

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency/165 West 46th Street/New York, New York 10036

Vol. XLV - 61st Year

Thursday, April 20, 1978

No. 78

ISRAEL TO PULL BACK ITS FORCES IN SOUTH LEBANON TO SECURITY BELT AREA

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 19 (JTA)--Israel will carry out a new, major pullback of its forces in south Lebanon within the next two weeks, it was announced today. The withdrawal, a gesture to United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim who ended a two-day visit here tonight, will bring Israeli troops to the original limits of the security belt which was the stated objective when they invaded Lebanon on March 15.

The security belt has an average depth of 10 kilometers (about six miles) running the full length of the Israel-Lebanon border. The retirement of Israeli forces to that area will mean the evacuation of the region surrounding the terrorist-held port of Tyre and the Rashidiyeh refugee camp.

Waldheim appeared pleased with the results of his visit to Israel when he took off tonight after a last minute conversation with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan at Ben Gurion Airport. He had achieved his stated objective of hastening Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon.

Last night, Waldheim attended a dinner given by Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir at the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel. He told reporters this morning that he had received a number of proposals from Israeli leaders which he would discuss on his return to UN headquarters in New York. He declined to say what the proposals were. He confirmed that he would ask the Security Council for authority to enlarge the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) from the authorized 4000 men to 5500-6000 men to make sure it is capable of discharging its assignments.

ATHERTON MAY BY-PASS ISRAEL DURING HIS MIDEAST VISIT; REPORT DAYAN MAY BE INVITED TO COME TO THE U.S. NEXT WEEK

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, April 19 (JTA)--Ambassador-at-Large Alfred L. Atherton left for London last night en route to Cairo for talks with Egyptian leaders. State Department spokesman Tom Reston said today that Atherton's plans are "up in the air" and that he may not go to Israel when he completes his talks in Egypt but return to Washington.

Reston's remarks appeared to bear out an Israel Radio report today that Atherton may by-pass Israel and fly back to Washington if Secretary of State Cyrus Vance returns there sooner than expected. Vance is in Moscow today.

According to Israel Radio, Vance may invite Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to the U.S. next week shortly before Premier Menachem Begin's visit there during the first week of May. The radio report was not confirmed by official sources in Jerusalem but it appeared that if Dayan does go to Washington next week there would be no need for Atherton to go to Israel on his present trip.

Plans Are Not Yet Jelled

Reston told reporters at the State Department that "Ambassador Atherton's plans are up in the air. It is unclear what his trip plans will be

after he gets through in Cairo. There have been reports in the Israeli press that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will be coming to Washington. I am not in a position to confirm that for you," Reston said, adding that "Mr. Atherton's plans would be contingent upon Foreign Minister Dayan's plans for coming here to Washington." Reston said he could not confirm a date or whether Dayan is, indeed, coming here but if he is "Atherton probably would not go to Israel."

Reston stressed that "it has been some time since we have had face-to-face discussions with the Egyptians." He said "the President and his advisors have had detailed discussions with Prime Minister Begin several weeks ago during Prime Minister Begin's visit here.... We have not had consultations with the Egyptian government since early March when Ambassador Atherton left Cairo. From the report which Ambassador Atherton will bring back from Cairo, the Secretary (of State Vance) expects to get further refinement in plans on how to proceed next in the peace-making process."

Reston explained that Atherton is stopping over in London to "consult with Harold Saunders, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, who is now in London and also (to) have an opportunity to have discussions with British officials about our continuing efforts to bring about Middle East peace."

Atherton has been designated by President Carter as Ambassador-at-Large on special assignment to the Middle East and Saunders was nominated by Carter to succeed Atherton as Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs. Neither has yet been confirmed by the Senate which has been occupied for the past month with the Panama Canal treaties that were finally ratified yesterday.

Reston said that if Dayan comes to Washington he did not know if he would be accompanying Begin or whether there are any plans for Vance to meet with Dayan. Begin is due in the U.S. to participate in American Jewish community celebrations of Israel's 30th anniversary. Reston said earlier this week that there were no plans for any Administration officials to meet with Begin.

KNESSET ELECTS NAVON AS ISRAEL'S FIFTH PRESIDENT

By Gil Sedar

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA)--The Knesset today elected veteran Laborite Yitzhak Navon as Israel's fifth President, thus giving Israel its first Sephardi President. He will succeed Ephraim Katzir, whose four-year term expires next month. Katzir declined to stand for re-election for personal reasons.

