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BEGIN WELCOMES U.S. CRITICISM OF SADAT; SEES IT AS GENERAL AWAKENING TO EGYPT'S OBSTRUCTION OF PEACE

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin welcomed the United States criticism yesterday of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's refusal to meet with Israel as a harbinger of a general awakening to Egypt's obstruction of the peace process. It is "about time the world began to understand who the truly intransigent party was," Begin said yesterday.

Begin's comment came when he was informed by a television reporter about the State Department criticism of Sadat. "As we anticipated from the outset, the truth is beginning to emerge in public opinion in the world," the Premier said.

He noted that some foreign governments have been "led astray by misleading propaganda to believe that it was Egypt which wanted peace while Israel was blocking its attainment." He said Sadat's demand that Israel agree to complete withdrawal as a precondition to negotiations "proves that the stumbling block to peace lies in the unreasonable extremism that holds sway in Egypt."

Begin stressed again that Israel has placed no preconditions on its willingness to continue negotiations. He said he welcomed Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's forthcoming visit to the Middle East. The State Department said yesterday that while it was "very disappointed" with Sadat's refusal to continue Egyptian-Israeli talks, Vance would go to the Mideast late this week for a "full exploration" of the developments there.

Report Sadat's Initiative Is Over

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan told the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee today that Saudi Arabia has told Alfred Atherton, President Carter's special envoy in the Mideast, that it believes the Sadat initiative is over. Based on this belief, Dayan said, the Saudis are now trying to reorganize a new united Arab front.

Dayan said that the Egyptians continue to insist on peace on their terms, which to them means "Judea and Samaria with no Israeli soldiers." But he said Sadat at least admits publicly that Israel has a security problem on its eastern border while King Hussein of Jordan has suggested a border that runs 10 miles from the seashore town of Netanya.

Dayan Under Fire

The Foreign Minister came under criticism from the Labor opposition for the way he handled the negotiations with Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Kaamel at Leeds Castle, England. Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres questioned the wisdom of directly asking the Egyptians about territorial compromise to which Sadat replied in the negative.

"I had to know, therefore I asked," Dayan responded. Peres replied, "Yes, but there are different ways to ask. I asked the same ques-

tion, but not in a way that immediately caused opposition." Peres maintained that if Israel had "driven toward an agreement on the declaration of principles, we could have reached one." But Dayan disagreed. "Not so," the Foreign Minister replied. "Even when we say that we are willing to discuss the permanent status of the West Bank in five years, the Egyptians insist on knowing now what will happen in five years."

But Peres continued to argue that Israel was making unnecessary harsh statements. "Why can't things be said more favorably?" he asked.

Criticism also came from Yehuda Ben Meir, a National Religious Party MK, who noted the government made a tactical mistake when it insisted six weeks ago that it would not be willing to discuss the "permanent status" of the occupied territories but instead used the term "future relations." He said "the government comes now and talks of its readiness to discuss the question of the sovereignty of the territories, and I don't understand what happened in the meantime."

Ben Meir said if Sadat were willing to sign a declaration of principles on the basis of the approach proposed last month by Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, Israel should sign. But Ben Meir maintained that aside from the question of tactics the government has adopted a moderate stand as shown by its willingness to discuss territorial compromise. He said the Egyptians want the Americans to impose a settlement and he urged the Labor Alignment to join the government in opposing this effort.

(In New York, Theodore R. Mann, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, deplored Sadat's refusal to continue peace negotiations with Israel. Mann said he hoped that the Leeds negotiations would continue despite the roadblock erected by the present Egyptian stance. He expressed confidence that Vance would do his utmost to bring Egypt back to the negotiating table.)

VANCE UNCERTAIN IF HIS MIDEAST VISIT WILL SUCCEED IN RENEWING NEGOTIATIONS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance said today after meeting with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for two hours behind closed doors that he did not know if his visit to the Middle East will be successful in renewing Israeli-Egyptian talks.

"I don't know what's going to happen in the Middle East," Vance told reporters. He said he is going to have face-to-face discussions to ascertain the current situation in Cairo and Jerusalem and to examine steps which would be considered necessary for a Middle East settlement.

However, Vance said the United States will not offer any proposals of its own during his trip and he did not expect a resumption of Egyptian-Israeli meetings during this trip. Vance is expected to leave for the Mideast late Friday, with Jerusalem as his first stop. His trip is expected to last five days.

Mum On Egyptian Criticism Of U.S.

Meanwhile, at the State Department, spokes-

man Hodding Carter refused to comment on Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Kaamel's criticism of the U.S. for being "very disappointed" at Egypt's refusal to meet with Israel until Israel agrees to withdrawal from occupied areas.

