrier screening and amniocentesis for prenatal diagnosis of birth defects are now common procedures. Considerable national concern was expressed recently when the March of Dimes announced it is cutting funds for genetic service programs, which include screening, prenatal evaluation and counseling.

According to a story in the March 24 edition of the Jewish Exponent by staff writer Jane Biberman, Dr. Laird Jackson, head of the Tay-Sachs Prevention Program, headquartered at Philadelphia's Thomas Jefferson University, said his operation will not be affected by the cutback. Jackson, according to the Exponent, explained his program is funded solely by the Delaware Valley chapters of the National Tay-Sachs and Allied Disease Association, and never relied on March of Dimes support. However, he is concerned about funding for other genetic counseling and diagnostic services in other communities.

"I suspect that the March of Dimes decision was influenced in part by opponents of abortion, the pro-life organizations which have been so vocal. To threaten a woman's right to have a healthy child is terribly inconsiderate of human rights. Since amniocentesis is equated with abortion, a public outcry from those who support such services will be helpful."

Dr. Eugene Grebner, director of laboratories of the Tay-Sachs Prevention Program, believes the March of Dimes decision may have more far-reaching effects. "If the pro-life groups are responsible for the March of Dimes withdrawal of support, and I believe they are, then their influence shouldn't be underestimated. Abortion lies at the heart of our program, and if these pro-life groups can prevent abortion they can also kill the program. Even if money is forthcoming from the National Genetic Diseases Act (P.L. 94-278) Congressmen can be pressured."

Urging the public to make its wishes known, Grebner added: "The pro-lifers are outnumbered, but they are very vocal. The majority should speak up. I get very angry when they profess to have better moral standards than I do. It angers me personally to think they could succeed in eliminating abortion. They have no idea what it is like to have a dying Tay-Sachs child foisted upon them."

Denies Terminating Support

Larry Wasser, executive director of the Philadelphia Chapter of the March of Dimes, denies that the organization is terminating support of genetic programs or submitting to pressure by anti-abortion forces. He explained that it is March of Dimes policy to provide "seed" money for new programs, as it did in 1970 when it funded genetic services programs.

"Grants are diminished once a program becomes viable, and funds are used for new programs," Wasser said. "Now we are putting money into neonatal morbidity research and prenatal clinics for high-risk pregnancies. We are still supporting genetic programs. The lessening of emphasis on genetic services in no way indicates changes in focus of genetic research activities."

PARIS (JTA)--Nazi hunter Beate Klarsfeld said Sunday night that she suspected that extreme right-wingers were responsible for the fire bomb thrown at the home of her sister-in-law here earlier in the day. There were no casualties and only minor damage. Klarsfeld is the wife of Serge Klarsfeld, a lawyer, who is Jewish.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES TO MOBILIZE JEWISH COMMUNITIES FOR MIDEAST PEACE

NEW YORK, March 27 (JTA)--In an effort to mobilize the American Jewish community for effective support of Israel's cause during the next few critical weeks as search for Middle East peace continues, four major regional conferences will be held concurrently on Thursday, April 13, in Atlanta, Philadelphia, Chicago and San Francisco.

Sponsored by the Israel Task Force of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC), each of the conferences will draw in Jewish communal leaders from the surrounding area, together with Israeli officials and experts from national Jewish community relations agencies.

Rabbi Israel Miller, Israel Task Force chairman, in announcing the projected conferences, commented that "grave and difficult challenges immediately confront the American Jewish community" in the early aftermath of Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's visit to Washington last week and in view of the Administration's apparent determination to press its proposals to sell advanced U.S. aircraft to Saudi Arabia and Egypt while cutting back on airplanes for Israel. "We must consult together, arm ourselves with facts and concert our efforts to keep the momentum toward a true, just and durable peace going," he added.

Theodore R. Mann, chairman of NJCRAC, stressed that the planned regional conferences will not be open meetings, but nonpublic working sessions, attendance limited to individuals specifically invited by the NJCRAC and its national and local member agencies. "The aim," said Mann, "is a hard-headed assessment of the situation, a serious disciplined consultation on strategies and tactics, and a mobilization for effective action."

