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U.S. HINTS IT MAY SOON OFFER 'SUGGESTIONS' TO BREAK MIDEAST TALKS DEADLOCK

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 19 (JTA)--The United States indicated today that it is considering offering its own "suggestions" to bring Israel and Egypt back to the conference table and that Vice President Walter Mondale may convey them to Israel when he visits there at the end of the month. The State Department's chief spokesman, Hodding Carter, alluded to both possibilities today. He also refused to characterize or comment in any way on the response sent by the Israeli Cabinet yesterday to the American questions about the future status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Carter noted that Ambassador Samuel Lewis in Israel and Ambassador Hermann Eilts in Cairo have met, respectively, with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and "Egyptian authorities." He hinted that the U.S. might make its move after "consultations" are completed. He would not say whether consultations are underway with any other governments, although Saudi Arabia is known to have an overriding interest in developments and Jordan is expected to express its views.

(Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Kaamel was quoted today as saying that his country regretted "Israel's continued intransigence and determination not to respond favorably to the honest efforts exerted by Egypt and supported by the U.S.," He made his remarks following a 90-minute meeting with Ambassador Eilts.)

Hints U.S. Action Being Considered

Asked about the American "option" to offer its own proposals for resuming the Israeli-Egyptian talks, Carter said, "We have said in the past that at some point the U.S. may decide to make suggestions of its own on this issue in order to help the two governments move the process forward and obviously reach an agreement. We used the process to reach an agenda for the Jerusalem meeting in January." He also said, in response to questions, that "no decision has been taken (as to) what American suggestions might be put forward at some point." However, he added, "this carries with it the implication that obviously consideration has been given to the need for such action by the U.S."

Asked whether Mondale's upcoming trip to Israel would be a "substantive trip or a good will mission," Carter replied that the Vice-President "always carried substantive weight." Officially, he is going to Israel June 29 to participate in the continuing festivities marking that country's 30th anniversary.

Carter said that as of "mid-morning" today no decision had been made as to whether Secretary of State Cyrus Vance or Alfred L. Atherton, President Carter's Ambassador-at-Large to the Middle East, would visit that area to get the peace talks resumed. Asked whether yesterday's response by Israel gave room for maneuver or whether the peace process remains deadlocked, Carter said that in this "consulting" period, it would not be "useful, helpful or perhaps, even meaningful to offer a characterization of what

was offered by the Israelis."

KNESSET IN BITTER DEBATE OVER CABINET'S REPLIES TO U.S.

Dayan Explains Government Position
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA)--The Knesset was embroiled in a tense and bitter debate today during which Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan defended yesterday's replies by the Cabinet to the American questions on the future status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and opposition leaders blasted the government's formulation.

What the Cabinet did, Dayan explained, was to refuse the American invitation to agree that the permanent status of the West Bank and Gaza would be determined within five years. Israel is prepared only to agree that future relations with the inhabitants would be negotiated, he said. Dayan noted that the majority of the Cabinet regarded the self-rule or autonomy plan as a "framework for a permanent status of the West Bank and Gaza" and said the plan contained provisions which left all elements open for review in five years' time and left the sovereignty issue open. Such open-ended clauses provided the basis for a permanent plan, he said.

Dayan drew attention to the initial reaction from Washington which was that the U.S. would continue to seek progress toward peace on the basis of the Israeli and Egyptian positions. "If this is the official view, we will be very happy," Dayan said. He said Israel's self-rule plan had not been negotiated with Egypt and there was little reason for Israel to make further concessions at this stage toward a resumption of the peace talks with Egypt.

Peres Sees Israel's Position Worsened

Shimon Peres, speaking for the Labor Alignment, said the Cabinet decision provided "a partial peace agreement for the Cabinet and autonomy for the DMC." On a more somber note, he claimed that "the writing is on the wall," and that the decision would "worsen Israel's position, deepen the rift with the U.S., make the negotiations more difficult to resume, and intensify Israel's isolation." He criticized the government for trying to run away from Resolution 242, like a man trying to flee his own shadow. Peres noted that there was hardly a chance that the U.S. would accept the decision, when some of Israel's own Cabinet ministers had not. "The government has erected a smokescreen which is at the same time intransigent and which might open the way for a Palestinian state--all because the government has refused to consider territorial compromise," Peres claimed.

