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CABINET LEAVES DOOR OPEN FOR MORE TALKS WITH EGYPT BUT REJECTS RETURN OF EL ARISH AS UNILATERAL GESTURE

By Barbi Selizer-Meyouhas

JERUSALEM, July 23 (JTA)--The Cabinet, meeting for six hours today, flatly rejected the return to Egypt of El Arish or any part of Sinai as a unilateral gesture of good will to further peace negotiations but left the door open for continued talks with the Egyptians at the ministerial level.

The Israeli gesture had been requested by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt following the inconclusive talks between the Israeli and Egyptian Foreign Ministers and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance at Leeds Castle, England last week. Reading a statement to reporters after the Cabinet session, Begin said: "The government authorizes me to inform Mr. Sadat that there cannot be any one-sided move by any state and there is nobody who can get something for nothing."

He said that Israel was ready to negotiate such matters "on the basis of reciprocity." Begin also disclosed that he was sending a personal message to Sadat informing him of the Cabinet's decision and proposing new meetings between Israel and Egypt in Jerusalem, Cairo, Alexandria, Haifa or any other suitable place.

The Cabinet decision, however, was not unanimous. Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Yadin, who is also the leader of the Democratic Movement for Change, was among those favoring a good-will gesture as a step toward improving the atmosphere between Egypt and Israel. Defense Minister Ezer Weizman voted with the government.

Response To Sadat's Speech

Today's Cabinet action was a direct response to Sadat's speech in Cairo yesterday in which he charged that the "expansionist ambition" of Begin and his "greediness for land" was "the only obstacle to peace in the Middle East." Speaking on national television on the eve of the anniversary of the 1952 officers' revolt that deposed the late King Farouk, Sadat declared:

"If Israel really wants peace, peace can be established within hours. The only obstacle is that the Prime Minister believes he can have peace and security guarantees and recognition and the land. We say peace, yes. Security guarantees for both sides, yes. Good neighborly relations, yes. Recognition, yes. But the land and sovereignty, no, a thousand times no. We do not bargain over the land."

Begin told reporters that Sadat's suggestion that Israel return the northern Sinai town of El Arish, the capital of Sinai, to Egypt as a gesture of its good intentions, was conveyed to Weizman at their meeting near Salzburg, Austria two weeks ago. He claimed that Sadat also had asked for the return of Mt. Sinai where, according to scriptures, Moses received the Ten Commandments. "A unilateral step is not possible," he said. Asked to comment on Sadat's personal attack, Begin said "I admit I may be an obstacle, not to peace but to a kind of Munich-type surrender."

Begin also disclosed that Vance had sent

him a message after the Leeds Castle meeting, suggesting that the Israeli and Egyptian defense ministers as well as foreign ministers participate in the next round of talks. He said he agreed to allow Weizman to join in future meetings.

AP ET

Prepared To Continue Talks

In earlier developments, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, returning Thursday night from his meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Kaamel, said further talks were up to the Egyptians. "We are prepared to continue the talks with the Egyptians but if they will not come to the talks, there will be no talks," he told reporters.

He made his comments when asked about reports that Egypt would agree to further discussions only if Israel commits itself to withdraw eventually from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "I suggest that they do not try to extort preconditions from us," Dayan said. "I am against dictates to an agreement or dictates to territorial settlement. Things can be achieved only through negotiations."

Dayan noted that Vance had suggested that he and Kaamel meet again in two weeks. "We have replied in the affirmative to that suggestion. I have not heard a positive reply from the Egyptians, but that is a problem for the Americans to solve," he said.

Begin, addressing the executive of the National Religious Party in Tel Aviv last Thursday night, said he would crack down on leaders of the opposition Labor Alignment who "compete with us and conduct negotiations." He was referring to Alignment chairman Shimon Peres' meeting with Sadat in Vienna earlier this month.

"Under no circumstances will we put up with the idea that a party defeated (in the elections) will run the country's affairs," Begin said. He denied that he had given unofficial approval to Peres' trip to Vienna. He said he felt the Labor leader should not go but did not openly forbid him because the opposition threatened to use such ban as a political weapon.

