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ISRAEL REJECTS REPORTED EGYPTIAN INTERIM PLAN FOR GAZA, W. BANK; URGES RETURN TO NEGOTIATIONS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 25 (JTA)--The Cabinet today rejected "without any reservation" a reported new Egyptian plan that would transfer the West Bank to Jordan and the Gaza Strip to Egypt "for an interim period of five years" after which the permanent status of those territories would be determined. A communique issued after today's Cabinet session terms the plan "a pre-condition" for negotiations. It noted that Israel has called for the resumption of negotiations with Egypt with no pre-conditions.

The Cabinet reacted even though there was no official announcement of an Egyptian plan in Cairo. However, the fact that the proposal was published in the semi-official daily Al Ahrām indicated that it had originated with President Anwar Sadat. The proposal in fact had been suggested by Sadat on previous occasions and was known here. The Cabinet reportedly did not deal with the criticism expressed by several ministers of Defense Minister Ezer Weizman's outspoken differences with the government over its response last Sunday to the American questions about the future status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

(It was reported from Washington meanwhile that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has proposed a meeting between Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Kaamel to take place in London next month in an attempt to revive the stalled peace talks. In the meantime, Vice President Walter Mondale reportedly will stop over in Egypt for a meeting with Sadat after his visit to Israel June 29-July 2.)

Egyptian Proposal Was 'Pre-Conditional'

Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor told reporters later that the Egyptian position was "that Israel turn over Judea and Samaria to Jordan and Gaza to Egypt as a pre-condition for negotiations over what he (Sadat) calls security problems of Israel" and therefore the Cabinet "unreservedly rejected it" by consensus, meaning there was no vote taken. He explained that "this meant if Israel did not accept the return of these areas in advance, there would be no negotiations on the 'security problems' and to this Israel could not agree."

Naor reiterated that Israel is ready to "conduct negotiations without pre-conditions over the establishment of peace and the institution of administrative autonomy in Judea, Samaria and Gaza as part of the peace treaties over which free negotiations should be conducted between the parties." He insisted that Israel's autonomy proposal was not a pre-condition because Israel was prepared to negotiate over any counter-proposal put forward by the Arab side.

DOCTOR SAYS BEGIN IN GOOD HEALTH

JERUSALEM, June 25 (JTA)--Premier

Menaheem Begin's personal physician, Dr. Mervyn S. Gotsman, chief of the Cardiac Department of the Hadassah Medical Center here, told reporters tonight that "Mr. Begin is in good physical condition and is carrying out his normal, full daily duties." He said that "The articles that have recently appeared in this country and abroad questioning the Prime Minister's health are totally without foundation."

Gotsman summoned newsmen to the Prime Minister's office to read them his statement on Begin's health in response to widespread reports in recent weeks that Begin's physical condition was precarious and he was unable to function properly. "I feel it necessary to make specific references to two misleading and, in my professional view, irresponsible reports that appeared this week in Time magazine and two weeks ago in the London Evening Standard. Those reports are based upon imaginary conditions which do not represent Mr. Begin's state of health. Mr. Begin is well and none of his physical conditions in any way impair the conduct of his normal daily activities or duties as Prime Minister," Gotsman said.

The Standard, in a report picked up by newspapers in the U.S. and other countries, claimed Begin was in need of heart surgery. Time correspondent David Halevi reported that Begin had blacked out during a recent Cabinet meeting and had to be carried from the room.

Dr. Gotsman said "Fourteen months ago, Mr. Begin suffered an acute myocardial infarction (heart attack) and since then has had two episodes of pericarditis. For many years he has been known to suffer from very mild chemical diabetes which has been controlled successfully by a minimal dose of oral anti-diabetic therapy. His blood sugar does not fluctuate. Mr. Begin does not suffer from angina pectoris (chest pains) nor shortness of breath and has totally recovered from his myocardial infarction."