He suggested that President Anwar Sadat would have been ready for a settlement in Sinai and a declaration of principles as based on Resolution 242, without specifying a return to the 1967 borders. Noting that he could not elaborate, the Labor leader said he was convinced that the problem of the Israeli air field in Sinai could be solved. Emphasizing that this was his own assessment and not that of top American officials, Peres noted that this would have enabled Israel and Jordan to negotiate over the West Bank, or failing that, a separate agreement with Egypt or at the very least a greater degree of understanding between the U.S. and Israel.

Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban said the

autonomy plan was becoming less and less attractive, while it was clear that the aim was to annex the West Bank. Contrary to earlier predictions, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman attended the Knesset session, but left within 30 minutes. The tension between himself and Dayan and Premier Menachem Begin was extremely obvious.

Peace Demonstrators Shed Shirts

One of the more colorful events of the Knesset session occurred when a row of young people seated in the visitors' gallery stood up and removed their shirts during Dayan's speech. The unraveling of their outer garments revealed red and white T-shirts proclaiming "Peace is Greater than a Greater Israel." Apparently all members of the "Peace Now" movement, the group was quickly ushered out of the gallery, but not before attention was riveted on them. Dayan was unruffled by the demonstration and continued talking to the inattentive audience.

MOST OF ISRAELI PRESS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF CABINET RESPONSE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA)--Most Israeli newspapers were sharply critical today of the Cabinet's reply to the American questions on the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Haaretz said it was, in fact, a negative response, indicating that a majority of the ministers are still trying to circumvent the issue of the future of those territories. Only Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and the four ministers of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC), who voted against the formulation, seem to realize that the question cannot be evaded in the long run, Haaretz said.

The Cabinet majority clearly wants to give the self-rule plan a life span longer than five years and "there is hardly a reason to believe that the American leadership will see such an Israeli reply as a means of regenerating the political momentum," Haaretz said.

The Jerusalem Post suggested that Israel's replies were irrelevant to the questions asked by the U.S. The answer "was neither a yes nor a no or even a maybe. It was and remains a blank," the Post said. It warned that the decision helped improve President Anwar Sadat's image as a "frustrated peacemaker" despite the fact that it was he who broke off the peace talks last January.

U.S. May Present Own Plan, Davar Says

Davar, the organ of Histadrut, said the Cabinet decision invited the U.S. to come up with a peace plan of its own. If that happens, "one can hardly complain," the paper said. "The government has wasted opportunities for the advancement of a settlement on the basis of formulas which were not accepted only because of its adherence to the 'Greater Israel' idea," Davar charged.

Al Hanihmar, organ of Mapam, said that if the government had announced a priori its readiness to apply Security Council Resolution 242 to the Jordanian front, it would have spared the American questions. Its refusal to do so invited the American questions, the paper said.

Maariv criticized the vagueness of the Cabinet's reply. "The government of Israel is not saying no to the Americans, but rather mumbles something that is not a clear answer to the questions asked. Even if one can gain several weeks, one can in no way relieve the American pressures, let alone improve the deteriorating relations between Jerusalem and Washington," Maariv said.

The only favorable comment came from the Orthodox Hatzofe, organ of the National Religious Party and from Yediot Achronot. Hatzofe saw the Cabinet's response as a way out of the political dilemma forced on Israel by the American questions as well as a means of avoiding a coalition crisis. Yediot Achronot said the time has come for Israel to refrain from answering demands for concessions "assuming that the ultimate confrontation cannot be avoided anyway."

Trouble Ahead For Begin

Although yesterday's split decision by the Cabinet was a victory for Premier Menachem Begin, the rumblings at home spelled possible political trouble for the Israeli leader, coming as they did not only from the Labor opposition but within coalition ranks. Avraham Sharir, the Likud Knesset faction Whip and leader of its Liberal Party wing, said today, "We seem to be at the beginning of a crisis not at its end. Should the crisis deepen, it is possible that changes in the government may be considered."

Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, leader of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) who, with the three other DMC ministers and Defense Minister Ezer Weizman opposed the Cabinet's reply to the American questions, sought to smooth over differences today. He said that while the more positive response formulated by the DMC would have given peace negotiations a better chance, he hoped the Cabinet's majority decision would still create the necessary momentum. A much stronger reaction came from DMC Knesset Whip Amnon Rubinstein who said the Cabinet's response was not in line with the government's peace plan "as the DMC understood it" when it was presented to the Knesset. As far as the DMC is concerned, the basis on which it had supported the plan was dropped and because the Cabinet ignored the DMC's position, the party would have to reconsider its own position as a coalition partner, he said.

DAYAN SEES U.S. ENVOY

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan received U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis here this morning for a discussion of yesterday's Cabinet response to the American questions on the future status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. No details of their one-hour meeting were disclosed. Lewis told reporters, on leaving, that the discussion was "very helpful and useful." He said Dayan had helped clarify and explain the significance of a number of the phrases and provisions in the Cabinet's formulation.

The American envoy said it was too early to say what the reaction would be in Washington, adding that further contacts between the parties concerned should precede such reaction. (A State Department spokesman said yesterday that the U.S. would continue to consult with both Israel and Egypt but "at this stage we are not going to characterize either the Israeli response or the Egyptian views.")

PERES REVEALS SOME DETAILS OF HIS TALK WITH SADAT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA)--Labor Alignment leader Shimon Peres revealed last night that President Anwar Sadat of Egypt told him he might countenance minor border changes on the West Bank and the stationing of Israeli troops across the border after peace was reached. Peres made the disclosure after sharply criticizing the Cabinet's response yesterday to the American questions on

the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said that he had Sadat's agreement, through a third party, to reveal details of their two-hour talk in Salzburg, Austria, last February.

Peres said that Sadat recognizes Israel's genuine security problems on the West Bank and also recognizes the distinction between the international border between Israel and Sinai which is a universally accepted line and the uncertain legal status with respect to the West Bank borders and sovereign rights. Sadat expressed readiness for minor changes in the 1967 lines on the West Bank and for the maintenance of Israeli strongholds across whatever borders are finally agreed to in a peace settlement, Peres said. He said Sadat sought a joint declaration of principles that would facilitate Jordan's entry into the peace negotiations.

Peres' apparent purpose in making his disclosure was to bolster his argument that Israel's acceptance of the principle of territorial compromise on the West Bank would open the way to the resumption of peace talks with Egypt. He is also seeking to refute Premier Menachem Begin's contention that there is no distinction between Israel's security needs and its claim to retain the West Bank.

U.S. CONGRESSMEN TO JOIN COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION IF NAZIS MARCH IN SKOKIE

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, June 19 (JTA)—Congressmen from both major parties will participate in a counter-demonstration to the American Nazi Party's march in Skokie, Illinois next Sunday if the Nazis go through with their announced intentions to parade in the heavily Jewish populated Chicago suburb.

A letter circulated to the 435 members of the House by Reps. Hamilton Fish (R. NY), Christopher Dodd (D. Conn.) and Abner Mikva (D. Ill.) proposed that Congressmen participate to show "abhorrence for what Nazism represents." Should the Nazi march appear to materialize, the Congressmen will meet at Chicago's O'Hare Airport Sunday morning and drive to Skokie, about 30 minutes away. Rep. Fish, who conceived the idea for Congressional participation, sought the support of Mikva, whose Congressional district embraces Skokie. They invited Dodd too for a bipartisan unit and urged other colleagues to join them. The letter's circulation began June 15.

"We feel as part of the counter-rally," their letter said, "Congress should be represented. Our plan is for members to march as a group, identifiable as Congressmen. While we recognize the scope of the exercise of First Amendment rights, we feel equally obliged to protest this despicable undertaking and to show our abhorrence for what Nazism represents. Therefore, we propose that members wear armbands with the Star of David."

In an analysis, published in the Congressional Record at the instance of Rep. Robert F. Drinan (D. Mass.) of the "many different issues and choices at stake in Skokie," Mikva concluded that the Nazi march be used as an "occasion to reaffirm not only what we Americans oppose but what we stand for—to recall to anyone who has forgotten not only the evil and madness of Nazism but also the positive ideals and values we want to preserve for our children and grandchildren."

