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NEWS ANALYSIS

ISRAEL MAINTAINING LOW PROFILE IN THE FACE OF EGYPTIAN BLUSTER

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 31 (JTA)--The Israeli government is deliberately maintaining a low profile in response to growing resistance in Cairo to a new round of Israeli-Egyptian peace talks. With Secretary of State Cyrus Vance due in the region next weekend for a new attempt to bring the two sides together, Cabinet sources confirmed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Israel was determined not to do or say anything that could be construed as negative or provocative. (See related story from Washington.)

The purpose is to avoid any danger of being accused of complicating the negotiations process so that the onus would fall on Egypt if a new round of talks fails to materialize. That explains Premier Menachem Begin's low-key reaction to the ouster of the Israeli military mission from Egypt last week and the absence of any official comment on Sadat's tough talk yesterday.

The Egyptian leader told reporters after his meeting with U.S. special envoy Alfred L. Atherton in Alexandria, that he did not favor renewal of face-to-face talks with Israel at this time unless Israel was ready to offer a commitment to withdraw eventually from occupied Arab territory. Sadat said that the moves from the Israeli side "are negative and backward" and emphasized repeatedly that Egypt was ready for "peace in all its aspects" but would not bargain over territories.

Sadat flatly rejected Israel's latest offer to discuss the future status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip after a five-year period of "self rule" in those territories and to be ready to consider a territorial compromise if the Arabs propose one. He was quoted as saying yesterday, "Really, I don't favor Sinai now," a reference to a new Israeli-Egyptian meeting at a Sinai locale that Atherton and Vance are trying to arrange.

Israeli sources said they were hopeful that the Egyptians would eventually agree to further talks and that by avoiding public polemics, Israel was helping the U.S. achieve that goal. Privately, however, Israeli officials are giving serious thought to an idea advanced by Begin in the Knesset last week for some form of "partial agreement" with the Egyptians if efforts toward a comprehensive settlement remain deadlocked.

Partial Agreement Under Consideration

Actually, the idea, which Begin repeated on a television interview last Wednesday, is believed to have originated with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan some time ago. It was revived after Sadat's meeting with Defense Minister Ezer Weizman in Salzburg, Austria, earlier this month, where the Egyptian leader proposed that Israel return El Arish in northern Sinai and Santa Katherine to Mr. Sinai to Egyptian civil administration as a gesture of goodwill.

The Cabinet flatly rejected that proposal and Begin was especially vehement against any unilateral gesture by Israel. But he said Israel

was prepared to negotiate a quid pro quo agreement that would involve the return of portions of Sinai to Egypt in exchange for "peaceful relations without a formal peace treaty." The extent of the territory returned, it was understood, would be linked to the magnitude of "peaceful relations" offered by Egypt.

That concept is reminiscent of the underlying philosophy of the second Sinai interim agreement in 1975. At that time, Israel offered to return a substantial portion of the peninsula for "active components of peace." The actual agreement traded a small section of Sinai for limited peace components. Government spokesmen now stress that Begin's idea would involve an open-ended agreement with Egypt with no time limit and thus not simply another "interim" accord.

Many observers see this as a rationalization of the position taken by the previous Labor-led government of Premier Yitzhak Rabin--a position that Begin ferociously attacked when he was in the opposition. Other government sources say this formulation originated with Dayan when Israeli-Egyptian talks began to go awry last January and is not connected to Sadat's recent request for a goodwill gesture from Israel.

American sources have indicated to the JTA that the U.S. does not attach much importance to the idea of a limited agreement, at least not at this time, and is directing all its efforts towards advancing comprehensive peace talks.

U.S. DISAPPOINTED WITH SADAT, BUT VANCE STILL GOING TO THE MIDEAST

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, July 31 (JTA)--The United States expressed itself today as "very disappointed" with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's refusal to continue Egyptian-Israeli peace talks. Nevertheless, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will go to the Middle East late this week for "a full exploration" of the new developments there, the State Department said.

"We are very disappointed that President Sadat has announced that Egypt will not participate in another round of negotiations with Israel under present circumstances," the Department's chief spokesman Hodding Carter said. "This notwithstanding, Secretary Vance will be going to the Middle East as scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Begin and President Sadat," he said.