LABOR ALIGNMENT CONCEDES PERSONAL ATTACK ON BEGIN HAS BOOMERANGED

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 23 (JTA)--Leaders of the opposition Labor Alignment apparently had second thoughts over the weekend about the wisdom of their personal attacks on Premier Menachem Begin, especially references to his physical health and implications of mental instability.

As Labor and Likud girded for what promises to be an extraordinarily bitter and vituperative foreign policy debate, beginning tomorrow in the Knesset, Alignment leaders admitted that some of the harsh personal remarks made at a Labor Party political forum Thursday, may have boomeranged.

They indicated that in the future, Labor will concentrate its fire on Likud government policies rather than on Begin himself. Labor intends to present a motion of no-confidence in the government at tomorrow's Knesset session. The debate will be opened by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan who will report on his talks in England last week with Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Kaamel. Begin will sum up the situation from the government's point of view. Former foreign ministers Yigal Allon and Abba Eban

will present the opposition viewpoint and Eban will submit the no-confidence motion.

The Labor Party forum Thursday night was closed to the news media. But, inevitably, details were leaked to the press which published unflattering references to the Premier that infuriated Likud.

Labor's ire was aroused by Begin's attacks on Alignment chairman Shimon Peres for meeting with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt in Austria two weeks ago, his veto of a meeting between Peres and King Hussein in London a few days later and his announcement that he will not grant visas to opposition officials who go abroad to meet Arab statesmen.

Basis For Alignment's Ire

Former Premier Golda Meir said she could not recall a time when Labor-led governments had rejected requests by the Liberals, Mapam or the Communist Party to meet anti-Israeli personages abroad. "In many instances the Foreign Ministry financed the trip," she said. Former Transport Minister Gad Yacobi declared that Begin does not control a totalitarian state. His threat to refuse visas to opposition members "is very close to the fascist school," he said.

Eban pointed out that British Conservative leader Edward Heath had visited the Peoples Republic of China when his party was in opposition and that New York Republican Senator Jacob Javits went to Cuba even though the Democrats control the White House.

Some of the Laborites remarked on Begin's conduct during last week's Knesset debate. Meir and former Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz suggested that the Premier did not seem to be in control of himself. Labor-MK Yossi Sarid said Begin's actions disturbed him. "We felt it necessary to draw attention to it," he told the Jerusalem Post today. "Begin's health is a national concern of the first degree. It's the sort of thing where you are damned if you mention it and damned if you don't."

But former Premier Yitzhak Rabin said today that it was unfair for politicians to dwell on health problems and decide who can or cannot withstand the pressures of office. Begin, who suffered a heart attack last year and is diabetic, has been hospitalized several times in the past year. But his doctors insist that he is perfectly fit to discharge his duties.

Meanwhile, Likud leaders warned today that "The Alignment leaders will be sorry for every time they deviate from accepted norms in political debates." Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich said he was shocked by Labor's attacks on Begin. "This is an unprecedented phenomena in a democratic state." Defense Minister Ezer Weizman defended the Premier's threat to withhold visas from opposition leaders. "Peres should better remember that he is leader of the opposition. Everyone must learn to know his position," Weizman said.

WAITING FOR ATHERTON TO RETURN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 23 (JTA)--Israelis are waiting for the return of Alfred L. Atherton, President Carter's special envoy to the Middle East, who was due in Saudi Arabia for talks today and is expected to visit Jordan, Egypt and Israel later this week. Atherton attended the talks at Leeds

Castle, England last week between Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Kaamel and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Vance announced at the close of that meeting Wednesday that Atherton would return to the Middle East to lay the ground work for future talks and that he himself would visit the region within two weeks. Sources here said Israel awaited Atherton's return more for what he might tell them than what they had to say to him. He is expected to be questioned closely on Vance's plans to visit the Middle East.

The Americans have denied that Atherton will resume the "shuttle diplomacy" he conducted last year, with little success. His trips between Jerusalem and Cairo, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, were suspended after President Anwar Sadat of Egypt launched his peace initiative last November. Israelis regard Atherton's mission as another American attempt to keep up the momentum of peace talks.

HOUSE UNITS ELIMINATE USSR FROM CONSIDERATION FOR SPECIAL CREDITS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, July 23 (JTA)--Irritated by Soviet behavior towards human rights issues and media freedom, two House committees have eliminated the Soviet Union from further consideration for special U.S. government credits to purchase American agricultural commodities.

