

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AFFIRMS ISRAEL'S WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE ON THE BASIS OF RESOLUTION 242

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 28 (JTA)--Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin said last night that Israel's proposed draft of an Israeli-Egyptian declaration of principles affirmed Israel's willingness to negotiate with all neighboring states on the basis of Security Council Resolution 242. Yadin read the five-point draft to members of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) Knesset faction. He said it was the draft Premier Menachem Begin presented to President Carter in Washington last week but Carter rejected it.

According to Yadin, Carter's criticism of Israel's position on Resolution 242 was groundless. He claimed that the Begin government has made more concessions than any previous government. One of the major differences between Carter and Begin was the latter's contention that 242 did not apply to the West Bank with respect to territorial withdrawals by Israel.

But Yadin claimed that the real issue holding up Israeli-Egyptian talks was not 242 but the fate of Israeli settlements in Sinai and the question of a referendum among Arabs on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip to determine their future.

Five Points Of Israeli Draft

The five points of the Israeli draft, according to Yadin, are:

- * The governments of Israel and Egypt are determined to continue the efforts to achieve an overall settlement in the region.

- * The two governments express their desire to negotiate peace treaties as part of such a settlement, according to Security Council Resolution 338, and by fulfilling all the principles of Security Council Resolution 242.

- * Israel will withdraw its military forces from territories occupied in 1967 on the basis of the principles of 242. On the basis of the same resolution, there will be secure and recognized boundaries which will allow each country to live in peace, free of threats or military operations.

- * There will be a just solution for the problem of the Palestinian Arabs. Palestinian Arabs in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza region will be entitled to participate in the determination of their future by the means of negotiations to take place between Egypt, Israel, Jordan and representatives of those Palestinian Arabs.

- * There will be an end to all claims to a state of belligerency, as well as recognition of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all the countries in the region, and the establishment of normal peace relations by the means of peace contracts."

WEIZMAN MAY GO TO EGYPT THIS WEEK TO TRY TO RENEW STALLED PEACE TALKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 28 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin hinted today that Defense Minister Ezer Weizman may go to Cairo this week to try to renew the stalled Israeli-Egyptian peace talks. Begin, briefing the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and

Security Committee, replied "maybe" when asked about speculation that the Defense Minister would undertake the mission, Israel Radio reported.

Begin also appeared to confirm a news report that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan would return to Washington to continue negotiations with Administration officials after President Carter returns from his tour of Africa and South America. Informed sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that some progress seemed possible in the final meetings between Dayan and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in Washington last week despite Vance's pessimistic public comments.

According to the sources, Israel and the U.S. are moving slightly closer on the difficult Palestinian clause in a joint Israeli-Egyptian declaration of principles. The feeling here is, therefore, that further discussions would be helpful.

EYE WITNESS REPORT

A NEW ERA IN SOUTH LEBANON

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEBNIN, South Lebanon, March 28 (JTA)--Sixteen days after Palestinian terrorists carried out their murderous assault on Israel's coastal highway, I drove up the same road and crossed the border into Lebanon, almost to the banks of the Litani River. It was a pleasant drive. I watched men, women and children going about their daily routine with no fear on their faces. A new era has come to south Lebanon with Israeli control of the region. But the peace and quiet may not last long.

The signs of war are visible all along the road. The villages where the terrorists found shelter were badly damaged by Israeli bombing. But the residents are returning and the army and Israeli technicians are helping them rebuild their homes. Army convoys have brought in carpenters, plumbers and electricians and all are lending a hand to make the bombed out homes habitable again.

I saw this yesterday in Bet-Yahoun, just north of the former terrorist stronghold in Bint Jebel village. There was a stone house with its doors and windows blown out by a shell-burst. Within minutes Israeli workmen had a new door and new windows in place. The Moslem family that occupied the house was grateful. The Israelis had smashed their home but later repaired it.

Tebnin village, where this is written, did not suffer damage. The elders decided it was better to get rid of the terrorists and invite the Israeli army in for protection. Tebnin is a district township. It boasts a small hospital but none of the medical staff remained, except for one nurse. The hospital is now manned by Israeli army doctors. One of their first patients was a pregnant Lebanese woman. They delivered her baby, a daughter, who she christened Israella.