Kaamel said after a 90-minute meeting in Cairo today with Alfred Atherton, the U.S. special envoy to the Mideast, that "It is a well-known fact that since, and even before, President (Anwar) Sadat launched his initiative and visited Jerusalem, our positions have been consistent and constructive." He said he did not think that "anybody should feel disappointed at our approach." He said that any possibility of Egypt reconsidering its decision would have to await Vance's visit.

With regard to the reported shooting by Christian militia in southern Lebanon at the Lebanese government force moving into the area, Carter said he would not want to comment "on a very fluid and complicated situation." However, the State Department spokesman reinforced his comment yesterday of strong U.S. support for Lebanese President Elias Sarkis' decision to send 500 soldiers to south Lebanon towards points occupied by Christian militia friendly with Israel.

Seemingly going out of his way to warn Israel, Carter said: "We have been in touch with the governments in the area—including Israel—and have made our position known on this deployment. We believe it is imperative that all with influence on the south Lebanon situation should help facilitate the re-establishment of Lebanese government authority in that region."

AUSTRIA CRACKS DOWN ON NEO-NAZIS

By Robert Sedlaczek

VIENNA, Aug. 1 (JTA)--The Austrian Interior Ministry cracked down on a group of neo-Nazis and banned a meeting the group planned to hold Aug. 5 in the town of Eichgraben. The group, calling itself Citizens Initiative for the Maintenance of Truth, was identified here as a German organization. One of the members is a prominent German rightwing extremist, Erwin Schoeborn. Under a treaty signed with the Allied powers in 1955, Austria is compelled to ban all neo-Nazi activity.

Meanwhile, in the north German city of Flensburg, Michael Kuehnen, the leader of the self-proclaimed Nazi group, National Socialist Action Front, was released from custody six days after being arrested. Kuehnen and 100 sympathizers clashed with police July 22 when officers tried to break up an illegal meeting the group was holding in the north German city of Altenstadt. Ten people, including three policemen and three Nazis, were injured in the clash.

Although Kuehnen, 23, will not be charged, he will have to report regularly to the police and has been forbidden to leave the country. Nineteen other members of the Nazi group who were arrested during the clash have also been released. According to reports, no legal basis could be determined for arresting them to begin with.

STORE BANS SALE OF NAZI ARMBANDS

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 1 (JTA)--The general manager of F. W. Woolworth, William Lefebvre, said that sales of Nazi armbands are being discontinued in his store. His assurance came in the form of a statement carried in the San Francisco Jewish Bulletin after the newspaper reported that Nazi armbands were being sold at a concession in

the store, and that the profits were shared with Woolworth's.

Lefebvre said: "It is our intention never to sell any goods or material that will offend any ethnic group. Immediately on my learning of the display of two Nazi armbands in our store they were removed and will stay removed! There will be no sale of Nazi material in this store."

JEWISH PAVILION AND MUSEUM AT AUSCHWITZ SITE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--The Jewish pavilion and museum, at the site of the Auschwitz concentration camp, which the Polish government opened with much fanfare last winter, is not regularly open to the public and visitors must request special arrangements to see it, three Israeli historians reported. According to Prof. David Yacobi, Dr. Michael Hed and Dr. Dov Kolka, all of the Israel Historical Society, who returned from Poland recently, they were surprised to find the Jewish pavilion closed to the general public.

Hed noted that earlier this year the Polish authorities had organized an official opening ceremony for the pavilion, at which Jewish delegations from Israel and elsewhere participated. Hed said Polish officials had explained to him that the pavilion was not open at all times because work inside it was still going on. They promised that eventually it would be open at all times.

But Hed said he and his companions, all of the Hebrew University staff, felt this was not the sole explanation of the present situation. The three historians said that on visiting the pavilion, after applying for permission, they found that notes explaining the various documents and photographs were printed in Polish and Yiddish only and in no Western language. They said the closed circuit television that was supposed to screen videotape films in the pavilion was not in working order when they were there.

The three historians filed a report with the Foreign Ministry, the Education Ministry, the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and the Jewish Agency, asking their intervention with the Polish authorities to re-open the pavilion at Auschwitz. They wrote that they received the "impression that in Auschwitz, just like in Maidanek, Jewish suffering in the Holocaust was blurred intentionally and was mentioned marginally."

They said an extreme example was a pamphlet depicting the Birkenau concentration camp where Jews were burned in crematoria. There was "not even one mention of the word Jews or anti-Semitism" in the pamphlet, they reported.