By unanimous vote, the House International Relations Subcommittee on Economic Policy and Trade unanimously voted specifically to exclude the USSR from participation in any Commodity Credit Corporation program. Originally, under a bill sponsored by Rep. Paul Findley (R. Ill.), the Soviet Union would have been included in the benefits along with other "non-market economy (Communist) countries."

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed by Findley that this subcommittee last Tuesday explicitly ruled out the USSR. "Until the Soviet Union deals with human rights in an acceptable international manner there is not going to be any movement on this question," he said.

The Findley bill and other proposed legislation were introduced in the House as means to circumvent in part the Jackson-Vanik Amendment that bars U.S. government credits to the Soviet Union until it alters its emigration policy. However, a year ago the late Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D. Minn.) and Findley proposed agricultural credits to include the USSR which, under an agreement signed with the U.S., Oct. 20, 1975 agreed to buy at least six million metric tons of grains from the U.S. annually for five years. The Soviet Union is estimated to be a billion dollar agricultural customer of the U.S.

"At that time, our relations with the Soviets were somewhat better than today and we had reason for some hope on the emigration question," JTA was informed by a Findley aide. He pointed out that "In fact" the American Jewish Congress last June told the House International Relations Subcommittee that it supported the bill. Meanwhile the House Agricultural Committee in a separate measure had programs paralleling in some ways those in the Findley bill.

CANDIDATES CRITICIZE CARTER

NEWARK, N.J., July 23 (JTA)--President Carter's Middle East policy was criticized by both the Democratic and Republican candidates for the United States Senate from New Jersey. Bill Bradley, the Democratic candidate, and Jeffrey Bell, his

Republican opponent, are seeking the seat now held by Clifford Case (R. N.J.). They appeared in a debate Friday conducted by an ad hoc committee made up of representatives of various New Jersey Jewish organizations.

Bradley said that Israel's security was "non-negotiable" and said he viewed "in a negative and alarming way" Carter's attempts to "push Israel to make concessions." Bradley stressed, "It is not the role of the U.S. to push Israel to make concessions which the government and citizens of Israel see as against their interests."

Bell criticized the Administration's failure "to get a prior commitment from Saudi Arabia to isolate the PLO" before the U.S. proceeded with the sale of F-15s to the Saudis. "The sales should be stopped until Saudi Arabia cuts off aid to the PLO," he said.

Bell, who defeated Case in the Republican primary last month, agreed with Bradley that boundaries and the future of Jerusalem should be decided by Israel and the Arab countries through negotiations. Bell said he believed Egyptian President Anwar Sadat "is interested in peace" as shown by his repudiation of the terrorist activities of the PLO and his growing apprehension about Soviet influence in the Mideast. But Bradley said that after his initial peace overtures, Sadat has been "so intransigent, so negative that I have serious reservations about Mr. Sadat as a man of peace."

Bell was also critical of Carter for seeming to pull back from his strong support of human rights in the Soviet Union. Bell said the President's latest statement, last Thursday night in his press conference, in which he said he planned no further action against the USSR only encouraged the Soviet leaders in their repression of Jews. Bell supported an end to detente. But Bradley said he favors the withdrawal of some technological assistance to the USSR, but he believes the strategic arms limitation talks should continue.

The debate was organized by Dr. Jay Blum of Jersey City and was chaired by Joel Shain, the former Mayor of Orange and present chairman of the New Jersey State Banking Commission. The purpose of the debate, according to the organizers, was "to learn the candidates' positions on the Middle East and to sensitize them to the concerns of the Jewish community."

GERMAN POLL ON ISRAEL

By Jon Fedler

BONN, July 23 (JTA)--A "radical change" in the number of Germans who believe Israel can successfully defend itself in the long run against the Arabs was shown by an opinion poll conducted by one of West Germany's leading pollsters, the Allensbach Institute. Based on questions to 2000 adults in April, 1978, the survey found that 40 percent supported the thesis that Israel could survive Arab opposition, compared with only 26 percent in a similar poll in 1974 and 29 percent in 1971.

By contrast, only 20 percent (vs. 34 percent in 1974 and 27 percent in 1971) supported the counter-thesis that "one of these days the Arabs will be stronger." The number of "undecided" persons stayed constant at the 1974 level of 40 percent (vs. 44 percent in 1971). The survey also indicated that a majority of those with a firm point of view tended to support Israel in the Mideast conflict.

