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CABINET MEETING POSTPONED UNTIL SUNDAY AS BEGIN STAYS HOME TO REST

By David Landau.

JERUSALEM, June 14 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin will remain at home for the next three days to rest, the Prime Minister's Office announced today. The Cabinet, which had been expected to convene in special session tomorrow, therefore will not meet again until its regular session this Sunday when it is expected to conclude debate over the formulation of Israel's replies to questions posed by the United States on the future of the West Bank.

Today's announcement revived the recent flurry of speculation over the state of Begin's health. Only three days ago, Begin's office issued a vehement denial of reports in the London Evening Standard that Begin was in poor health and could not function properly. Begin suffered a severe heart attack a year ago and was hospitalized twice thereafter for treatment of complications. Two weeks ago he was confined to bed for a week with a fever that his doctors said was not related to his heart ailment. In his most recent public appearances he seemed pale and drawn.

Begin's aides admitted today that the Premier is "fatigued." They said his doctors advised him to take a holiday but he refused because his absence would give rise to further rumors that he is in poor health. Some pundits suggested that his condition, requiring a three-day rest at home, was brought on by aggravation over the sharp split in his Cabinet on how Israel should respond to the American questions. There have been no signs so far that his efforts to bridge the gap between hardline advocates and moderates have succeeded.

Begin Keeps Position To Himself

The Premier has deliberately refrained from stating his position. He is believed, however, to favor the approach urged by his Herut colleague Haim Landau who would politely inform the U.S. that Israel can make no commitment on the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip until Begin's proposed five-year "self-rule" plan runs its course. That uncompromising position is believed to be unacceptable to the Americans who feel that resumption of the stalled peace talks with Egypt hinges on a more flexible stand by Israel.

The approach advocated by Defense Minister Ezer Weizman is more compatible with the American views. Most observers believe that unless Begin injects his personal prestige and political influence into the Cabinet debate, Weizman's proposals will carry, if not unanimously then at least by a substantial margin. The question being asked now is how Begin could withstand such an erosion of his authority in the Cabinet he has dominated since taking office. The view expressed here is that the split within the government and concurrent rumors that Begin is ill contain the seeds of a major crisis for the Premier. Even Begin's close supporters admitted today that he faced the most difficult period of his tenure to date. (See story Page 4.)

MONDALE GOING TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, June 14 (JTA)--The White

House announced this morning that Vice President Walter Mondale will visit Israel at the end of this month to participate in continuing festivities marking the 30th anniversary of Israel's independence. The Vice President will leave the U.S. June 29 and return July 3.

The announcement, issued by President Carter, said that Mondale "will convey my congratulations and those of the American people to Israel on this important anniversary. The visit underscores the deep and enduring ties of friendship between the people of the United States and the people of Israel." The announcement noted that Mondale was invited to Israel by Premier Menachem Begin and the Speaker of the Knesset. The Vice President is not expected to make any other stops in the Middle East during his trip. (By David Ettinger)

ISRAELIS VIEW MONDALE VISIT AS AIMING TO INFLUENCE CABINET

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 14 (JTA)--The announcement by the White House today that Vice President Walter Mondale will visit Israel from June 29-July 3 was seen by some observers here as an effort to influence the government to reply in a positive manner to U.S. questions on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, now confronting the Cabinet.

The observers, who are not connected with the government, suggested that the atmosphere between Jerusalem and Washington would be severely strained if Israel offered a negative reply and that would cloud the Mondale visit. They reason that, with Mondale's visit imminent, the Cabinet will be influenced to formulate a positive reply. Government officials, however, were reluctant to endorse that view. They said the announcement of Mondale's visit at a time when the Cabinet faces a crisis over the formulation of a reply to the U.S. was coincidental.

WALDHEIM ANSWERS DAYAN'S CHARGE UNIFIL COOPERATING WITH PLO

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, June 14 (JTA)--Secretary General Kurt Waldheim responded sharply today to a letter from Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan charging that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is cooperating with the terrorists. Waldheim, who said he was "surprised" by the allegations, took the unusual step of releasing the text of his reply to Dayan before it was circulated as an official UN document. Earlier, he handed his response to the Israeli Ambassador to the UN, Chaim Herzog.