Navon was the only candidate for the prestigious but largely ceremonial office. Himself a long-time member of the Knesset and chairman of its powerful Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, he received the votes of 86 of the 109 MKs present at today's Knesset session. Twenty blank ballots were cast, presumably in protest by disgruntled members of Likud's Liberal Party wing and a few others who had favored Liberal Party leader Elimelech Rimalt. Rimalt withdrew his candidacy last month.

Nevertheless, Navon, 57, a one-time school teacher and former political secretary to the late Premier David Ben-Gurion, was elected by the larg-

est majority ever given a Presidential candidate. He will resign from the Labor Alignment's Knesset faction before he takes office in the middle of May. He will be replaced by Avraham Katz, a member of Kibbutz Nahal Oz.

Although the outcome of the elections was a foregone conclusion, Navon waited at his brother's home for the results. He heard them from Labor Alignment chairman Shimon Peres who came to the house with a delegation of Labor MKs. "We have something to tell you," said the smiling Peres.

Long-Time Involvement

Navon was born in Jerusalem in 1921 and studied Hebrew literature, pedagogy and Moslem culture at the Hebrew University. He taught in elementary and secondary schools and, during Israel's War for Independence, served as director of the Arabic department of Hagana. He joined Israel's foreign service after the war and was sent to South America in 1949 where he served as Second Secretary of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina. Later he became political secretary to Israel's first Foreign Minister, Moshe Sharett, and in 1952 joined Ben Gurion's staff and served as his political secretary and advisor until 1963.

He served as director of the Education Ministry's culture division until his election to the Knesset in 1965. He was by then active in the newly formed Rafi faction which consisted of Ben Gurion loyalists who broke away from Mapai. He became that faction's leading "dove," a political stance far removed from the majority of his Rafi colleagues.

Navon sought the Presidency five years ago but was rejected by the Labor Party leadership in favor of Katzir, a non-political scientist with a world-wide reputation in the field of bio-chemistry. When Katzir announced that he would not seek a second term, Navon announced his candidacy again.

But with Likud in power, a Laborite appeared to have little chance. The picture changed when Premier Menachem Begin personally selected an obscure nuclear scientist, Dr. Yitzhak Shaveh, to succeed Katzir. This aroused the ire of the Liberal Party which favored Rimalt and, to avoid a political battle within Likud, Shaveh stepped down. When it became apparent that Rimalt could not be certain of a Knesset majority, he also withdrew, leaving the field open for Navon.

Israel's President-elect is married and is the father of two children, aged 3 and 5. Navon, who is a member of the old Jerusalem Sephardi community, depicted that community in his popular Hebrew play "A Spanish Garden." He is a member of the advisory board in Israel of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation.

8 JEWISH LEADERS CONFER WITH BEGIN ON WAYS TO IMPROVE ISRAEL'S IMAGE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA)--Eight top level American Jewish leaders met with Premier Menachem Begin for one hour yesterday to discuss measures to improve Israel's image in the United States. Because the meeting was relatively brief, they are scheduled to hold another, presumably longer session with the Premier tomorrow.

The group, which arrived Sunday for a five-day visit, rejected news reports that they had come to criticize Begin's policies and urge him to soften his positions in the interests of peace. They also denied that they expressed views contrary to those of other American Jewish leaders. They in-

sisted that Jewish ranks were united in support of Israel despite the existing difficulties.

Begin reportedly agreed that Israel's image has deteriorated in American public opinion. His visitors were said to have expressed their support for his policies and offered suggestions for an improved Israeli information campaign overseas. Begin acknowledged that improvements were necessary.

Members of the group included Howard Squidron, president of the American Jewish Congress; Naomi Levine, executive director of the AJCongress; Richard Maass, president of the American Jewish Committee; Bertram M. Gold, AJCommittee executive vice-president; Burton Joseph, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; Benjamin Epstein, ADL director; Theodore Mann, chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council; and Albert Chernin, executive director of the NJCRAC.

Members of the group told reporters that the decline of Israel's image in the U.S. was due partly to the growing influence of Arab petrodollars. One of them reportedly alleged that the Carter Administration may have inspired recent anti-Israel moves in the U.S.