Of those questioned, 44 percent described

themselves as being "more on the side of the Israelis." Although this is a substantial drop from the 50 percent recorded in 1974, the institute pointed out that the 1974 result was based on opinion samples taken after both the Egyptian penetration of the Israeli lines on the Suez Canal and Syria's attacks on the Golan Heights during the 1973 war.

The 1978 sympathy is not far from levels recorded in two "normal" years, 1970 and 1971 (46 percent and 43 percent pro-Israel respectively). Public support for the Arab cause has remained virtually unchanged at only seven percent. There was little change in the numbers of those who supported neither side in the Mideast conflict (33 percent in 1972) and those with no definite opinion (16 percent).

NEW SETTLEMENT IN THE GALILEE

JERUSALEM, July 23 (JTA)--A new settlement will shortly be established on a hill in the lower Galilee, the Jewish Agency settlement department announced. The first 14 families to settle have already entered a temporary camp in Segev, some 10 miles east of Acre. By September the group, composed of Sabras, is scheduled to number 25 families. The new settlement will be based on specialized work shops. Another group of settlers, all new immigrants from South Africa, is soon also scheduled to settle in the area. The group is now in the absorption center of the nearby town of Sarmiel.

A JEWEL OF AN INDUSTRY:

DIAMOND-CUTTING IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, July 23 (JTA)--Moshe Schnitzer, president of the Israeli National Diamond Exchange in Ramat Gan, compared the growth of the diamond industry in his country to "the history of Israel itself." It is something "we are proud of in the diamond cutting industry and I think justly so," he said.

Schnitzer, who recently was elected president of the International Federation of Diamond Exchanges, made his remarks today to some 1100 persons attending a meeting of the Retail Jewelers Association of America, where he was guest of honor.

He described how Israel's diamond industry was begun from scratch by Holocaust survivors. Exports grew from \$5 million in diamonds in 1949 to more than \$1 billion in 1977, Schnitzer noted. The projected figure for this year is \$1.5 billion. He said that Israel cuts approximately 55 percent of all rough diamonds in the world. (By Reena Sigman Friedman)

ZAMIR IS NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL

JERUSALEM, July 23 (JTA)--The Dean of the Hebrew University Faculty of Law, Yitzhak Zamir, 47, will be Israel's next Attorney General, the Cabinet decided today. Zamir will replace Prof. Aharon Barak, who came from the same faculty, Aug. 1. Zamir was born in Warsaw, studied law at the Hebrew University, completed his doctoral studies in London, and continued his academic career at the Hebrew University.

Barak will serve as Supreme Court Justice alongside Meir Shamgar, Barak's predecessor.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Israel Music and Folk Festival opened on Saturday night in the Binyanei Haoma, in the presence of President Yitzhak Navon, Knesset speaker Yitzhak Shamir, and other invited guests. The festival is celebrating Israel's 30 years of independence with musical works by a variety of Israeli composers and performances by world-known Israeli artists.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO MOVE OLYMPIC GAMES OUT OF MOSCOW

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, July 23 (JTA)--Authors of Congressional resolutions that oppose the holding of the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980 said they are firmly continuing to work for acceptance of their proposals in both the Senate and House.

Sen. Wendell Anderson (D. Minn.) and Rep. Jack Kemp (R. NY) pointed out to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they seek to move the games out of the Soviet Union and their resolutions bear a "definite distinction" to President Carter's opposition to a "boycott" of the 1980 Olympics.

Following the Soviet trials of dissidents and American journalists, Anderson and Kemp introduced identical resolutions expressing "the sense" of Congress that the games by held in a place other than Moscow as scheduled. The resolutions observed that "The Soviet Union continues to demonstrate a disregard for basic human rights guaranteed by the Helsinki Accords and the Soviet constitution" and pointed to "the uncertainty of what its actions will be towards representatives to the Olympic Games from Israel, Taiwan, and certain other nations."

At his nationally televised news conference last Thursday night, Carter was asked: "Mr. President, do you agree or disagree with those who urge that American athletes boycott the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow as a protest against Soviet treatment of dissidents?" The President replied: "This is a decision that will be made by the U.S. Olympic Committee. My own hope is that the American athletes will participate in the 1980 Olympics."

