

DAYAN SEES PROGRESS IN MIDEAST MOVES WITHIN A FEW WEEKS; DISCLOSES NEW ISRAELI PROPOSALS SENT TO EGYPT

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 1 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who returned from the U.S. this afternoon, said he believes there will be progress in political moves in the Middle East within a few weeks. He said the resumption of peace talks depended, however, on Cairo's reaction to new Israeli proposals that are now being relayed to the Egyptian government. It was the first disclosure that new proposals have been made by Israel.

Dayan stressed that his meetings in Washington with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance last week had been very friendly and predicted that Premier Menachem Begin's meetings there with President Carter and Vance today will be conducted in a good atmosphere. Begin arrived in New York yesterday and was briefed by Dayan before the Foreign Minister returned to Israel.

The Foreign Minister said that Israel's proposals to Egypt related to the basis for a peace agreement rather than a declaration of principles. "The present situation is such that we would like to reach an understanding with the Egyptians and the American mediators on the foundations of a peace settlement and not on drafting a declaration of principles," Dayan said. "If we can reach an understanding on the foundations--I stress the foundations, not necessarily the details of a peace settlement--we can then add the declaration of principles." He said Israel was prepared to discuss the West Bank issue with the Egyptians.

Dayan will report to Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin tomorrow on his Washington talks and Yadin will brief the Cabinet at its session next Sunday which will take place before Begin's return. Dayan goes to London at the end of the week for Israeli 30th anniversary events.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA BEGIN'S MESSAGE TO AMERICAN JEWRY

By Yitzhak Rabi

(Editor's note: Yitzhak Rabi, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's United Nations correspondent, is part of a special press contingent traveling with Israeli Premier Menachem Begin on his visits today in Washington, and tomorrow and Wednesday in Los Angeles and Chicago. Rabi will file special reports from each city.)

WASHINGTON, May 1 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin of Israel said today that his message to American Jewry on the occasion of Israel's 30th anniversary is that "with a united Jewish people, we shall overcome."

He spoke in the course of a brief interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency aboard a special Israel Air Force plane that flew him from New York to Washington this morning for meetings with President Carter, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and a White House reception honoring Israel's 30th year of independence. (See separate story.)

"I am sending my greetings to the whole Jewish community," Begin said. "Israel's 30th anniversary is a tremendous event for our people and for all free human beings. In the last 30

years we have done a great deal but the task has not yet been completed. We will continue to work with all our strength to achieve peace." He added: "Mass immigration to Israel is the lifeblood of our country. This is the way to build our country."

Begin, accompanied by his wife, Aliza, his aides and Ambassador Simcha Dinitz, Israel's envoy to the U.S., boarded the plane at Kennedy Airport at 9 a.m. local time. Smiling and looking fit, he greeted reporters at the airport. During the 45-minute flight he had breakfast and consulted with various aides.

Begin was greeted at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington by Vance and Alfred L. Atherton, President Carter's Ambassador-at-Large to the Middle East. Vance welcomed the Israeli Premier and reiterated America's commitment to Israel's security and peace in the Middle East.

Begin said in response that he was grateful to President Carter for inviting him to take part in the White House reception. He expressed hope that the peace-making process will soon be resumed. Begin, accompanied by Vance, was driven directly to the State Department for a meeting followed by lunch.

UNIFIL TROOPS KILL TWO TERRORISTS

TEL AVIV, May 1 (JTA)--French soldiers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) killed two terrorists and wounded a third last night in an exchange of fire with an armed group attempting to infiltrate an area just evacuated by Israeli troops. According to a report from the French contingent, its UNIFIL patrol challenged the infiltrators who opened fire. The patrol returned the fire inflicting casualties but sustained none itself, the report said.

In an unrelated incident today, two Senegalese soldiers were killed and one was injured when their jeep hit a mine near Bazouriyeh village east of the terrorist-held port of Tyre. The casualties were the worst suffered by a UNIFIL unit since the peace-keeping force took up positions in south Lebanon in March. Senegal contributed 650 troops to UNIFIL which now numbers 3000 soldiers, 1000 below its strength mandated by Security Council Resolution 425 of March 19.