ISRAEL ISSUES GUIDELINES TO CLARIFY GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON RES. 242

By Gil Sedan and Dalia Shehori

JERUSALEM, April 19 (JTA)--The Foreign Ministry has issued a series of "guidelines" to Israeli diplomatic missions abroad intended to clarify the government's position on Security Council Resolution 242 in light of the Cabinet's statement Sunday. Observers studying the guidelines, however, saw built-in contradictions.

Remarks by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan before senior Ministry officials Monday did not resolve them and only raised speculation as to whether or not Dayan was advocating some softening of Israel's position in order to improve relations with the U.S.

Guideline 1 states that "Israel does not accept formulas which imply Israeli withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria (West Bank) or minor border alterations. Israel suggests instead, its plan for administrative autonomy of the administered Arab territories." But Guideline 3 says: "Israel emphasizes its consent that Resolution 242 will serve as a basis for negotiations between Israel and all neighboring Arab states: Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon."

Essence Of Guideline

The essence of that guideline is that Israel specifically includes Jordan as a partner in the implementation of Resolution 242 whereas, until now, the Likud government, and Premier Menachem Begin in particular, challenged Jordan's rights on the West Bank.

Thus, according to observers, Israel's guidelines interpret the first clause of Resolution 242 calling for withdrawal from Arab territories in a narrow sense--withdrawal of armed forces but not an end to the Israeli presence in the territories. Dayan himself insisted that the resolution spoke only of "armed forces" and did not necessarily call for the end of the Israeli presence.

The contradiction resides in Israel's insistence (Guideline 4) that its autonomy plan is consonant with Resolution 242. That plan calls for continued Israeli presence in the territories including a military presence that "may be stationed in positions necessary to guarantee the security of Israel."

Begin's insistence that Resolution 242 does not

apply to withdrawals from any part of the West Bank has brought Israel into sharp conflict with the U.S. Dayan told the Foreign Ministry officials that it was necessary to seek a greater degree of coordination with the U.S. than has been the case heretofore.

Some circles interpreted this as an implication that Dayan thought a greater degree of flexibility on Israel's part was necessary to achieve better coordination. But Dayan did not say so specifically. It is not known whether he believes the new guidelines demonstrate the necessary flexibility or if he thinks Israel should move further toward-easing its positions.

Additional Elements Highlighted

Israel states in its guidelines that it will not accept any additions or supplements to the original text or framework of its suggestions for a joint declaration of principles with Egypt (Guideline 2). Guideline 5 says: "If the Arab states raise counter-proposals, Israel will be prepared to discuss them in a constructive approach, as it expects the Arab states to consider its own proposals."

Guideline 6 states that Resolution 242 "implies negotiations between Israel and the neighboring states that will lead to an agreement over secure and recognized borders. An attempt to base negotiations with Palestinian Arabs on 242 would legitimize a Palestinian state."

An explanatory supplement says that Israel differs with Egypt mainly on two points: Egypt's demand for a prior commitment to withdrawal and a solution of the Palestinian Arab problems. Dayan told his Ministry officials that the intention of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is to create a rift between Israel and the U.S. and it was Israel's duty to prevent him from succeeding. According to Dayan, Egypt and the U.S. presently constitute a common front against Israel. He said Israel proposed including Resolution 242, fully or simply by reference, in the proposed joint declaration of principles. He said Egypt rejected the proposal.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

ISRAEL DENIES RUMORS IT WOULD PREFER PLANE PACKAGE SALE TO NONE AT ALL

WASHINGTON, April 19 (JTA)—Israel emphatically denied today rumors that it would prefer the Carter Administration's proposed aircraft sales package to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia to no sales at all and reiterated that it expects the U.S. to live up to its "prior commitment" to supply it with the aircraft "essential" to its defense. A statement by Ambassador Simcha Dinitz, released to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today, said:

"In response to widely circulated reports as if the government of Israel would prefer all three proposed airplane sales to go through rather than none, I wish to state that this does not correctly represent the Israeli position. The Israeli position concerning the proposed sale of aircraft by the U.S. to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia is as follows:

"1) Israel expects that the F-15 and F-16 aircraft will be made available to her in accordance to a prior U.S. commitment. Israel considers these aircraft as essential to her defense requirements. 2) Israel strongly opposes linking arms sales to Israel with those to any other country in the Middle East. The U.S. has not conditioned in the past such arms sales to Israel. Moreover, Israel deems it a matter of principle that her military needs be considered and decided on their own merits. 3) Israel views the proposed sale of

aircraft to Egypt and Saudi Arabia as a potential threat. Israel trusts that her security concern in this respect will be shared by the U.S. government."