TASHKENT REFUSNIK GIVEN EIGHT YEARS; SAKHAROV THREATENED FOR LEADING A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE PLO

NEW YORK, March 27 (JTA)--Dr. Yakov Kandinov of Tashkent has been sentenced to eight years of harsh labor for alleged "bribery," the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) and Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ) reported they had just learned. The trial took place last month. Kandinov, a dentist, was arrested last November, eight days before his scheduled departure for Israel.

According to the two groups, Kandinov, following official Soviet regulations, had brought two antique vases to the local Ministry of Culture for permission to take them with him and to obtain their evaluation for exit taxes. Several days later, while waiting for a reply, he was seized by the authorities.

The following day the KGB broke into his home without a search warrant and destroyed many of his possessions. His remaining property was confiscated after his trial and his wife, Polina, and their three children remain in the Soviet Union, destitute. Kandinov's relatives in Israel assert that the "bribery" charge is false, the SSSJ and UCSJ reported.

Meanwhile, Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Andrei Sakharov has been threatened with punishment "under the full stricture of Soviet law" in retaliation for leading a march in Moscow March 12 in which Jewish activists demonstrated against the Kremlin's encouragement of the Palestine Liberation Organization which led to the terrorist carnage in Israel March 11 in which 32 civilians were slaughtered. According to the SSSJ and UCSJ, the warning was made by Deputy Procurator V. V.

Nesterov who told Sakharov that his actions "bordering on hooliganism have provoked citizens to seriously violate the public order."

ICAO AGREES TO COOPERATE WITH UN SECRETARIATE'S PALESTINE COMMITTEE

MONTREAL, March 27 (JTA)--The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has agreed "within the limits of its constitutional responsibilities" to cooperate with the United Nations Secretariat's Palestinian Committee which the General Assembly set up last year to promote the "inalienable rights" of the Palestinian people.

The decision was taken by a consensus vote of the 30-member ICAO executive council after four days of heated debate in which the United States, Canada, France, and West Germany objected to the inclusion of a political question that had nothing to do with the ICAO's technical role. The Asian and African delegates insisted that every UN resolution applies to all UN agencies and therefore the ICAO had to act on it. After the General Assembly set up the Palestinian Committee, UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim sent out a request to all UN agencies asking for their cooperation with it.

Zvi Caspi, Israel's Consul General in Montreal, who was permitted to address the ICAO meeting, charged that "by giving tacit or indirect encouragement, recognition or affirmation to organs such as the Committee on Palestinian rights, ICAO will contribute further to the introduction of extraneous political issues into UN specialized agencies unrelated to its workings. The aim of those to whom the proposal before us may give indirect encouragement is a monologue of terror and destruction."

Caspi declared that it was "inconceivable that ICAO will offer cooperation to a committee and unit which are political instruments of the PLO terrorist organization." He was interrupted several times by Arab delegates.

PIETRO BLAYER DEAD AT 76

ROME, March 27 (JTA)--Dr. Pietro Blayer, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, died Friday at the age of 76. He took a leading part in restoring Jewish communities in Italy at the end of World War II and had been president of the Union since June 1976.

Blayer was a bank employee in Fiume, northeast Italy, when fascist dictator Benito Mussolini introduced racist laws in 1938. He was forced to give up his post and took a job in the paper industry until forced to go into hiding. He took over the job as president of the Union when his predecessor, Sergio Piperno-Beer, died.

Until his death, Blayer had been involved, as were the leaders of other religious communities, in talks with the Italian government on the position of various religions in Italy. At the moment, the Catholic religion has certain privileges in the country which are likely to be revised in negotiations between Rome and the Vatican.

NEW YORK (JTA)--The trial against Soviet Jewish activist Pavel Abramovich has been postponed until April 29, according to information received by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Charged by Soviet authorities with "parasitism," the Moscow activist was fired from his job as an engineer when he applied to emigrate to Israel in 1971. For the last six years he has attempted to register with Soviet authorities as a Hebrew teacher.