CARTER PLEDGES U.S. WILL NEVER WAVER FROM ITS 'TOTAL, ABSOLUTE COMMITMENT' TO THE SECURITY OF THE JEWISH STATE

Some 1000 People At White House Reception For Israel's 30th Anniversary
By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, May 1 (JTA)--President Carter, hailing Israel on the 30th anniversary of its independence, declared today: "We will never waver from our deep friendship and partnership with Israel and our total, absolute commitment to Israel's security."

He offered that pledge to Premier Menachem Begin of Israel before a gathering of some 1000 American Jewish community leaders, rabbis, clergymen of other faiths and government officials attending a reception on the White House lawn to mark Israel's approaching Independence Day.

"In the Jewish tradition, 30 stands for strength," Carter said, "and Israel today is strong. There is a Jewish saying, from strength-to-strength

and I hope Israel will indeed evolve from strength to strength," he said.

The reception, which began at about 2 p.m., followed a 30-minute private meeting between Carter and Begin in the Oval Office. The two leaders emerged accompanied by their wives, to a roar of "Havenu Shalom Aleichem" from the thousands of guests. Begin seemed pleased with the talks. "I bring you good tidings, with all my heart, thank God," he said. "These discussions and talks are characterized by friendship and understanding. It is with the feeling that America and Israel are inseparable friends and allies."

Begin acknowledged Carter's remarks, which preceded his own, by saying, "The President has made one of the greatest moral statements ever." He said "We have always believed in the moral greatness of America. I never lost hope." He observed that the President spoke in the tradition of Abraham Lincoln who said that "right makes might."

Carter and Begin spoke briefly after which a receiving line formed and the President and Premier shook hands with the invited guests. The lawn, resplendent in spring foliage, was lined with festively decorated tables bearing fruit, coffee and pastries. "Today," Begin declared, "is a day for rejoicing."

Friendly Talk Between Vance, Begin

Begin arrived in Washington this morning and was driven directly to the State Department where he had talks and lunched with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. Begin and Vance seemed cheerful when they spoke to reporters after their meeting.

Vance said their discussions were aimed at obtaining a joint declaration of principles acceptable to Israel and Egypt and to make progress on concrete issues. He said his talks with Begin had been good and expressed hope that direct negotiations between Israel and Egypt will be resumed shortly.

Begin said he and Vance "believe and hope that in the near future there will be a measure of agreement that will make it possible for the peace-making process to continue." He added, "We shall make all efforts possible to reach an agreement. This is the goal we have set for ourselves."

Sale Of Warplanes Defended

Earlier, at a White House briefing for reporters, Presidential Press Secretary Jody Powell said that a recent interview with President Carter that produced alarm in Cairo yesterday did not represent a change in U.S. Middle East policy. (See related story P. 4.)

Powell dwelt on the U.S. proposal to sell advanced war planes to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, now before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and seemed to be appealing to Israel to accept the deal in the interests of its own security.

Powell enumerated facts about the F-15 jet fighters to support the Administration's contention that their sale to Saudi Arabia would not constitute a menace to Israel. He warned that if the sale is rejected by Congress and the Saudis turn to France to purchase similar Mirage aircraft, a genuine threat to Israel's security could materialize.

1000 Rabbis Mark Israel's 30th

Earlier in the day, about 1000 rabbis from all parts of the U.S. gathered at the Lincoln Memorial for a two-hour tribute to Israel's 30th anni-

versary. Greetings were received from national rabbinic leaders representing the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform branches of American Jewry.

Speakers included Msgr. George Higgins of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops; Rep. Robert Drinan (D. Mass.); civil rights activist Bayard Rustin; and Rev. John Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The ceremonies closed with the kindling of a Menorah to symbolize Israel's quest for peace. Many of the assembled clergymen later attended the reception on the White House lawn.

B'NAI B'RITH, WJCONGRESS ENTER INTO A 'SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP'

WASHINGTON, May 1 (JTA)--B'nai B'rith and the World Jewish Congress announced today that they have entered into a "special relationship" aimed at strengthening both organizations in promoting the interests of world Jewry. "At no time in recent Jewish history has there been a more urgent need for communication, concerted action, and for cooperation among various bodies that act on behalf of world Jewry, in order to maximize the ability of Jews to react effectively to new dangers," David M. Blumberg, president of B'nai B'rith and Philip M. Klutznick, president of the WJC said in a joint announcement.