Seeking Moral Opposition

The Anderson and Kemp resolutions are regarded by their supporters as a means to bring moral opposition to bear against the games in Moscow. The Olympic Committee, a private body, is autonomous and is not bound by a governmental or Congressional action. Robert J. Kane, who has offices in New York City and Ithaca, N.Y., is the committee's president.

Anderson, who was a silver medalist in the 1956 Olympics as a hockey player, observed that Carter "is opposed to a boycott while we are saying move the games. The Soviet Union, as Berlin in 1936, is an inappropriate place for the games" because "the Soviet by its violations of human rights is an inappropriate host."

Anderson's resolution, which is in the Senate Commerce, Science and Transport Committee, is co-sponsored by Senators Henry M. Jackson (D. Wash.), Clifford Case (R. N.J.), Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio), Malcolm Wallop (R. Wyo.), Charles Percy (R. Ill.), E. J. Garn (R. Utah), Harrison-Schmitt (R. N.M.) and Muriel Humphrey (D. Minn.).

Kemp, whose resolution has 17 co-sponsors and is in the House International Relations Committee, told JTA that "we are not going for a boycott. I want our athletes to participate, but not in Russia. This thing is going to escalate. The Soviets will try to keep Israel out of the Olympics. If President Carter is consistent with his campaign statements for human rights around the world he will ask the American Olympic Committee to join me, not in a boycott, but in moving the games" out of the Soviet Union.

Presidential News Secretary Jody Powell said Friday that the President's comments about U.S. action with regard to Soviet treatment of the dissidents and journalists was not "a softening" of his position toward the Kremlin.

Carter: Not-Embarked On Vendetta

Besides his response to the question on the Olympics, Carter said at his press conference that he has "not embarked on a vendetta against the Soviet Union." The President said "we cannot interfere in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union" and "I would like to have better relations with the Soviets." Pointing to the various Soviet trials, Carter said: "We have expressed our displeasure, I think, in a very moderate way."

In another aspect of the trials, Carter said at his news conference that he is "not specifically" aware of any negotiations underway for the release of Anatoly Shcharansky or Alexander Ginzburg. "I think it would be inappropriate for me to talk about the negotiations that go on between ourselves and other governments about the release of prisoners in general or specifically."

THOUSANDS RALLY AGAINST AUTOPSIES

JERUSALEM, July 23 (JTA)--As the Cabinet met for its weekly session today, thousands of religious Jews, in traditional black attire, covered the hills opposite the Premier's office in a demonstration against autopsies. The demonstration was organized by a committee "For Safeguarding Human Dignity."

The demonstrators sang psalms and held posters calling doctors "murderers in white gowns" and "Bank robbers get prison terms, body robbers get research grants." A spokesman for the demonstrators claimed the group had evidence from many parts of the country of men and women who were promised by their physicians that they would not be subject to autopsy, whose bodies were used for the purpose of autopsy. The spokesman did not have figures, but said he was convinced there "were many such cases." He said, "We will continue the campaign in every way possible, until a man will have the right to his own body in Israel."

VLADIMIR SLEPAK APPEAL REJECTED; MARIYA SLEPAK TRIAL DUE WEDNESDAY

NEW YORK, July 23 (JTA)--The National Conference on Soviet Jewry has learned that the appeal of Soviet Jewish activist Vladimir Slepak has been rejected by Soviet authorities. Slepak was sentenced last month to five years internal exile for "malicious hooliganism."

Meanwhile, Slepak's wife, Mariya, who was charged with the same offense, has been told she will go on trial Wednesday. The couple were arrested in May after they hung a banner from their balcony asking to be allowed to join their son in Israel.

In another development the wife of imprisoned Moscow refusenik Isosif Begun has written to the International Olympic Committee president Lord Killanin charging that there is a direct link between her husband's arrest and Soviet efforts to rid Moscow of Jewish activists for the 1980 Olympic Games.

According to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviets Jews, Dr. Alla Begun said her husband was sentenced June 28 for "violating the internal passport regulations" when he sought to rejoin his family in Moscow after returning from exile in Siberia. She charged her husband was arrested as preparation for the Olympic games.