Dayan alleged, in a letter to Waldheim yesterday announcing the final withdrawal of Israeli forces from south Lebanon, that "It appears that UNIFIL is permitting the transit of food and other supplies to the terrorists and that the latter, for their part, are clandestinely introducing arms and other military equipment into the area." Dayan also charged that there are official PLO liaison officers in touch with UNIFIL. He said those developments violated Security Council Resolution 425 which established UNIFIL and called on Waldheim to take action to prevent the re-entry of the PLO into south Lebanon "and to expel those already there."

In his response, Waldheim said that "As regards the transit of non-military supplies to small groups in the area (south Lebanon)," he dealt with the matter in his report submitted to the Security Council today. He said that for humanitarian, as well as "practical reasons," UNIFIL has agreed to allow delivery of food, water and medicine "to limited Palestinian groups still in its area of operation."

Acknowledges Liaison Officers

Waldheim acknowledged that there were PLO liaison officers in contact with UNIFIL just "as indeed there are liaison officers with all parties concerned." He added, "I must take exception to the context of your statement that the present situation 'bodes ill for the future.' In extremely difficult circumstances, UNIFIL has made great efforts and will continue to make great efforts to carry out all parts of its mandate."

Waldheim charged that the task of UNIFIL has not been facilitated by the Israeli decision "not to turn over control of the remainder of the area of operations to UNIFIL." He stressed that the situation requires the full cooperation of all parties concerned. "It would be helpful if those concerned refrain from making unsubstantiated public statements about this or that aspect of an extremely difficult operation," Waldheim told Dayan.

In his report to the Security Council, Waldheim said the Lebanese government has taken the position, in the wake of the Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, that Maj. Sa'ad Haddad, commander of the Christian militia, is "provisionally recognized by the Lebanese government as de facto commander of the Lebanese forces in his present area for the purpose of facilitating UNIFIL's mission."

U.S. PRAISES UNIFIL

By David Ettinger

WASHINGTON, June 14 (JTA)--The State Department said today that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is doing "a good job" and expressed confidence "that the UN will be able to deal with this situation satisfactorily." Department spokesman Tom Reston made his remarks with reference to charges by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan that UNIFIL was permitting Palestinian terrorists to return to south Lebanon.

The U.S. "believes that UNIFIL has been doing a good job of controlling the area," Reston said. "However, the nature of the terrain and the situation in south Lebanon are such that occasional infiltration in the area controlled by UNIFIL cannot be eliminated totally." He said he could not confirm reports that Israeli forces which evacuated south Lebanon yesterday had turned over their area to local Lebanese Christian forces instead of UNIFIL. "UN forces have moved into the areas from which the Israelis just withdrew," he said. "The presence of Christian militias in the area needs to be taken into account. We regard it as a great oversimplification to say that this happened and to imply that UNIFIL will not be carrying out its mandate in southern Lebanon," he said.

Reston told reporters that "consultations are now taking place between the United Nations and the government of Lebanon on ways to help establish the authority of the Lebanese government throughout south Lebanon." He declined to comment when asked if the U.S. considered the Israeli withdrawal to be in compliance with UN Resolution

425. "We consider it best not to comment any further on these developments at this time," Reston said.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT URGED TO ACT ON BOMBING OF TRAVEL OFFICE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 14 (JTA)--Jean Pierre-Bloch, the president of the International League Against Anti-Semitism (LICA), has asked French Interior Minister Christian Bonnet to take all necessary steps to identify and arrest the members of the rightwing group which claimed responsibility for last Sunday's bomb attack against the Jewish-owned travel organization, Club Mediterranee. Pierre-Bloch, who met yesterday with the Minister, told the press that LICA has known for some time about the activity of the terrorist organization and had complained to the police several months ago.

Pierre-Bloch said that he personally has received several threatening letters from the National Front for the Liberation of France which, according to its own communique, last Sunday set off three bombs in the club's headquarters in downtown Paris.