Blumberg said that B'nai B'rith will maintain its complete autonomy and be free to act "according to the dictates of its constituency, regardless of the degree of variance" between the two organizations. He said that the B'nai B'rith-WJC relationship permits his organization to participate with the Congress in a variety of activities and to "explore further ways in which collaborative endeavors can be enlarged." Blumberg mentioned the Third World, international affairs commissions and Christian-Jewish relations as examples.

Klutznick, who became president of the WJC earlier this year and who is honorary president of B'nai B'rith, said he regarded the relationship as a significant event for the Jewish community. "I am certain it will be mutually beneficial and contribute substantially to the well-being of the Jewish community," he said.

In implementing the relationship, B'nai B'rith will appoint observers to the governing bodies of the WJC; two observers to the Executive, three to the Governing Board and four to the General Council. Although the observers will lack voting rights, they will have a voice in all WJC deliberations, Blumberg and Klutznick said. The agreement culminates four years of negotiations by a committee headed by B'nai B'rith vice president Murray Shusterman and Edgar M. Bronfman, chairman of the WJC's North American branch.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--In a sharp attack on the Carter Administration's Mideast policy, Sen. John Heinz (R-Pa.) said Sunday night that American foreign policy mistakes had hardened attitudes in the Mideast and made the quest for peace more difficult. Speaking to the Greater Philadelphia Council of B'nai B'rith at an Israel Bonds dinner, Heinz criticized the Administration's plan to sell F-15 fighter planes to Saudi Arabia. He said the Administration should reappraise its entire Middle East policy. Heinz stated, "It is impossible to see the timing of this proposal as anything but dangerously destabilizing. Moreover, it is hard to see it as anything but a direct and serious threat to Israel's security."

ISSUES IN FOCUS LOOKING FOR A SCAPEGOAT

By Murray Zuckoff

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA)--The Carter Administration, which has fumbled the Middle East ball for the past year, is currently engaged in a campaign to exonerate itself on this issue by hyping up public opinion against Israel.

Both the White House and the State Department are proclaiming, more openly and frequently than ever, that America will not permit Israel to decide its foreign policy; that the United States, not Israel, will determine what is best in the way of America's foreign relations and interests. The flip side of this insidious campaign is the myth that Israel and friends of Israel in and out of Congress are united in some nefarious anti-American actions, actions that are calculated to diminish this country's stature in its diplomatic dealings with other countries.

What makes this campaign insidious is the issue around which the Administration is making its stand for self-determination of its foreign policy. It involves the sale of war planes to Egypt, Israel and what the Administration terms "moderate" Saudi Arabia. Despite Administration signals over the past few days that it is ready to untie the plane package and present the sales to Congress as three separate bundles it remains, Orwellian semantics notwithstanding, a one-shopping bag deal. Having bungled its original presentation of the proposal, the Administration is now shifting the blame to Israel.

During the President's press conference last Tuesday in Washington, he was asked by a reporter, "Do you think it's right and proper and do you think it's right for the foreign minister of another government to interfere in the legislative process of this government--I'm talking particularly about your Middle East arms package...?" The reporter was also alluding particularly to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who was in Washington at the time.

Main Issue At Stake

Carter's response was that he had made his sales recommendation to Congress "and will make it shortly on what I consider to be in the best interests of our own nation with a well-balanced and friendly attitude toward our allies and friends in the Middle East." Continuing, Carter said Congress should make its decision on the sales "by my request to the Congress, by Congress considering my request for approval of the sales on the best interest of our country as judged by me and the Congress."

Last Friday, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, in a letter to Sen. Frank Church (D. Idaho), the second ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, explained the proposed plane sales with this caveat: "I am sure you will understand that the President must also fulfill his responsibilities for the conduct of foreign affairs."