A source close to the Premier told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he sees Begin daily and his impression is "quite the contrary of that portrayed in the Time report." The Premier has made several public appearances recently--the latest in Tel Aviv last night--in order to quash rumors that he is in ill health. (By David Landau)

CHICAGO POLICE SHIELD NAZIS FROM ANGRY COUNTER-DEMONSTRATORS

By David Ettinger

CHICAGO, June 25 (JTA)--Shielded from an angry crowd of several thousand counter-demonstrators by some 900 Chicago police, Nazi leader Frank Collin, late yesterday afternoon, led a group of about 20 Nazis in a "victory rally" in front of the Kluczynski Federal Building in the heart of downtown Chicago.

Wearing Storm Trooper uniforms and holding wooden shields, the Nazis stood expressionless while onlookers shouting "kill the Nazis" pelted them with rocks, eggs, bottles and other debris. Their words inaudible over the chants of the crowd, the Nazis, after ten minutes, clicked their heels, raised their arms in the Hitler salute, shouted "siege heil" and marched back into the building.

The Nazis dubbed their appearance a "victory rally" because of a ruling last week by Federal Judge George Leighton dismissing a requirement of the Chicago Park District for posting a bond by the Nazis

for permission to march in Marquette Park. The Nazis cancelled their march in the heavily-Jewish populated suburb of Skokie scheduled for today and said they would march in the racially volatile Marquette Park district July 9.

Their rally here was scheduled for 4:30 p.m. local time but was delayed for 40 minutes while Chicago Police Superintendent James O'Grady tried to convince the Nazis to call it off because he could not guarantee their physical safety. The Nazis refused and at about 6 p.m. they were escorted from the building by a heavy cordon of police. Earlier, the men in storm trooper garb were secretly brought to the federal building in a U.S. mail truck which was seen by the counter-demonstrators but did not arouse their suspicions. Asked if it was appropriate to use a government vehicle for that purpose, a police officer admitted the action was "questionable" but, he added, "it worked."

Security around the building was very tight. Close to 1000 police, three rows deep, stood behind wooden barricades set up to insulate the Nazis from the thousands of spectators who appeared to be of all races and colors and from all over the country. A police spokesman explained that the security precautions had to be taken to prevent threatened violent action by the counter-demonstrators. Chicago Mayor Michael Bilandic observed the scene from a building adjacent to the rally site. Several arrests were made in isolated incidents before and after the Nazis appeared, including two members of the Jewish Defense League.

The counter-demonstration, which was largely unorganized, included members of the Committee Against Fascism, the Black and White Defense Committee, several left-wing groups and about 200 JDL members. The crowd waved signs reading "Bar the Nazis," "Chicago Is Not Munich" and "We Won't Let It Happen Here." Many of the counter-demonstrators wore arm bands with the words "Stop It Now."

Cancels Anniversary Plans

Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Beckery, a middle-aged couple from Los Angeles, said they had cancelled their anniversary plans in order to drive here to demonstrate against the Nazis. "They should drop dead," Mr. Becker said, adding that his father's entire family was killed in the Holocaust. Mrs. Becker said she felt compelled to come here because the Nazis "stand against everything this country is built on." JDL leader Bonnie Pechter claimed that the JDL presence "put the Nazis on notice" that "there will never be a Skokie."

The next major confrontation with the Nazis is expected to take place at Marquette Park July 9. Official counter-demonstrations planned for Skokie today were cancelled.

PAC Statement

The Public Affairs Committee of Chicago's Jewish United Fund, an umbrella agency for 34 Chicago area Jewish organizations, which had been organizing a "massive but peaceful" counter-demonstration called it off Thursday night shortly after the Nazis announced they would not march in Skokie. David Smerling, president of the JUF and the Jewish Federation of Chicago, said "If the Nazis are not going to bring their despised symbols to Skokie, we do not want to encourage

large numbers of people to come to the community."

Smerling noted that while "Skokie's thousands" of Holocaust survivors were "deeply relieved" that the Nazis would not march in their suburban town, "we abhor the message of Nazism directed not only against Jews but against any other people."