Police investigators say, however, they have never heard of the front's existence before and are not yet convinced of its existence. They say the bomb attack might have been carried out by accomplices of the gangsters who had carried out several attacks against club villages as "reprisals" for the arrest and conviction of some of the gang's members. Police are also investigating the possibility that the bomb attack might have been carried out by some of the club's competitors in the travel business. The anti-Semitic communique, investigators privately say, might serve as a smoke screen to hide the real reasons for the bomb attack.

Jewish organizations monitoring anti-Semitic activities have not reported any upsurge in recent months and France's Jewish weekly "Tribune Juive," in an as yet unpublished survey also failed to find any noticeable increase. The paper's correspondents reported that anti-Semitic slogans have been scribbled on walls in a number of cities, mainly Marseilles and in eastern France, but not more frequently than in the past. They seem to be the work of an unorganized, small lunatic fringe and some of its supporters are regularly apprehended by the police.

KATZ DISPUTES EHRLICH

JERUSALEM, June 14 (JTA)--Minister for Social Betterment Yisrael Katz said yesterday that he would bring his dispute with Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich "before the Premier and the entire Cabinet" if he fails "to convince Ehrlich that he errs."

The dispute concerns legislation favored by Katz for a guaranteed minimum income for all Israelis. Ehrlich urged Katz to shelve the bill on grounds that such legislation would lead many citizens to quit their jobs. "They don't know what they're talking about," Katz declared, referring to the Treasury. He rejected Ehrlich's contention, stressing that the proposed bill was basic social legislation that had been promised the public by many of the parties now in the government coalition.

GENEVA (JTA)--Gideon Ben-Israel, a member of the executive of the Histadrut, was re-elected to the governing body of the international labor organization Wednesday.

CHICAGO AREA JEWS OUTLINE PLANS FOR COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION IN SKOKIE

CHICAGO, June 14 (JTA)--A Jewish umbrella organization, which is coordinating plans for a massive counter-demonstration to the uncertain Nazi march in Skokie June 25, announced detailed plans for its demonstration at a press conference here today.

It was made clear throughout the statements at the conference and in questions and answers that the detailed plans being put into place were based on the expectation that the Nazis would march in Skokie, home of 7000 Holocaust survivors. Statements of plans for the contingency counter-demonstration were made by Raymond Epstein, chairman of the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) of the Jewish United Fund of Chicago, which is coordinating Chicago Jewry's response to the proposed Nazi march; and by Sol Goldstein of Chicago, a Holocaust survivor and chairman of the PAC committee on individual liberty and Jewish security.

The press conference on plans for the counter-demonstration came a day after the Illinois House rejected by overwhelming margins two Senate-approved bills which would have blocked the Nazi march in Skokie. One bill would have created a new crime, criminal group defamation, and empowered local officials to ban derogatory demonstrations and distribution of hate material. The other would have banned parades by quasi-military hate groups such as the Nazis. Strong doubts about the constitutionality of the two bills were expressed during the legislative action on them.

It was stressed during the PAC press conference that the extensive planning is based on the probability, but not the certainty, that the Nazis will march. But it was also pointed out that the scope of planning was extensive and had to be underway well before the June 25 date.

Nazis May Not March

A source here said there was an unconfirmed report that there was considerable dissension within the tiny National Socialist Party of Chicago about whether to go through with the June 25 march. Another report which could not be confirmed is that the Nazis have applied for a permit to demonstrate on June 24 in front of the federal building in Chicago.

Goldstein reiterated plans to provide facilities for 50,000 demonstrators in Skokie, with prominent national political figures attending. The counter-demonstration will be held in the athletic field of Niles Township East which reporters said was too small to hold 50,000 demonstrators. Goldstein said the PAC had accepted the smaller field at the request of Skokie village officials, who said larger fields in the area were needed for such security elements as police helicopters.

Meanwhile in New York today, Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, announced that Evangelicals for Social Justice, an organization of young Evangelical Christian leaders, had discussed with him this week plans to organize groups of Evangelical Christians from various parts of the United States who will fly to Skokie as a demonstration that Evangelical Americans strongly oppose everything the Nazis stand for and to let American Jews know that they do not stand alone in this assault on Jewish dignity.