He said Vance will leave late Friday or early Saturday for visits, first to Jerusalem and then to Cairo. He said there were no plans for other stops. However, it was expected that Vance would also go to Amman, Jordan and, particularly, to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in view of Saudi Arabia's special relationship with both Egypt and the U.S.

Sadat announced, after meeting with U.S. special envoy Alfred L. Atherton in Alexandria yesterday, that Israel must drop its demands for territorial compromise in the occupied Arab lands before Egypt will agree to continue talks on the foreign ministers level, such as those at Leeds Castle, England, two weeks ago.

Egyptian officials were quoted in Cairo today as saying that Egypt is still willing to negotiate with Israel and has not abandoned its peace initiative. However, they did not expect further talks until at least September. The U.S. had hoped that talks would resume by mid-August, presided over by Vance, at a locale in Sinai. Asked what point there was in Vance

going to the Middle East in view of Sadat's statement and the fact that Ahterion is already there and is trying to reach the same objective--resumption of Egyptian-Israeli talks--the State Department spokesman replied, "This announcement (by Sadat) clearly raises a new set of circumstances that require close consultations."

He said that Vance would be making "a full exploration of precisely where we are now." He said he did not want to speculate so early after Sadat's announcement as to whether another meeting of the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. would be held. "There is a feeling we need to meet the leaders of both countries," Haddad Carter said. "What we will do is too early to speculate."

Mum On Meaning Of Sadat's Remarks

He refused to offer an interpretation of Sadat's remarks except to express "disappointment." He said the decision for Vance to go to the Middle East "obviously was taken very recently--in the wake of Sadat's speech. The Secretary is with the President at Camp David." Asked if the decision was made at Camp David, meaning by President Carter, the spokesman said "The Secretary did indeed reach this decision and gave it to me in the last hour or two."

The decision apparently concerned a visit to the Mideast in the light of Sadat's statement. Vance had announced, after the Legats Castle meeting, that he intended to visit the area within two weeks. The State Department spokesman confirmed that the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers had agreed to meet again after their meeting in England. Later, a State Department source said Vance's statement in England that another meeting of the foreign ministers would be held "was okayed" by both foreign ministers. The U.S. had confidently expected that such a meeting would take place, until Sadat's statement yesterday.

The White House, however, sought to play down the Camp David meeting where Carter, in addition to conferring with Vance, also conferred this morning with Defense Secretary Harold Brown and National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski. A White House spokesman this afternoon sought to allay concern over Sadat's refusal to continue the peace talks at this time, saying that the Camp David participants went there because they had been unable to hold two of their last working meetings. The spokesman asserted that the "full range" of foreign policy was discussed at Camp David.

Lebanese Government Move Welcomed

Discussing the latest developments in Lebanon, the State Department spokesman said the U.S. "obviously welcomes" the decision of the Lebanese government to send 500 troops to south Lebanon and "the re-establishment" of Lebanese government authority in that region. "We see it as a positive step," he said. He said the Lebanese government acted "in close consultation" with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). "This step was discussed with us and we supported it. It was a Lebanese decision," Carter said. He said "We continue to urge all (parties) to support Lebanese control in south Lebanon."

RABIN: WILLING TO DISCUSS WITH EGYPT MUTUAL BORDER CHANGES IN SINAI

TEL AVIV, July 31 (JTA)--Former Premier Yitzhak Rabin said last night that he would be

willing to discuss mutual border changes with Egypt in Sinai but would defer the question of the West Bank for five years because there is no solution in sight and in his opinion Israel cannot agree to any territorial concessions in that region.

Addressing members of Histadrut affiliated agricultural enterprises, Rabin stressed that he based his views strictly on security considerations rather than the historical, ideological and religious concepts often raised by Premier Menachem Begin and his constituents.

He said there was a difference between Sinai and the West Bank and that Israel could afford territorial compromises in the former on a quid pro quo basis. He said Israel could not relinquish the Rafah salient or its military airfield at Etzion near Eilat because those regions control an invasion route into the Negev. But the future of Sharm el-Sheikh, he said, should be subject to different considerations.