An Embassy spokesman said Dinitz made his statement in response to questions by correspondents.

ARABS CHARGE BELOW THE BELT BLASPHEMY By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, April 19 (JTA)—Marks and Spencer, the Jewish-owned British department store chain, is in danger of becoming the target of a new Moslem holy war following the discovery that a pattern on some of its ladies' panties was not just a piece of abstract art but the Arabic words "there is no God but Allah...."

The offending garments were withdrawn from display last month, but it was too late to halt the growing wave of indignation. This week, Kuwait called on all Arab and Moslem embassies here to "counter this outrageous desecration of the Moslem faith." Arabs would be asked to stop visiting Britain as a holiday center, the Kuwaiti religious authorities announced.

A Kuwaiti newspaper columnist accused Marks and Spencer of having "degraded the most respectable phrase in Islam" by sticking it on an undergarment. The Egyptian Gazette in Cairo recalled Marks and Spencer's Zionist affiliations, and attacked the firm in an editorial entitled "Scraping the Bottom" and referring, among other things, to Hitler, punk rock and the Ku Klux Klan.

Marks and Spencer pleaded in vain that they knew nothing about the offending phrase on the garments which were designed for them in Paris. Now, however, they suspect they may have been deliberately "set up" as a target for Moslem fury.

Ironically, the panties were on sale for months before the holy text was deciphered. It was brought to their attention not by one of their thousands of Arab customers but by a British scholar of Arabic. Ironically, too, Marks and Spencer's trade mark, which appears on all their intimate apparel, is "Saint Michael," but this has never caused offense to the millions of devout Christians who wear their garments.

The theory that the campaign against Marks and Spencer is being deliberately fomented for political reasons is not far-fetched. The company has long been anathema in the Arab world because of its support for Israel. Four years ago, its president, J. Edward Sieff, was shot and severely wounded by a terrorist belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. This year, it was in a Marks and Spencer store that the first Jaffa orange contaminated with mercury was found in Britain.

TEL AVIV (JTA)—The newest oil well probed by Israeli drillers in the waters of the Gulf of Suez off Sinai, Alma-4, has struck a rich strata and experts expect it to yield 15,000 barrels a day, the combined total of two earlier wells in the area, Alma-2 and Alma-3. Commercial production is expected to start within two weeks and another well, Alma-5, will be sunk one kilometer north of Alma-4. Meanwhile, Israeli energy circles were reported watching Jordanian oil explorations on the eastern shores of the Dead Sea. If oil is found there, Israeli operations may be started on the opposite shore. Meanwhile, new attempts will be made to find natural gas in the western Negev where some sources have already been tapped.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW**PLANS TO REINVIGORATE KEREN HAYESOD**

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, April 19 (JTA)--Plans to reinvigorate the Keren Hayesod, umbrella body of all Israeli fund-raising appeals outside the United States, were outlined here by Dr. Avraham Avi-Hai, its new chairman-designate.

A leading Israeli political scientist, and former senior official in the Prime Minister's Office, Avi-Hai says he would like to replace the Keren Hayesod's present directorate, consisting of Israelis, by a world board of trustees, representing the communities in which the Keren Hayesod operates. The board will lay down policy and, among other things, foster cooperation among fund-raisers in different countries.

Avi-Hai would also like to concentrate on what he calls "leadership development" so that the Keren Hayesod will become more dynamic and aggressive than in the past. From fund-raising operations in 70 countries outside the United States, the Keren Hayesod is expected to raise \$110 million in the year ending in June, he said.

5-Year \$1.2 Billion Campaign

The Keren Hayesod, in addition, will take part in the five-year campaign to raise \$1.2 billion for the rehabilitation of 45,000 poor families in 160 Israeli neighborhoods, Avi-Hai said.