SAUNDERS SAYS U.S. MAY GIVE OWN IDEAS FOR MIDEAST PEACE

By David Ettinger

WASHINGTON, June 14 (JTA)--Harold Saunders, the newly appointed Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, told a House panel this week that "it is not inconceivable" that the United States "will put forward ideas of our own" if Israel's response to questions posed by the Administration on the future of the occupied-Arab territories do not lead to a resumption of the negotiating process.

Saunders appeared before the subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East of the House International Relations Committee Monday to present the "annual review of U.S. policy in the Middle East." He stressed that "Our role in this process is not simply as postman between the two sides. At decisive points in the negotiations, where we see it helpful to move things forward, we have in the past given our own ideas and we will continue to do so in consultation with the parties."

(Meanwhile, in Israel, government sources reacted bitterly to Saunders' testimony. They said his remarks were not coincidental, implying that he was trying to exert pressure on Israel. Saunders also repeated the U.S. view that the present Israeli government must not renege on the previous government's acceptance of the principle of territorial withdrawal on all fronts as stated in Security Council Resolution 242. The Likud-led government insists that 242 does not apply to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.)

CARTER DOES NOT SEE SLEPAK ARREST AS AIMED AT HIM

WASHINGTON, June 14 (JTA)--President Carter said at a press conference today that he does not consider the arrest last week of Soviet Jewish activist Vladimir Slepak "a personal response" by the Soviet Union to his human rights campaign but an indication "of whether or not the Soviet Union can stand internal dissension and monitoring of its actions by private citizen groups." Slepak, who has unsuccessfully sought an emigration visa for the past eight years, was a member of the unofficial group monitoring Soviet compliance with the Helsinki Final Act.

Carter noted that "a substantial portion" of the group's members "have now been either harassed or imprisoned or tried and I think this is something that is continuing." He said "I have expressed in the strongest possible terms, both publicly and in diplomatic channels, our concern about the actions of the Soviet government." He denied that he has stopped talking about specific cases of individuals. He said he has "done so in the past" and "I intend to do so" in the future. He said that the Soviet actions "work against the best interests of harmony and peace between the Soviet Union and other countries."

Carter added, "I think it is important for the world to monitor what goes on in the Soviet Union." He noted that the Soviet Union "had voluntarily signed the agreement at Helsinki" which guarantees "certain basic civil rights" within its borders. (By David Ettinger)

TEL AVIV (JTA)--The Israel '78 Exhibition marking the 30th anniversary of independence, was opened to the public at the Tel Aviv Fair Grounds Wednesday. The exhibition shares the Fair Grounds with the annual exhibition on "Man and His Habitat--Modern Living."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES BEGIN SEEKS CABINET CONSENSUS ON REPLIES TO AMERICAN QUESTIONS

By-David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 14 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin is urgently seeking a broad consensus in his Cabinet on the formulation of Israel's replies to the American questions on the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Cabinet meeting Monday ended inconclusively with the ministers sharply split between hardliners who want to yield nothing and moderates who believe that only some display of flexibility will be acceptable to Washington.

The Cabinet will meet Sunday in an all-out effort to reach agreement. Begin is clearly anxious to achieve a consensus before the Cabinet meets again. Intensive behind the scenes consultations were underway between and within the various factions.

The questions posed by the United States require Israel to state whether it is willing to consider the future status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip after the five-year period of "self-rule" proposed by Begin expires and how it intends to give the Palestinian inhabitants of those territories a voice in determining their future.

At Monday's session, the headline view was presented by Minister-Without-Portfolio Haim Landau, a long time Herut aide to Begin and one of his closest political and personal associates. Landau argued that Israel should stick closely to Begin's original self-rule plan that deliberately leaves the sovereignty issue open and pledges only to review all issues in five years' time. Landau wants Israel to tell the U.S. flatly that it can make no final commitment until "self-rule" has been in force for five years and its effects on the local populace can be evaluated.