This was also an element of White House press secretary Jody Powell's briefing last Thursday when he said: "The real issue which Congress and the country must decide is whether it is in the best interests of the United States to maintain, without deviation, its historic commitment to the security of Israel, while at the same time we are seeking closer ties with the moderate Arab nations. The President feels strongly that it is."

But if all this talk by Administration officials and the President seemed a bit hazy and circuitous,

the Administration's apologist, New York Times columnist James Reston, transferred the issue from the subliminal level to the framework of a commercial announcement. Writing in the Friday issue of The Times, he stated: "...the view at the White House is that the main issue at stake is the President's right and ability to conduct foreign policy, without excessive interference by Congress or ministers of foreign states."

Who was challenging the President's right and ability, specifically on the plane sales issue? Reston dug deep into his journalistic grab bag and came up with an old chestnut: Dayan is in Washington "lobbying for the shipment of planes to Israel, which is understandable, but also against the decision to sell planes to Saudi Arabia, which is not exactly the same thing."

The Accusing Finger Points

There! Israel's nefarious activity was uncovered and exposed--lobbying. This is, in Reston's view, a nasty business; unsavory, to say the least. The columnist appeals to history by noting that there was a time in Washington when a British envoy was recalled to London for expressing a preference for one Presidential candidate over another. That, Reston notes, "was in the days when there were rules and even manners about what was permissible in the conduct of foreign affairs." Twice more Reston refers to Dayan's lobbying and once he refers to Dayan's meeting with some members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as a "sort of rump session."

What's wrong with pro-Israeli lobbying, this lack of manners and permissible conduct is that it can lead to "an erosion of the President's influence on the serious questions that lie ahead," Reston intoned.

Not only is Israel judged guilty of undermining the Administration's foreign policy in the Middle East but it is now suddenly saddled with the awesome responsibility for eroding Carter's influence. But even if one were to grant that Dayan was lobbying for planes for Israel and against Saudi Arabia--an allegation the Foreign Minister has steadfastly denied--how can Dayan or American friends of Israel be held responsible for the erosion of Carter's influence on the issue of international human rights, the deepening rift between the U.S. and NATO, the decline of the dollar on the world market, the impasse between the U.S. and the Soviet Union on various issues, and America's waning influence in Africa and Asia?

Reading Reston, Israel appears to be an enemy of the U.S. instead of a friend and ally. He stops just short of calling for a quarantine of Israeli officials and friends of the Jewish State for the cardinal sin of what he identifies as Israel's lobbying.

But what's wrong with lobbying? It's an old American tradition. Why should the term "Israel lobby" conjure up such anxieties and misgivings, such images of nefarious activities, such lack of good manners and permissible behavior? After all, there are lobbies for unions, civil rights, ecology, feminist rights, gay rights, oil conglomerates, gun control, industry, abortion and anti-abortion, pro- and anti-Panama Canal treaties, and lobbies representing the interests of countless numbers of countries, including Arab countries, through embassies and information centers.

However, just mention the "Israel lobby" and there are suddenly untold victims of mild cardiac arrests. The term has taken on such a pejorative

meaning that the mere mention of it casts a darkening shadow.

Economics vs. Life And Death

The fact is that no one has yet shown that Israel's requests or those of its friends and supporters in and out of Congress are inimical to America's foreign interests. The fact is that Israel is not interfering in America's foreign policy in any way. It is asking merely that America not interfere in Israel's. It is asking merely that Israel's foreign policy to assure safe and secure borders not be eroded by sales of war planes to a country which is deeply involved in the Arab wars against Israel.

While the U.S. is determining its foreign policy in the Mideast on the basis of crass economic needs, Israel is seeking to determine its foreign policy in that area on the basis of life and death. The sale of war planes to Saudi Arabia places Israel in a highly precarious position of having a sophisticated Arab strike force minutes from its border. By selling war planes to Saudi Arabia, the U.S. is placing itself in a highly lucrative position of gaining additional markets in the Mideast.

No one, least of all Israel, has ever asked the U.S. to conduct its foreign policy as if it were engaged in staging a morality play. But then Israel should not be castigated or vilified for trying to protect itself against sudden death. No one, including Carter and Vance, has shown what makes Saudi Arabia a "moderate" Arab country, except, perhaps, that it is now playing the economic game along the lines of American private enterprise. But in relation to Israel, it is immoderate and bellicose.