Rabin said there was not a single Arab leader who would agree to territorial compromise on the West Bank at this time and that in any event, Israel cannot accept minor modifications because the West Bank is the ideal staging area for a thrust against Israel's most populated regions.

Rap Rejection Of Goodwill Gesture

Addressing the Labor Party Bureau later, Rabin and former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon criticized the Likud government for its out-of-hand rejection of President Anwar Sadat's request for the return of El Arish in northern Sinai and Mr. Sinai to Egyptian civil administration as a goodwill gesture to advance peace talks. Rabin said the government, at the very least, should have studied Sadat's request before replying.

Allon said the government's handling of the matter gave Sadat another opportunity to present Israel as the party responsible for stalling negotiations. Labor Alignment chairman Shimon Peres said Begin's fear of a dispute with the hard-line members of his coalition inhibited him from making serious political decisions. "Is the well-being of the Cabinet more important to Begin than the well-being of the country?" Peres asked. (By Yitzhak Shargil)

NO BRITISH LEGISLATION AGAINST ARAB BOYCOTT IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, July 31 (JTA)--There will be no British legislation against the Arab boycott in the foreseeable future, it was learned here today. A House of Lords committee has decided, after four months of public and private hearings, against supporting early passage of the foreign boycotts bill, which is modeled on U.S. anti-boycott legislation. However, supporters of the bill, sponsored by Lord Byers, a Liberal peer, do not regard the decision as a failure in their bid for stronger British action against the boycott.

They hope that the committee will recommend many other measures which the government could take short of legislation. They say British companies should be left in no doubt of the government's active abhorrence of the boycott's discriminatory effects.

In the past, British companies have been given no protection against boycott pressures and have been advised to fend for themselves in what they regard as their own commercial interests. Opponents of the boycott also want British embassies and trade missions to cease disseminating business opportunities containing boycott clauses. The Foreign Office should stop authenticating negative certificates of origin, they add.

The precise reasons for the Lords committee's decision will not be known until their report is published early September. The report will also disclose what alternatives, if any, they recommend. However, their decision comes as no surprise in view of the government's lack of support for the foreign boycotts bill and the uncertainty about a possible general election in October.

Not The End Of The Campaign

That this is not the end of the anti-boycott campaign is underlined by the publication here today of a book strongly critical of the boycott.

Entitled "The Economic War Against the Jews," its authors are Terence Prittie and Walter Henry Nelson. The American edition, published last year, had been part of the evidence considered by the Lords committee, and both men testified at one of its first hearings.

The book attacks Britain as having been "willing victims" because of the Foreign Office's readiness to supply negative certificates of origin. They also say British companies have deprived themselves of major contracts in Israel through fear of offending the Arab boycott office.

Describing America and Britain, Israel's leading trade partners, as the chief battlegrounds in the economic warfare against the Jews, Prittie and Nelson add that the threat is global. "While the Middle East dispute continues to smoulder, no nation can feel snug and safe," they state.

The book, published by Secker and Warburg, is a history not only of the Arab boycott but also of the growing resistance to it, which culminated in the recent American legislation. "The victims of this international blackmail must unite," the authors conclude.

"Almost 30 years experience has shown that firm resistance to Arab pressure succeeds. Israeli skill and valor triumphed in four bloody and destructive wars. With continued help from its friends in the Western world, Israel will triumph also in the economic war that asks her strangulation."

HERZOG ENDS TOUR OF DUTY AS ISRAEL'S UN AMBASSADOR; RETURNS HOME By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, July 31 (JTA)--Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations since 1975, has completed his tour of duty and is returning to Israel with his wife, Ora, and their two children. In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on the eve of his departure, Herzog said that although there were times of frustration and difficulties in the last three years, he views his term in office, on the whole, as "most challenging, interesting and fascinating."

Herzog said that as a result of developments in the Mideast itself, such as the struggle in Lebanon and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's surprise visit to Jerusalem, Israel's standing at the UN "is much better now than it was when I arrived here." He noted that three years ago the Arabs were pressing for the expulsion of Israel, whereas now nobody talks of depriving Israel of its seat in the world organization.