NYC HOLDS ANTI-NAZI RALLY

By Lisa Schiffman

NEW YORK, June 25 (JTA)--A city-wide inter-faith "Rally for Freedom" scheduled to coincide with a projected march by Nazis through the predominantly Jewish suburb of Skokie, Ill., today, was held on the steps of the old Customs House in lower Manhattan this afternoon. But it drew a smaller turnout than expected, apparently because the Nazis cancelled their march.

Nevertheless, an enthusiastic crowd, estimated by police at between 500-1000, heard representatives of the State and City governments, spokespersons for Christian as well as Jewish groups and diverse ethnic elements affirm that Nazism will never raise its head in America. Gov. Hugh Carey of New York, Lt. Gov. Mary Ann Krupsak, Deputy Mayor Herman Badillo of New York, and Allard Lowenstein, the U.S. representative to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, were among the principal speakers. Rabbi Baruch Silverstein, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, declared that "Skokie raises the question, don't we possess legal tools to distinguish between human rights and satanic designs." He was referring apparently to the prolonged legal battle over the Nazi plans to march in Skokie.

The rally drew contingents representing the New York and New Jersey Council of Churches, the Catholic Interracial Council, the Archdiocese of New York, the National Council of Christians and Jews, the United Irish Societies, the Council of Lebanese Americans and the American Federation of Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims. Signs carried indicated groups representing lodges and chapters of the B'nai B'rith and the American Jewish Congress in the New York metropolitan area.

The rally began at 1:30 p.m. and ended by 3:15. Malcolm Haentein, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of New York, who presided and introduced the speakers, acknowledged that the crowd was smaller than expected when he noted that many persons may have thought the rally was cancelled because the Nazis did not march in Skokie. "The cowards have given up their march but we have not given up our fight," he said.

The rally was orderly. Two minor incidents occurred. At one point, a man believed to be a member of a pro-Arab group heckled a speaker. A scuffle developed at another point when a woman wrested a sign from a young man which disparaged New York Sen. Jacob Javits for criticizing Israel government policies.

In related developments, Theodore R. Mann, chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) commented on the cancellation of the Nazi march in Skokie. In a statement released here, Mann said "The important lesson of Skokie is that the Jewish survivors of the Nazi death camps found that they were not alone as they were 40 years ago." In New Haven, Conn., the Community Relations Committee of the New Haven Jewish Federation and the New Haven Board of Rabbis, sponsored a 15-minute silent vigil in support of the principles of democracy and in opposition to Nazi totalitarianism.

JEWISH AGENCY ASSEMBLY BEGINS

JERUSALEM, June 25 (JTA)--Delegates from some 40 countries are here to attend the opening ceremonies tonight of the seventh Assembly of the Jewish Agency. The five-day gathering will concentrate on a joint government-Jewish Agency five year plan for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of slum areas.

The opening tonight will be attended by President Yitzhak Navon. Senior Cabinet ministers headed by Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, will attend other proceedings and Premier Menachem Begin is to address the Assembly at its closing session Thursday night. This assembly will be the first since the 1977 elections that brought Likud into power in the government and in Zionist institutions.

It will formally name Leon Dulzin chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive. Dulzin was elected chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive at the World Zionist Congress here last February and has been serving as acting chairman of the Jewish Agency. He is presently in New York recuperating from ulcer surgery.

This afternoon, many of the delegates visited the Western Wall to express solidarity with the families of imprisoned Soviet Jewish activists who have been protesting there.

JEWISH GROUPS ASSAIL JAVITS

NEW YORK, June 25 (JTA)--Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-NY) received scathing criticism from some Jewish organizations, but guarded support from others for his speech on the Senate floor Thursday in which he said that Israel's response to the American questions on the future status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip was "a disappointment."

The most vociferous denunciation came from the American Jewish Congress which accused the Senator, one of Israel's most consistent and staunchest Congressional supporters, of "climbing aboard the 'let's put more pressure on Israel' bandwagon." The AJCongress said it "strongly" disagrees "with his statement that it is up to Israel to 'come forward with a more precise statement of its views.'" According to the AJCongress "Israel has offered a far-reaching proposal for a solution of the West Bank issue. . . . It is up to those who claim to speak for the residents of the West Bank and Gaza--not Israel--to give a 'precise statement' of their views. Sen. Javits would have been better advised to offer his advice to the leaders of Jordan and Egypt. Israel's plan is on the table. Let the others now respond," the AJCongress said.

But Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said Javits' speech "makes many valid points." He added, however, "I wish he had made the resumption of negotiations the focus. Why should Israel make more and more clarification before the process of negotiations?" Schindler asked.

Hyman Bookbinder, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, noted that Javits is "a very very good friend of Israel." He added that he hoped the Senator's remarks would encourage the Israeli government to offer "further clarification" regarding the future of the West Bank and Gaza.

However, Harold M. Jacobs, president, and Fred Ehrman, chairman, of the Union of

Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, asked Javits to reconsider his position on Israel's response. Jacobs observed that "social and political changes may occur" during the period of autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip that Israel has proposed and therefore "it would be very unwise for Israel to commit itself to a specific course of action five years from now."

Maariv Expressed Concern

(The concern that Javits' speech aroused in Israel was reflected in an editorial in the mass circulation Maariv today which observed that the Senator from New York, a state with a large Jewish population, would not have criticized Israel without a preliminary investigation of the current feelings on the issue among Jews and non-Jews. "Whoever doubted reports that American Jewry is not as united as one behind Israel may now have cause to re-think," Maariv said. It added: "No doubt Javits has strengthened the hand of the Administration. When a Republican Senator contributes such help to the Democratic President there are no doubt reasons. There is no doubt that not only in the U.S. there is a certain amount of reservation as to the (Israeli) government's policy," Maariv said. The editorial also referred to an article in the Jewish Chronicle of London, the organ of the Anglo-Jewish community, which not only criticized the Israeli government's policy but called for the establishment of a Palestinian sovereignty.)

NATHAN CONTINUES FAST IN 42ND DAY

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 25 (JTA)--Abie Nathan, in the 42nd day of his fast for peace, agreed to enter a hospital today for a medical check up but insists that he will not take food until he has a firm commitment from the government to abolish the military government on the West Bank and end all Jewish settlement there as a gesture for peace.

Nathan has gotten no commitment from the government. But he has been besieged by appeals to end his fast and has received more publicity here than at any time since he piloted his own plane to Egypt twice in the 1960s as a self-appointed one-man peace mission to President Gamal Abdel Nasser. His hunger strike has so aroused the public that it will be the subject of discussion in the Knesset tomorrow. Nathan plans to attend. In fact, although confined to a wheelchair because of weakness from lack of food, he has managed to show up in Jerusalem several times in recent weeks and to appear in busy areas of Tel Aviv.

Nathan last week rejected a personal appeal from Premier Menachem Begin to end his fast. He said Begin's letter was his "death sentence" because it did not meet his conditions for peace. Today, ensconced in his room at the luxurious Dan Hotel on the Tel Aviv sea front, Nathan sifted through hundreds of messages from well wishers supporting his aims but urging him to give up his fast. He also had telephone calls from friends and Cabinet ministers, among them Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon. He said he would enter the hospital for an examination but refused to remain there so that doctors could monitor his condition.

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NEW YORK, June 25 (JTA)--Isif Begun, a leading Soviet Jewish activist, will go on trial Wednesday for being without an internal passport, the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry said.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW**ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER DENIES ANTI-SEMITISM EXISTS IN HIS COUNTRY**

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 25 (JTA)--Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar A. Montes claimed there that no discrimination by race or religion exists in his country. He declared that proof of the absence of anti-Semitism there is in a statement of the DAIA, the Argentine Jewish community's organization.

Montes, who is in Washington for the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, (OAS), met with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last week at the Argentine OAS mission offices in an interview initiated by the Argentine Embassy here.

The American Jewish Committee closed its offices in Buenos Aires a year ago after its representative said he faced threats of violence from anti-Semites. Numerous Jews have been jailed or have disappeared and manifestations of anti-Semitism have frequently been reported in connection with them. Nazis fleeing from justice for war crimes have been traced to Argentina. United States officials have reported indications of anti-Semitism in their visits to Argentina and as a result the U.S. Department of Justice is expected soon to announce it will begin a parole visa program to enable 500 Argentinians, Chileans and Uruguayans who are victims of political repression to enter the U.S.