Some of the villagers, children or elderly people, are too ill for this hospital's limited facilities. They are taken by helicopter ambulance to better equipped hospitals in Israel.

Truckloads Of Flour From Israel

A few miles along the road, in the tiny village of Zidkin which has a population of 800, there were long queues to be seen. Truckloads of flour just arrived from Israel and were being distributed to the villagers. Meanwhile, women washed clothes and

goats drank from the common pool, a typical scene in the Levant.

My journey ended at a promontory overlooking Tyre, an ancient seaport built on a tongue of sand that curves to form a bay. It is a hotbed of terrorists. But Israeli forces refrained from capturing it in order to avoid harm to the civilian population.

I did not see much of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) during my trip. From time to time, a water carrier with a large blue UN flag painted on the tank, passed us along the road. The UN has set up its command post at Ras el Naqura where the Israeli and Lebanese borders meet on the Mediterranean coast. The UN officers are tight-lipped. They are not fully organized and are far from able to control any areas or undertake missions. It will take time, they say.

But the population of northern Israel would like to see an end to the shelling by terrorists deployed north of the Litani. The Israeli general commanding the northern sector says the shelling is the terrorists' last gasp. But to those under fire -- Israelis and Lebanese Christians -- it is a prolonged finale. Neither wants the Israeli army to pull out of south Lebanon.

RESERVE OFFICERS GATHERING SUPPORT FOR OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT POLICY By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 28 (JTA)--A group of reserve officers opposed to Premier Menachem Begin's territorial policies said today that they have gathered some 10,000 signatures on a petition supporting their demands that the government adopt a policy that puts peace ahead of the "greater Israel notion."

The officers of the army, navy and air force, many of whom won decorations in battle, said at a press conference here that they hoped to create a popular movement which will force the government to change its course which, they believe, is leading away from peace.

According to spokesmen for the group, pledges of support have been received from members of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC), the second largest party in Begin's governing coalition and even from within Likud's Liberal Party wing. They said their petition includes the signatures of 950 reserve officers and that similar petitions are being circulated by artists and academicians.

The reservists expressed their views to Begin in a letter earlier this month urging him to be more forthcoming in efforts to achieve peace. They received a curt reply from the Premier advising them to leave the peacemaking process to the "government which was legally elected." The March 11 terrorist assault and Israel's subsequent operation in south Lebanon put a temporary halt to the group's activities but it is now being revived, they said. They said Begin had promised to meet with them but so far he has not received any representatives of the group.

Want To Prevent Future Mistakes

"If Begin cannot change his list of priorities let him resign," said Omiti Padan, a reserve officer and economics student. Another officer, Amir Bar Or, said, "We believe it is possible for a group of citizens to influence the government's policy."

He noted that protest movements formed by soldiers after the Yom Kippur War played a part in forcing the resignations of Premier Golda Meir and then Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. "There is, however, one difference," Padan observed. "The

protest movement then protested against mistakes of the past. We act in order to prevent mistakes in the future." Yuval Neria, a war hero, declared: "It is the moment of truth for every citizen in Israel. The government's present policy is leading us toward a dark future." They plan to hold a mass rally Saturday night under the slogan "Peace is better than greater Israel."

The officers believe their movement will have greater impact than others of a similar nature because, as combat veterans, their concern for security and loyalty to the State cannot be questioned. They said that despite their opposition to the present government's policies they would not hesitate to go into battle again if called.

Meanwhile, some 150 students of Bar Ilan and Tel Aviv Universities demonstrated yesterday near the American Embassy in Tel Aviv to protest against U.S. pressure on Israel and to express support of Begin's policies. A delegation representing the demonstrators was permitted to enter the Embassy where it delivered a letter of protest to U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis.