Recently, Sen. Wendell Anderson (D. Minn.) urged an investigation into allegations that U.S. weapons sold to Saudi Arabia for defensive purposes ended up in the hands of the Palestine Liberation Organization and were used in its March 11 slaughter of 35 civilians in Israel.

Is it possible that the Carter Administration has forgotten that it had also dubbed Yasir Arafat a "moderate"? Was Israel interfering in America's foreign policy, or eroding Carter's role when it pointed out the fallacy and danger of that designation? There is a lesson in that. Perhaps the Carter Administration will search for it without fear, as Reston put it, "excessive interference by Congress or ministers of foreign states."

WHITE HOUSE CLAIMS IT HAS NOT CHANGED ITS MIDEAST POSITION

WASHINGTON, May 1 (JTA)--The White House, in response to reports that Egypt is upset over an interview by President Carter in which he was quoted as agreeing with Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's plan for self-rule for the West Bank, stressed today that the Administration has "not deviated" from its previous position on Middle East peace negotiations.

Trude Feldman, a freelance Washington correspondent, who conducted the interview almost two weeks ago, quoted Carter as saying that he believed that "a permanent settlement will not include an independent Palestinian nation on the West Bank" and "will not call for complete withdrawal of Israel from occupied territories." Carter was also quoted as saying, "My belief is that a permanent settlement will be based substantially upon the home rule proposals that Prime Minister Begin has put forward."

According to one diplomatic observer, these

elements, "if Carter was quoted correctly, fall within the proposals Prime Minister Begin presented to President Carter in March." "If so, he noted, "Israel's disagreements with the President become very limited. However, if the White House now says that it has not deviated from its previous position, then Israel's differences with Carter remain."

The observer noted that Carter's reported agreement with self-rule appears as a slight modification of his previous endorsed statement on the Palestinians participating in the determination of their own future and the concept of a West Bank linkage with Jordan.

Egypt Detects A Shift

Egyptian officials were upset by what they saw as a shift by Carter toward Israel's position, especially in view of the President's modification of his all-or-nothing stand with regard to the sale of war planes to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel. It was noted here that reports from Cairo noting that the interview was also intended to boost Israel's position even as Carter was holding talks with Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan of Israel was off key since the interview was given over a week ago, prior to Dayan's arrival and before the White House extended an invitation to Begin to come there while he was in the United States this week.

Nevertheless, U.S. Ambassador Hermann Eilts in Cairo was summoned by Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Kaamel yesterday to demand an explanation of the interview which was carried by the semi-official Cairo newspaper, Al Ahram.

Reports from Cairo today indicated that Eilts allayed Egyptian fears by pointing out that "statements attributed to President Carter did not mean a change in the American attitude." Eilts reportedly stressed to Kaamel that the U.S. "does not consider the Begin plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip a suitable basis for a settlement." The interview by Feldman was distributed by New York Times Special Features, an independent subsidiary of The New York Times.

NEW YORK (JTA)--A spontaneous outflow of expressions of support for Israeli Premier Menachem Begin has been received in recent weeks at the information department of the Consulate General of Israel in New York, the department reported. Support for Israel's peace program has been communicated in the form of petitions, letters and telephone calls. The bulk of this support has come from Americans in the Metropolitan area. However, communications have been arriving from points as far away as Florida and the West Coast, officials said.

NEW YORK (JTA)--The latest Louis Harris poll results published Monday showed that 66-26 percent of Americans are opposed to the Carter Administration's proposed sale of jet aircraft to Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. "A 64-28 percent majority is against the sale of the planes to Israel," Harris reported. "An even higher 71-20 percent majority opposes selling the planes to Egypt. And the proposed sale to Saudi Arabia is opposed by 73-18 percent," according to the poll. The results were based on a nationwide sampling of 1199 adults.

AMSTERDAM (JTA)--Plans for a Netherlands Pavilion at the site of the Auschwitz concentration camp, devoted to the 55,000 Dutch Jews who perished there, were announced by The Netherlands State Institute for Documentation on the Second World War.