Herzog's term in office was marked by close ties with the American Jewish community. Many Jewish leaders say they are sorry to see Herzog leave. Almost all the major Jewish organizations in the United States held farewell parties for him. Herzog's term of office also received special at-

tention from the media here. For the first time the NBC and ABC TV networks devoted special programs to an outgoing Israeli Ambassador. The New York Times and the New York Daily News carried farewell features on Herzog's return to Israel in addition to holding farewell parties on his behalf.

May Get Involved In Politics

Herzog told the JTA last night that he intends to resume his law practice in Israel and, in addition, to write books and articles. He said he has not decided yet if he will get involved in Israeli politics, but added: "I do not exclude the possibility."

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan yesterday sent a cable of thanks to Herzog for his service on behalf of Israel at the UN. Dayan, writing on behalf of the government, said in the cable:

"I convey to you the sincere thanks of the Israeli government for the way in which you faced the nations in the service of the State of Israel, Zionism and the Jewish people. Those were difficult years, in our political status in general and in the UN in particular. The entire house of Israel remembers how you stood dignified, and how you performed impressively against the wave of hostility of our enemies."

Herzog's successor, Professor Yehuda Blum, a Hebrew University expert on international law, is scheduled to arrive here at the end of August. Blum, an Orthodox Jew, was born in Czechoslovakia and came to Israel after he was freed from the Bergen Belsen concentration camp. He studied law at the Hebrew University and received his doctorate in law in England. He is said to be Premier Menachem Begin's personal choice for the UN post.

SITUATION IN LEBANON

TEL AVIV, July 31 (JTA)--Christian militia in south Lebanon fired artillery today at Lebanese army regulars attempting to enter the region. The Christians claimed that the Lebanese force consisted mainly of disguised Syrian soldiers or pro-Syrian elements and therefore were preventing their entry into Christian enclaves near the Israeli border. The Syrians have been waging war against Christian strongholds in the Beirut area for the past month.

This morning, the long-grounded Lebanese Air Force overflew Christian enclaves in the south. But the obsolete British-made Hunter planes did not open fire and were not fired on by the Christians. Israeli and Lebanese officers met at the Ras el-Nakura border post yesterday to discuss the return of Lebanese forces to south Lebanon.

But the Lebanese rejected an Israeli suggestion that they avoid the Christian enclaves and route their troops through the Moslem villages south of the Litani River. Israeli sources attributed the negative response of the Lebanese to Syrian influence.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) announced that a 600-man Lebanese task force has reached the area of United Nations operations in the Kaukaba region and was coordinating its activities with UNIFIL troops. The purpose is to prevent the movement of unauthorized armed forces in the region. The Lebanese unit is composed of an infantry battalion supported by field artillery and armored cars.

URGE SOVIET JEWRY CAUSE BE DIVORCED FROM GENERAL DISSIDENTS RIGHTS ISSUE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 31 (JTA)—A group of activists involved in the struggle of Soviet Jews for emigration urged last night that the cause of Soviet Jewry be divorced from the general human rights battle being waged by Soviet dissidents. A statement issued by the Public Coordinating Committee for Russian Jews said it sympathized with the human rights campaign conducted by dissidents Yuri Orlov, Alexander Ginzburg and others.

"We have deep respect for such people," the statement said, "but the Jewish fight for aliya bore fruit mainly because it carefully avoided interfering with the internal problems of the USSR, especially the human rights issue." The statement also said it was wrong to call Ginzburg, who has been sentenced to eight years in a labor camp, a "prisoner of Zion."

It said that Ginzburg, who adopted the maiden name of his Jewish mother, does not consider himself a Jew and "wears a cross" like his mentor, the exiled Soviet writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Ginzburg's case had been coupled with that of the Soviet Jewish dissident, Anatoly Shcharansky, sentenced to three years in prison and 10 years in a labor camp. Both belonged to the unofficial group that monitored Soviet compliance with the human rights components of the Helsinki Final Act.