In effect, Landau recommended a negative response that would be incompatible with the underlying purpose of the American questions, namely to underline the transitional nature of Begin's "self-rule" proposal. Landau's approach was backed by Minister of Commerce Yigael Hurwitz of Likue's La'am (State List) faction and Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i of Likud's Liberal Party wing. He is believed to have the support of other Herut and Likud ministers.

Dayan, Weizman Want Positive Reply

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Defense Minister Ezer Weizman each proposed a more positive reply by Israel but they differed over where the emphasis should be. Weizman's was the more "doveish" proposal. He stressed the urgent need for the resumption of direct negotiations with Egypt rather than the present dialogue via Washington and dwelt on Egypt's important role in a future final settlement of the West Bank and, especially, the Gaza Strip issues. He appears to believe, as do the Americans, that only a positive reply by Israel indicating flexibility and a willingness to compromise, could lead to a resumption of the stalled peace talks with Egypt.

Weizman also recommended that Israel accept Washington's unofficial proposal that, with respect to political self-expression for the Palestinians, it agree to eventual quadripartite talks between Israel, Jordan, Egypt and the local Palestinians. He stressed that agreement would have to be by consensus, obviating the possibility that Israel would be outvoted by the three Arab participants or forced to agree to concessions in later years that it does not want to make.

Dayan differed from Weizman in that he stressed a Jordanian rather than Egyptian role not only on the West Bank but in the Gaza Strip where he would prefer Jordanian to Egyptian influence. Dayan envisioned co-existence with Jordan on the West Bank whereby Amman would have a greater role in the political and administrative affairs of the local populace while Israel retained its control over security in the territory.

DMC Supports Weizman

It was clear at this week's Cabinet meeting, that Weizman's approach would be supported by the four ministers of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC). They indicated that while they had formulations of their own to propose, they could go along with Weizman's views. The Defense Minister also had reason to hope for the backing of at least some of the three National Religious Party (NRP) ministers and from Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich and Housing Minister Gideon Patt, both of Likud's Liberal Party wing.

Begin has deliberately refrained from stating officially which position he supports. But it is well known that by temperament and ideology he is inclined to favor Landau's uncompromising approach. It is clear that if Begin were to find himself on the minority side of the issues when the Cabinet reconvenes, his future authority over government policy-making would be gravely jeopardized. He is, therefore, expected to try to "finesse" a consensus or large majority around some compromise formula. Some pundits speculated that Begin would fall in with Weizman's ideas but would try to modify and stiffen them before a final reply to the U.S. is drafted.

EBAN SENDS APPEAL FOR SLEPAKS

WASHINGTON, June 14 (JTA)--Former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban, now a member of the Knesset, has sent messages to President Carter, Vice President Walter Mondale and to members of both Houses of Congress urging their intervention on behalf of Soviet Jewish activist Vladimir Slepak who has been jailed; the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews reported today.

Eban "adopted" the Slepak case after a meeting in Jerusalem with his son; Alexander Slepak. Slepak and his wife, Maria, were arrested on June 2 after hanging a sign from the balcony of their Moscow flat which read "Let Us Go To Our Son In Israel." They were charged with "malicious hooliganism," an offense that carries a penalty of 1-5 years in prison. Mrs. Slepak was released for medical reasons but her husband remains under detention.

Eban's message said: "Vladimir Slepak, a leading Soviet Jewish activist, who has courageously fought to emigrate to Israel for the past eight years, has been arrested and faces trial in Moscow as a result of his activity on behalf of human freedom. This totally refutes Soviet pretensions on detente and the Helsinki agreement. I hope that you will raise your voice on his behalf, since his personal fate embraces the basic principle of human freedom and international solidarity."

Meanwhile, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry today appealed to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance urging intervention for the Slepaks and other refusniks arrested or facing trial. "I urge you to now make representation with the Soviet government and to enlist the aid of other friendly governments," NCSJ chairman Eugene Gold said. "Trials for Nudel, Slepak and (Anatoly) Shcharansky will only cause additional tension."