U.S. MUM ON SHCHARANSKY SWAP REPORTS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 (JTA)--The United States government refused to make any comment today on reports from Europe that the Soviet Union would release imprisoned Jewish activist Anatoly Shcharansky in a major East-West swap. "I don't think any comment I might make would be useful in a situation like this," State Department spokesman Hodding Carter told reporters.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance also had no comment when he met with reporters after leaving a meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. But, when asked if such an exchange would be helpful to U.S.-Soviet relations, he said, "Obviously it would be helpful if Mr. Shcharansky were released."

Meanwhile, the National Conference for Soviet Jewry in New York reported that Shcharansky's

70-year-old mother, Ida Milgron, has left Moscow to visit her son at Vladimir prison, 120 miles northeast of Moscow. At the same time, the NCSJ said that the whereabouts of Vladimir Slepak and Ida Nudel are unknown. Nudel may be on her way to Novosibirsk in Siberia.

PROTESTANT OFFICIAL FIRED FOR CHARGING THAT THE NCC CONDUCTS A PERSISTENT ANTI-ISRAEL CAMPAIGN

By Reena Sigman Friedman

NEW YORK, Aug. 1 (JTA)--The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has expressed concern over the firing of a prominent Protestant official of the Reformed Church in America for charging the National Council of Churches (NCC) with conducting "a persistent anti-Israel propaganda campaign."

The clergyman, Rev. Isaac A. Rottenberg, who for 10 years had served as communications director to the Reformed Church, stated that "every NCC governing board meeting has been preceded by internal bureaucratic power plays aimed at criticizing Israel." He added that whenever "concerns were raised in the council about anti-Semitism, the Holocaust or the emergence of neo-Nazi movements, attempts have been made to trivialize or to neutralize them...."

Rottenberg's statement was made in a letter to a New York City newspaper, in which he questioned the fairness and objectivity of the NCC on matters relating to Jews and to Israel and called for a "loyal opposition to speak up."

A native of The Hague, the Netherlands, Rottenberg and his wife are Christian survivors of the Holocaust. His father died in a concentration camp. Rottenberg served as chairman of the steering committee for the NCC's Office of Christian-Jewish Relations from the inception of that office four years ago.

Self-Criticism Lacking

In a telephone conversation with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Rottenberg charged that "a few people within the NCC have been determined to exploit the processes of the organization for their own propagandistic purposes." He defined his role within the NCC as that of a "critic from within who raised questions regarding how these statements on the Middle East came about."

Acknowledging that his dismissal arose out of a desire on the part of some NCC officials to silence him, Rottenberg said, "My great disappointment about the Council is that, with all its liberal statements, it lacks the capacity for self-criticism which is essential to true liberalism."

Rabbi David H. Panitz, chairman of ADL's interreligious cooperation committee, noting that Rottenberg was dismissed soon after the newspaper statement appeared, said, "We are shocked at attempts to silence an important voice of conscience and integrity within the ranks of Protestant denominational leadership." The general secretary of the Reformed Church in America, Dr. Arie Brouwen, had maintained that Rottenberg was fired due to "recent tension."

Panitz said that Rottenberg took the lead in questioning the continued membership of Archbishop Valerian Trifa on the NCC board of governors while the former Rumanian Iron Guard leader was the subject of deportation hearings in Federal Court. Trifa had already been charged by the ADL and other human rights organizations with involvement in war crimes and anti-Semitic activities in Rumania during World War II.

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The Reformed Church in America is one of 31 Christian groups within the National Council of Churches.

ONE-DAY STRIKE HITS ISRAELI PAPERS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--The Jerusalem Post, Davar and some of the smaller morning newspapers were closed down tonight as the Journalists Union continued its policy of selected one-day strikes in support of its wage demands. The union has threatened to shut down all the morning newspapers Thursday night, thus preventing the newspapers from publishing their lucrative weekend editions on Friday.

The two large afternoon newspapers, Maariv and Yediot Achronot, are not affected since they signed new contracts last weekend. The contracts provide for the 25 percent increase given last April as an intermediate measure and five percent increases in October and in April, 1979. There is also the possibility of other hikes depending on what type of increases other groups, such as teachers and government economists, receive in their new contracts.

The union wants the same terms for the morning newspapers. But the Publishers Association claims these newspapers cannot meet the increases given by the much wealthier evening papers.

ISRAELI MOSLEMS APPLY TO GO ON HADJ

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Some 3000 Israeli Moslems have applied so far to the Interior Ministry for permission to make the annual pilgrimage--the Hadj--to the Moslem holy places in Saudi Arabia this year. Although a small delegation of Israeli Moslems was permitted to go on the Hadj last year, this is the first time that the Saudis are allowing a large-scale pilgrimage of Arab citizens of Israel.