SCHINDLER RAPS 'MILITANT' JEWISH GROUP

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA)--The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations today denounced a plan by what it termed a "militant" Jewish group to harass Egyptian diplomats in New York. The group, calling itself the Jewish Committee for Concern, said it planned to harass the Egyptians in order to disrupt American-Egyptian relations.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, chairman of the Presidents Conference, said that the group's plan to harass the Egyptians "will serve no useful purpose. It certainly will not advance the cause of peace." All responsible members of the American Jewish community will surely join me in condemning such activities. Wreckers of the peace are not welcome, whether they wear sheets or Stars of David, whatever be their basic plan of operations."

U.S. SAYS IT HAS NO QUARREL WITH ARAB INTERPRETATION OF RES. 242

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 28 (JTA)--The Carter Administration appears to be accepting the Arab contention that Israel must withdraw from all areas occupied in the Six-Day War and is reaffirming publicly that Israel is responsible for making the first move towards the renewal of peace negotiations.

The apparent hardening of the Administration's position toward Israel in the wake of differences between President Carter and Premier Menachem Begin of Israel last week is evident at the State Department where there seems to be an unwillingness to enumerate differences the U.S. might have with Arab governments over the interpretation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, in sharp contrast to the readiness it has shown to enumerate differences with Israel.

The State Department attitude was indicated yesterday when spokesman John Tattner said "We expect Israel to consider over the next few weeks the exploratory ideas we--President Carter--had put forward to him" (Begin). He added that the Administration is now "in a period of quiet diplomacy" with "ideas being explored with all the parties."

The issue of Resolution 242 arose after a reporter asked Tattner why he does not compare the U.S. position on the resolution with the Arab viewpoint as Washington has done with the Israeli position.

"We don't have a quarrel with the Arab interpretation of 242," Trattner said. "The focus for the moment is on the Israeli point of view compared with ours." Asked if he accepted Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's position as "final and right," the spokesman said "we have never said it was final and right" and "the final word has not been heard from anyone."

The Carter Administration has not been referring in recent months to the concept articulated in 1969 by then Secretary of State William Rogers, or by Carter himself, that Israel's frontiers should be fixed at the 1967 lines except for "insubstantial changes" or "minor adjustments."

In a related development, Trattner said the U.S. has taken up with Israel Saudi Arabia's complaint that Israeli planes have been reported in "practice raids" and "mock runs" against the Saudi airbase at Tabuk which is within 10 minutes flying time of Eilat. Trattner, who noted that the complaints first began in 1976, would not say that the alleged Israeli flights were violating Saudi airspace or whether the U.S. has "independent" knowledge of the alleged flights. It is believed that the airbase will serve as the station for the F-15 warplanes the U.S. has proposed to sell to Saudi Arabia.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

DMC FACES STORMY FUTURE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 28 (JTA)--The national council of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) will meet next Sunday and it promises to be the stormiest session in the history of the young political faction formed only 18 months ago. The DMC is torn by internal dissension over support for the policies of Premier Menachem Begin's coalition government of which it is a member.

There is a wide gap between the rank-and-file and the top leaders of the party who now sit in the Cabinet. It has failed to live up to its promises to bring about social change. It has exerted little influence on government policies. And the credibility of its leader, the well known archaeologist Prof. Yigael Yadin, is at lowest ebb.

The latest strains in the DMC's fabric were demonstrated Sunday when its northern district council, meeting in Haifa, called on the party to reaffirm its platform and urge Begin and Likud as a whole to reconsider their positions on the West Bank, one of the major causes of Israel's present rift with the U.S. The meeting was held only a few hours after the Cabinet, which includes four DMC ministers, unanimously approved Begin's policies and his presentation of them to President Carter.

The resolution was interpreted as a strong expression of doubt in the wisdom of Yadin, who is also Deputy Premier, and his three DMC fellow ministers. The northern council members intend to present a similar motion to the full council next Sunday. But even they are divided. The resolution adopted last Sunday was a compromise between members who want the DMC to quit the coalition government immediately and those who support Begin's policies.

Symptomatic Of Widespread Discontent

The differences aired at the Haifa meeting were symptomatic of the widespread discontent among the 200,000 voters who gave the DMC 15 Knesset seats in its political debut last May 17. The DMC emerged from the elections as Israel's third largest party, after Likud and the Labor Alignment. But it has not exerted influence commensurate with that position.