Montes, who holds the rank of vice admiral, responded to questions on various aspects of this reported situation in Argentina. "On the general subject of prevailing anti-Semitism," he declared that one should "not take my personal word by the declaration of the DAIA that anti-Semitism has not existed before and does not exist now." He emphasized that if some Jews are in jails they are there for the same reason as are Catholics, Protestants or Orthodox Christians. "They are there only and exclusively because of their participation in terrorist activities—not for their religious activities," he stressed.

Asked if the DAIA, as an organization of Argentine citizens, would be expected to show deference and support for their national government, Montes replied that the DAIA statement was "clear and broad enough to include the government and all the inhabitants of a free country like Argentina."

Calls Jews 'Israelis'

Asked why Jews in Argentina seem identified as Israelis, Montes responded that "to me, Israelis are Jews and Jews are Israelis."

When it was remarked that a top State Department official had said that Jewish prisoners are subjected to religious epithets and treated with scorn, humiliation and derision because they are Jewish, Montes said that this was "categorically untrue" and no American official had ever said that to him.

Montes pointed out that "every person in jail has the right" to request emigration. The procedure, he said, is for his application to be sponsored by the ambassador of the country which he asks to enter. "In that way, the Argentine government is assured that the person will be received by that country," he said. Montes said that the application is submitted to a commission made up of military and civilian officials which investigates

the applicant's background and "takes account of conditions of the country receiving the arrested person because some countries don't accept terrorist people." The commission, which is appointed by Argentina's governing junta, has the final decision on such applications. The procedure to emigrate was put into effect four months ago. Since then, nearly 20 persons have left Argentina under this measure. He named Sweden and England's recipients but did not remember if any went to the United States.

'Holocaust' Not Seen On Argentine TV

With the NBC-TV series "Holocaust" being available for showings abroad, the JTA has been informed that the negotiations for its presentation in Argentina are "at a standstill," according to those handling the film transactions. On this matter, Montes said he has not seen "Holocaust" and had no information about showing it in Argentina. He emphasized that any Argentine TV station is "completely free" to show it. Every TV channel in Argentina has an administrator appointed by the government for managing the channel but "in no way does that mean any kind of restriction is involved on freedom of the press and expression in Argentina," he said. "The producers are in the private sector."

On Argentine-Israeli affairs, Montes said "Argentina has very good diplomatic relations with Israel as it has with Arab countries." He pointed out that "as a good friend of both, Argentina votes in favor or against Israel or the Arabs" on a proposal in the United Nations on the basis of its impact on the maintenance of peace in the region. Argentina was one of 32 countries that abstained on the 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism.

MORE CITIES FOR EL AL URGED

WASHINGTON, June 25 (JTA)--Sen. Charles Percy (R. Ill.) has urged Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to become "personally involved" in negotiations for the U.S. to approve new landing rights for El Al Israel airlines in Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami and Boston.

In a letter to Vance disclosed by Percy's office, the Senator said the Israeli government has already communicated to the U.S. government a new "open skies" aviation policy that should remove any objections to the approval of the new air service. Since 1950, El Al has been limited to landing in New York.

"Your involvement would demonstrate to both the Israeli and the American people that our government is just as concerned about planes of peace as we are with planes of war—planes of peace not armed with rockets, but instead bearing good will and friendship," Percy wrote.

The State Department, the Department of Transportation and the Civil Aeronautics Board will participate with El Al in the negotiations which begin tomorrow.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Security forces have apprehended three El Fatah terrorists believed to be responsible for the fatal stabbing of an Israeli bus driver on the West Bank last January 29. The victim, Mordechai Yekuel, 27, was assaulted near Nebi Salah while on his way to pick up Arab laborers for work in Israel. A security spokesman said the same terrorists are suspected of several other acts, including placing a bomb at the Ramallah police station in May, 1977. They led police to a large cache of explosives.