Jewish protests on behalf of Ginzburg faded when it became widely known that, although he was born of a Jewish mother, he associated himself with the Russian Orthodox faith, it was noted here. Jewish efforts are now concentrated on the plight of Shcharansky whose wife and brother live in Israel. On the other hand, the wave of protest in Western countries against the Soviet treatment of dissidents recognized Shcharansky and Ginzburg as equal victims of Soviet repression and false charges. The greatest sympathy has been aroused in the West over the human rights issue in the USSR, of which the Jewish struggle is but one manifestation.

The activists here also denounced independent MK Samuel Flatto-Sharon's claim that his intervention was responsible for the Soviet grant of an exit visa to Israel Zalmanson, a defendant in the 1970 Leningrad hijack trial. The activists said that visas were given to all Jewish prisoners who completed their sentences and charged Flatto with using the case for political gain.

DEBATE ON CHANGING OLYMPIC SITE

By Sam Lipski

MELBOURNE, July 31 (JTA)—A widespread public debate is developing in Australia following calls by leading parliamentarians, human rights activists, and Jewish organizations for a boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics. Last week, Sen. Alan Missen, a leading Liberal Party spokesman on human rights, called on the Australian government to withdraw from the Olympics as a protest against the trials and convictions of Anatoly Shcharansky, Alexander Ginzburg, Yuri Orlov and others.

Speaking at a solidarity rally attended by nearly 2000 people, Missen received loud applause when he called for the boycott. But the Labor opposition shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sen. Ken Wriedt, said he would not favor such a move although he joined the rally to protest against the Moscow trials.

In a country which is widely regarded as "sports mad," Missen's call received widespread

coverage in the media. A number of leading Liberal Party federal and state parliamentarians have supported the call but Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser was non-committal when asked for his views by reporters. Spokesmen for the Australian Olympic Federation and other sports organizations have opposed the idea of either a boycott of the games or an attempt to move the venue from Moscow.

A delegation of rabbis which last week called on Minister for Foreign Affairs Andrew Peacock asked for a boycott of the games as one of several measures it urged the Australian government to take against the Soviet Union. The delegation also called on Peacock to review Australia's cultural and scientific relations with the Soviet Union and to suspend representative delegations planning to attend conferences in the Soviet Union.

Although both the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister have issued protest statements about the dissidents' trials, it is thought unlikely that the government will take any significant action in its bi-lateral relations with the Soviet Union. Australia has supported boycotts of South Africa's athletic teams in recent years but public opinion polls suggest that the majority of Australians are against such bans and believe that "sports and politics should not mix."

LEON AND JILL URIS CANCEL SOVIET TRIP TO PROTEST RECENT TRIALS

NEW YORK, July 31 (JTA)—Leon Uris, author of "Trinity" and "Exodus," among other books, has informed his publisher, Doubleday & Co., Inc., that he and his photographer wife Jill have cancelled plans to visit the Soviet Union this fall, according to a spokesman for the publishing firm. In a cable to his publisher, Uris stated:

"I am cancelling my projected visit to Russia in protest to the recent trials, repugnant even by barbaric Soviet standards of justice and a blight on the free spirit that dwells in every man. Had I been granted a tourist visa or an invitation by the Writers Union, it would be conditional upon my complete freedom to visit dissidents. Under present conditions my presence could only add to the misery and danger of those courageous souls. I pray that a cry of outrage swells from the world that will penetrate that curtain of darkness and let the dissidents know that they cannot and will not be alone." Leon and Jill Uris are presently in Israel researching their next two books.

EFFORT TO REDUCE SOVIET DROPOUTS

TEL AVIV, July 31 (JTA)—Raphael Kotlowitz, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, said today that a way must be found to fly Soviet Jewish emigres directly from the USSR to Israel, by-passing Vienna where, currently, up to 60 percent of them drop out—that is, choose to go to countries other than Israel, mainly the United States.

According to Kotlowitz, who just returned from a visit to Vienna, the Soviet Jews should, at least, have a glimpse of Israel and then, if they choose, can leave for other countries. He said one of the reasons for the high rate of dropouts was the presence of over 30,000 Soviet Jews in the U.S., themselves dropouts. This raises the question of family reunion, which is the technical grounds for the issuance of exit visas by the Soviet authorities, Kotlowitz noted. Everyone claims to have relatives in the U.S., he complained. Kotlowitz reported on his mission to Premier Menachem Begin.