Half this total is to be paid by the Israeli taxpayer and the other half by world Jewry. Of the \$600 million to be raised in the diaspora, it is hoped that America's United Jewish Appeal will raise \$400 million, and the Keren Hayesod the remainder. Avi-Hai stressed that this five-year project is separate from the normal ongoing appeals of both the UJA and the Keren Hayesod.

Avi-Hai, who immigrated to Israel from Canada in 1952, has been nominated to the full-time chairmanship of the Keren Hayesod in succession to the late Ezra Shapiro. His present academic post, which he will eventually relinquish, is as dean of the school for overseas students of the Hebrew University. He is also a member of the political sciences department at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv. He is best known for his acclaimed biography of Israel's first Premier, entitled "Ben Gurion, State-BUILDER."

Avi-Hai said that he dissociated himself from the current vogue of denigrating David Ben Gurion's policies common among certain Israeli academics. Without Ben Gurion, Israel would not have gained its independence, would not have had mass immigration and would not have developed an effective defense force, Avi-Hai said. The ultimate vindication of Ben Gurion's emphasis on a strong Israel was Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Israel in search of peace, Avi-Hai said.

U.S. WELCOMES TIMERMAN'S RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 19 (JTA)--The State Department has welcomed the release from prison of Jewish editor and publisher, Jacobo Timerman, and return home. Department spokesman Tom Reston, in expressing this view yesterday, added that "we hope that whatever matters remain pending in Mr. Timerman's case will be handled expeditiously."

Timerman's release, more than a year after he was arrested, was also hailed by David M. Blumberg, president of B'nai B'rith. While describing it as "an encouraging sign," he pointed out that Timerman remains under house arrest. Nevertheless, Blumberg added, "B'nai B'rith is hopeful that

his release spells the beginning of change in Argentina's policy toward humanitarian concerns."

He paid tribute to the White House and State Department and members of Congress whose intervention helped secure Timerman's release. It was reported earlier this week from Israel that Timerman, a resident of Buenos Aires, will come to Israel in the near future. (By Helen Silver)

STUDENTS TO MARCH ON WASHINGTON TO PROTEST U.S. ARMS SALE TO ARABS

NEW YORK, April 19 (JTA)--About 25 students from Stern College for Women demonstrated yesterday afternoon outside of National Broadcasting Co. headquarters at Rockefeller Center to "show support for NBC's 'courage' in presenting the film 'Holocaust' and to counter 'the vicious lies of modern day Nazis who claim the Holocaust never happened.'"

The demonstrators announced a "national student march" on Washington May 16-17 to protest the proposed sale of sophisticated weapons to Arab countries and recent U.S. policy toward Israel. According to the announcement, the idea for the march originated with the Stern College student body which has been joined by Jewish student groups all over the country, including the national Hillel and the North American Jewish Student Movement.

Nina Neuman of Stern College, said the projected march on Washington was announced at the demonstration because "if there had been a State of Israel in 1939 perhaps there never would have been a Holocaust."

ISRAEL NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (JTA)--An Israeli Army chaplain will fly to Cairo at the end of the week to officiate at a special seder service for nine Israeli army personnel in the Tahara Palace in Heliopolis, a suburb of the Egyptian capital. The Israelis are a skeleton staff left behind when the joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee talks were suspended last January. Col. Eliezer Rimon, head of the Israeli mission in Cairo, will be the ranking officer at the seder. Israeli aircraft are flying in Passover foods, wines and table equipment.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Jerusalem City Council has approved a master plan for the united city and its environs envisaging a population of one million in 14 years. The plan replaces one approved in 1959 which covered only the western portion of Jerusalem. According to the city fathers, Jerusalem's population, which stands at 380,000 today, will reach 450,000 by 1982 and 530,000 by 1992. By then the population of Jerusalem, its suburbs and surrounding towns, such as Bethlehem will have a combined population of 1,000,000, double the present combined population.

RISHON LE-ZION (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin took time out from affairs of state this week to honor one of Israel's pioneer settlers, Eitan Belkind, on the occasion of his 80th birthday celebrated here. Belkind is the son of one of the first members of BILU, the settlement movement of Russian Jews who came to Palestine in the early 1880s and was, himself, a member of Nili, the first Jewish underground when the country was under Ottoman rule. Begin paid tribute to both movements. "The BILU pioneers started agricultural settlement in Eretz-Israel and it is from Nili, mother of our undergrounds, that we inherited the readiness to sacrifice for this land," he said.