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA)—The Knesset voted 59-37 this evening to approve the Cabinet's reply to the American questions on the future of the

West Bank and Gaza Strip. There were 10 abstentions, including Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin and Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir, both of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC). Five DMC MKs walked out before the vote as did Defense Minister Ezer Weizman. The DMC members who left reportedly wanted to vote for the government but were barred from doing so by the party's decision to abstain.

ISRAEL NAVY SEARCHES CYPRIOT SHIP FOR TERRORISTS

TEL AVIV, June 19 (JTA)—Israel Navy units stopped and searched a Cypriot vessel suspected of carrying terrorists, it was announced today. The ship was escorted to Haifa where the search was made and was then permitted to resume its voyage.

Reports from Beirut today said an Israel Navy unit boarded a Lebanese vessel at sea after a brief clash. The ship, bound from Cyprus to Junia, Lebanon, was said to be carrying arms for terrorist groups without the knowledge of the Lebanese authorities. The Beirut report was not confirmed here nor was there any known connection between it and the search of the Cypriot vessel.

NUDEL ON TRIAL WEDNESDAY

NEW YORK, June 19 (JTA)—Ida Nudel, a leading Soviet Jewish activist, will go on trial Wednesday on charges of "malicious hooliganism" which carry a penalty of 1-5 years in prison, it was reported today by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. Nudel was arrested in Moscow on June 2 for protesting the arrests a day earlier of activists Vladimir and Maria Slepak.

According to the SSSJ, the trial will be held in the People's Court in the Volgogradsky district of Moscow where Nudel lives. The judge is expected to be A. I. Anashkin. "Nudel's trial will culminate numerous detentions, questionings and house searches which the KGB (secret police) has relentlessly pursued for seven years," Eugene Gold, chairman of the NCSJ said today.

The SSSJ reported the establishment of a new group called Women for Ida Nudel (WIN), a project of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

BLACK JEW SAYS ISRAEL NOT RACIST

NEW YORK, June 19 (JTA)—An Ethiopian Black Jew who is a student at Ohio State University, says it "is absolutely untrue" that Israel is a racist country, a charge frequently leveled by its Arab foes. Yaacov Dan, who described himself as a native of Ethiopia who settled in Israel several years ago, made his statement in a letter to the Ohio State Lantern, a campus newspaper, according to the Black-Jewish Information Center here.

"To my sorrow, I have encountered many Black people, who, because of their exposure to Arab propaganda, believe Israel to be a racist country," Dan wrote. "This is absolutely untrue. I have found more discrimination right here in the United States in the few months I have been here than in all the years I have lived in Israel." He suggested that Israelis who came from Arab countries be asked about discrimination because "these people were treated in a despicable manner and only because they were Jews. I just want to say to all who read this, and especially if you are Black, that Israel and her people are definitely not racist. I urge anyone who has any doubt to come to Israel and see for yourself," he wrote.

MRS. JACOBSON SAYS HIAS MISREPRESENTS DULZIN'S VIEWS ON DROP-OUT ISSUE

NEW YORK, June 19 (JTA)--Terming press statements by HIAS purporting to represent World Zionist Organization chairman Leon Dulzin's views on the drop-out question as "misleading," Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the WZO-American Section, said today that such reports are a "disservice" to world Jewry and to the heroic struggle of Soviet Jewry for the right to go on aliya to Israel.

Mrs. Jacobson referred to Dulzin's presentation at a recent meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, of the problem of Soviet Jews who left the Soviet Union with Israeli visas and then "dropped out" upon arrival in Vienna, and went to other countries. Dulzin did "no more or less than place before the American Jewish leadership a burning issue which, unless solved or ameliorated, places in jeopardy the future of the struggle of Soviet Jewry for aliya," she said. "He did not make any specific proposals but challenged Jewish leadership to rise to this historic challenge with courage and foresight."

Dulzin had not raised this issue in terms of the interests of any particular Jewish organization but rather "as a world Jewish problem fraught with historic consequences" for the future of the Jewish people, Jacobson said. She pointed out that if the drop-out rate should rise, as it may, to 70 percent or 80 percent of the Jews who leave the USSR, it will "undermine the heroic struggle of the Soviet Jewish activists who are basing their entire claim on the right to go to the Jewish homeland in Israel."