During the debate on whether or not to join Begin's coalition last fall, the chief argument in favor of entering the government was that the DMC would be a moderating factor, countering the hard line of Begin's Herut Party. This has yet to materialize.

Begin's peace plan bears his name and contains no signs of any input from the DMC ministers. At Sunday's Cabinet meeting, one DMC member, Transport Minister Meir Amit, suggested that Israel should, perhaps review its policies. But Yadin wholeheartedly supported the case presented by Begin in the U.S. last week and Amit was apparently swept along in the unanimous approval of the Premier's actions.

Yadin can probably claim a record for the speed with which he has lost popularity among the electorate. When he announced his intention to run for political office he was widely regarded as a potential leader who could save the country from the turmoil, drift and corruption of the Labor-led government. But it has been downhill for him since. His current status was illustrated on a Purim radio program when an interviewee was asked to tell the shortest joke in the world. To the applause of the audience, he replied: "Yadin."

BEGIN ANSWERS SADAT'S LETTER

JERUSALEM, March 28 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin disclosed to the Knesset's Foreign Relations and Security Committee today that he has sent a letter to President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, replying to the letter he received from Sadat before he left for Washington March 20. He did not disclose the contents of his letter.

Political circles here believe Begin once again urged renewal of the direct talks between Israel and Egypt and possibly inquired about the feasibility of Defense Minister Ezer Weizman going to Cairo to renew the process. Begin said the letter was conveyed to Sadat through U.S. diplomatic channels. Some sources expect the Premier to refer to the letter when he addresses the Knesset tomorrow.

UNIFIL SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON

TEL AVIV, March 28 (JTA)--Swedish troops of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) occupied the Khardala Bridge, the easternmost span of the Litani River in south Lebanon today. Israeli sappers, clearing the road for them last night, were ambushed by terrorists but destroyed the ambush in a fierce exchange of fire. Col. Jonas Lindgren, commander of the Swedish unit, ordered a roadblock erected on the bridge. "We shall give no unauthorized person an entry to the south of Lebanon. If anyone tries to push through we shall open fire," he said.

Earlier, a French UNIFIL battalion was frustrated in attempts to occupy the Kasmiyeh Bridge over the western section of the Litani leading to the terrorist-held port of Tyre. Terrorists fired Katyusha rockets at the advancing French soldiers who did not return the fire. The commander of the unit said further attempts to take over the bridge would be made today or tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman warned the terrorists yesterday that the Israeli army would take action if they did not end their shelling of Israeli settlements in Upper Galilee within 48 hours. Weizman spoke in the township of Metullah where local residents complained that terrorist bombardment forced them to spend most of their time in bomb shelters. The terrorist artillery and rockets are deployed around Nabatiyeh north of the Litani River.

TV HOLOCAUST FILM UNDER ATTACK

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA)--"Holocaust," a 9 1/2 hour television dramatization to be aired by NBC in four parts beginning April 16, has come under fire from two groups for widely different reasons.

A group calling itself the Christian Defense League (CDL) has labeled the original drama, written by Gerald Green, "Zionist propaganda" aimed at instilling "a guilt complex in American gentiles for the so-called 'poor persecuted Jews.'" In addition, several Midwest stations affiliated with NBC have demanded that certain scenes be deleted. The affiliates, which previewed the film, objected to one scene showing Jewish women being forced to disrobe before being led to the gas chambers and another in which elderly women are led to their death. NBC has agreed to delete these scenes.

The CDL issued a statement demanding that NBC drop the entire production. It said, "Over 300,000 gentiles died fighting for Jewish rights. The Americans sided with the Jews during World War II and certainly couldn't be considered enemies of the Jewish people. Yet American gentiles are subjected to a constant barrage of movies from Hollywood which have as their main aim propaganda to instill a guilt complex in American gentiles...."

Explains Basis For Segment

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of the inter-religious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee, who served as a consultant to NBC in the production of "Holocaust," told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the affiliates objected to a five-second segment of the disrobing scene which shows frontal nudity with pubic hair visible. They felt this went far beyond the boundaries of good taste acceptable to television networks and their affiliates.