Mrs. Jacobson said that Dulzin had informed the Presidents Conference that to leave the situation as it is could bring about a "catastrophe in the struggle for the freedom of Soviet Jewry," and that those "who try to make this a diaspora-Israeli conflict are doing a great disservice to the Jewish people." Referring to a recent statement by Carl Glick, president of HIAS, that Dulzin believes that the choice for Soviet Jews should be to stay in the USSR or go to Israel, Mrs. Jacobson said that Dulzin never made such a statement nor does he believe this.

HIAS REPORTS ACTIVITIES FOR FIRST QUARTER OF '78

NEW YORK, June 19 (JTA)--HIAS, the world-wide Jewish immigrant aid agency, assisted 3182 Jewish refugees in finding new homes in the United States and other Western countries during the first quarter of this year, Gaynor I. Jacobson, executive vice-president of HIAS reported today. He said the figure represented a nine percent increase over the same period in 1977.

According to Jacobson, 2823 refugees came to the United States, 98 percent of them--comprising 2764 persons--from the Soviet Union, a 13 percent increase over 1977. He reported that as of the end of the first quarter some 3500 Soviet Jewish emigres were in Rome undergoing processing by HIAS for migration, mainly to the U.S. An additional 10,266 Soviet Jews were registered with HIAS by their relatives for migration aid, the vast majority for the U.S., Jacobson said.

He reported that the new arrivals from the Soviet Union consisted of 1024 family units with an average of 2.7 persons per family. Of that number, 47 percent were males and 53 percent females.

Twenty-five percent were 20 years of age or under, 48 percent between 21-50 and the remainder 50 or over.

With respect to occupations, 47 percent of the adult Jewish refugees from the USSR were highly trained or university educated. Out of 784 persons, 251 were engineers, 111 technicians, and 422 in various other professional categories. Jacobson reported that three percent of the refugees assisted by HIAS in the first quarter of the year went to Canada, six percent to Australia and New Zealand and two percent to Western Europe.

ISRAELI WAR WIDOWS GUESTS OF LONDON JEWS

LONDON, June 19 (JTA)--A group of 25 Israeli war widows have arrived in Britain for a short holiday as guests of London Jewish families. They will be taken on sightseeing trips and theater outings under a scheme arranged by the War Widows of Israel Fund. Another group is due here in September, while a third group, including children, is being considered for December.

The scheme, launched in 1974 after the Yom Kippur War, has become an annual event. A parallel scheme provides hospitality for invalidated Israeli soldiers. The latest group of widows includes, for the first time, women who lost their husbands in the War of Independence 30 years ago. Women who have been widowed twice--in the wars of 1967 and 1973--have also been given hospitality under the scheme.

FRENCH POLICE ARREST 15 YOUTHS IN NEO-NAZI RALLY

PARIS, June 19 (JTA)--French police are questioning a 40-year-old French antique dealer, Francois Hamon, suspected of having organized a neo-Nazi meeting last weekend in a provincial city. Hamon was arrested Saturday night when local police were called to disperse a gathering of some 15 youths who wore Nazi-type uniforms and sang Nazi songs. Hamon had rented a 17th Century castle in the city of Blandy-les-Tours, about 60 miles from Paris, for the group. He said at the time that he was arranging for the meeting of an association with cultural activities.

The police found 15 youngsters, dressed in Nazi uniforms. Six were Belgians, six Swiss and two French. The group told the police that they belonged to a pan-European association and claimed that their salutes, which looked like the old Nazi "heils" were only "the Olympic greeting." They denied being Nazis but were briefly detained by the police for questioning.

TERRORIST LEADER GETS LIFE

TEL AVIV, June 19 (JTA)--A military tribunal in Nablus has sentenced terrorist gang leader Said el Assba, to life imprisonment for a series of acts that caused at least one fatality and scores of injuries to civilians. The court described the defendant as a man who lost all semblance of humanity.

He is held responsible, among other crimes, for planting bombs in the Tel Aviv and Petach Tikva vegetable markets and placing bombs on buses where they would do maximum damage to innocent persons. Although Assba did not personally carry out the bombings, he planned and organized the outrages, manufactured the bombs and gave the orders, the court said. Assba showed no signs of remorse at his sentencing. On the contrary, he expressed satisfaction over the casualties he caused and regretted only that more people were not killed.