Tanenbaum said that, at a meeting of the network and affiliate officials, he explained that in the context of the Nazi intention to degrade and debase Jews by violating their traditional concept of modesty, the scene was authentic. However, he said, given the fact that many viewers would not be aware of this, he thought the NBC decision to omit the five seconds was appropriate. He expressed hope that the controversy over the disrobing scene, which has been reported by several newspaper columnists, would not be allowed to detract from the overall impact of "Holocaust."

Regarding the CDL, Tanenbaum told the JTA that the group is headed by James K. Warner of Baton Rouge, La., who, the rabbi said, has a long record of anti-Semitic and racist activity and is an associate of David Duke of the Ku Klux Klan.

Demands Film Be Shown In Its Entirety

Shifra Hoffman, a member of the board of directors of the Jewish Identity Center, responded to both attacks on the film in a statement demanding that "the forthcoming NBC production 'Holocaust' be carried by all affiliate stations in its entirety."

Hoffman pointed out in her statement that although Hitler's persecution of the Jews began in 1933, the U.S. did not declare war against Germany until 1941. "The thousands of soldiers who died, fought to protect the United States of America and all of its citizens from becoming victims of Hitler's aggression and included in their ranks many Jews who paid the supreme sacrifice for this country and served with distinction just as Jewish

soldiers have done since the days of Haym Solomon and the Revolutionary War."

Hoffman said that American Nazis and others "seeking to preach genocide against Jews and other minorities" under the guise of free speech "undoubtedly... derive much aid and comfort when a television program whose purpose is to educate this generation against the vile atrocities is deleted and petitioned to be dropped by those who allegedly speak in the name of gentiles."

HOLOCAUST ARTIFACTS SOUGHT

LOS ANGELES, March 28 (JTA)--The documentation committee of the Martyr's Memorial Committee is looking for Holocaust artifacts to display at the Martyr's Memorial under construction at the Jewish Community Building. According to the documentation committee chairman, Dr. Sherman Zaks, all items such as uniforms, pictures, official papers, Nazi symbols and weapons will be used to "further document the horrors perpetrated on the Jews of Europe during the Holocaust."

"We already have a sizeable number of items," Zaks said. "However, we would like to display a wide variety of artifacts." He said the impact on those who have already seen the collection is "tremendous. I see no better way to graphically demonstrate the reality of the era than to see and touch the SS insignias, medallions and weapons. This is why we are anxious to get as many as possible."

Persons wishing to donate or loan material for display at the Martyr's Memorial are urged to contact the Jewish Federation Council director of training and education, Dr. Ben Cohen, at 6505 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, Ca. 90048.

2 CONVICTED FOR MURDER OF JEWISH YOUTH

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA)--A man convicted of the murder of the 17-year-old son of a Brooklyn Hasidic rabbi was sentenced yesterday to 25 years to life for second degree murder. The man, Johnny Pena, was also given a concurrent sentence of 8 1/2 to 25 years for first degree manslaughter.

Pena was found guilty by a jury earlier this month of being one of three Hispanics who stabbed Abraham Goldman on a street corner in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn. Pedro Nieves, who had pleaded guilty to second degree murder, was sentenced to 15 years to life last week on the same charge. The third person involved is a juvenile.

Mrs. Rose Schrage, head of the Concerned Parents of Crown Heights, said that some 700 persons from her area were in the courtroom to hear the sentence. She said her group had brought out large crowds at every stage of the trial. Mrs. Schrage said only by showing community concern could the "apathy" over crime be ended. She noted that Goodman was killed after he was asked for a nickel and said he did not have it.

NEW YORK (JTA)--In letters sent to top city officials and members of the City Council, the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC) is urging immediate action on an anti-Arab boycott bill first introduced more than six months ago. The intent of the proposed measure, according to Jack Elkin, chairman of the JCRC's committee on Arab boycott, is to bar the city agencies from doing business with companies that participate in the Arab boycott and would supplement recently enacted federal legislation. Hearings on an initial draft were held last August in the Council's Committee on Economic Development.