However, the Saudis--and the Jordanians, through whose territory the pilgrims will go--conditioned the permit so that the pilgrims will not be handled on either way by Israeli officials. Originally, the Israelis wanted the Moslem religious judges in Israeli Moslem courts to hand over to the Supreme Moslem Council in East Jerusalem the lists of pilgrims.

But because the religious judges are actually Israeli state employees, the Saudis and the Jordanians insisted that the Supreme Moslem Council handle the applications exclusively. For that matter, the Council will serve as an unofficial representative of Saudi Arabia and Jordan in Jerusalem.

The pilgrims will have to go through two channels of applications. One, to receive the Israeli permit to leave, and the other, to receive the Arab permission to enter Saudi Arabia. The pilgrimage will begin Oct. 24.

RABBI TO GO TO MOROCCO, SPAIN TO HELP SET UP KOSHER HOTELS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Rabbi Binyamin Pery, of Jerusalem, said that he would go to Morocco shortly and also to Spain to advise the governments in those countries on setting up kosher hotels. Pery, who is kosher supervisor at the Jerusalem Plaza Hotel, said the Moroccan authorities contacted him while he was visiting the U.S. recently and issued an invitation.

He said the Moroccan government plans to build four kosher hotels and that the Spanish government intends to build 22 in the near future and has requested his aid. He said he would probably visit both countries in September.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW**CELLIST EAGER TO GET TO ISRAEL**

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Nathaniel Rosen, the 30-year-old California cellist who won a gold medal in the recent Tchaikovsky competition in Moscow against rivals from 19 countries, has never been to Israel and he wants to get there as soon as he can. "I am looking forward very much to go to Israel," he said. With a sense of anticipation, the young cellist added: "I am sure it will happen. I want to make it happen very soon."

Rosen, who talked proudly of being from "a Jewish family," spoke with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in the Great Hall of the White House where he and violinist Elmar Oliveira, of Hartford, Conn. were honored yesterday at a reception by President and Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Joan Mondale, the Vice President's wife.

Rosen and Oliveira were the first American citizens to receive the medal in 20 years. "It was also the first time that two Americans have won in the same year."

Rosen, who switched from piano to cello when he was six years old, never had his bar mitzvah because "I was so busy practicing I didn't get to cheder," he said. "My parents were worried about my paternal grandfather because I wasn't in cheder preparing for the bar mitzvah but my grandfather said, in Yiddish, that I can as well establish my manhood with a cello as in a bar mitzvah ceremony."

Grandfather Rosen, who died four years ago, emigrated with his wife to the United States from Piskyoy, near Kiev. During his visit to the Soviet Union for the competition, the cellist's father, Judge David Rosen of Los Angeles, went to the Ukraine to search out the Rosen family. "I'm not sure if he was successful," the cellist said.

Questioned By 'Soviet Musicians'

While in Moscow, Soviet musicians asked him if he were Jewish, the young cellist said. "Only Jewish musicians asked me," he remarked. Judging from the number of them who sought to learn if he were Jewish, he observed, many of the musicians in the Moscow orchestras must be Jewish.

Rosen, who is slim, personable and outgoing, said he was inspired to a musical career by his father's own musical bent. "My father is a violinist when he is not being a judge, and he taught music as a young man," the cellist said. "Every Friday night at our home my father, two friends and I formed a quartet. That was our Sabbath celebration."

The cellist's father is the presiding judge of the Workmen's Compensation Appeals Board of California. His mother, Mrs. Frances Rosen, whose parents emigrated from "between Austria and Poland," is executive secretary of the Richard Cliburn Foundation of Los Angeles, that aides young musicians. The cellist's brother, Stephen, is a lawyer.

Born in Altadena, California, the cellist studied at Altadena City College and the University of Southern California. Asked if he were affiliated with a Jewish organization, the cellist replied, "No, I don't now but my feeling is with the brotherhood of the Jewish people."

CLERICS MEET WITH CARTER

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Five rabbis

were among the score of clergymen of major American religious organizations who met with President Carter at the White House yesterday to discuss U.S. foreign assistance programs now before Congress. The rabbis were Stanley Rabinowitz, president of the Rabbinical Assembly; Ely Pilchik, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis; Bernard Rosensweig, president of the Rabbinical Council of America; Benjamin Kreitman, executive vice president of the United Synagogue of America; and Mark Tanenbaum, director of the inter-religious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee.

BRITAIN CRACKS DOWN ON ARAB GUNMEN

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Israeli official circles here are pleased at the British government's decision to crack down on Iraqi diplomats suspected of being involved in terrorist activities. Britain has expelled 11 Iraqis thought to have links with the spate of killings in London over the past two years. Although all the victims have been Arabs, some of the incidents sprang from differences over the Arab-Israeli conflict. "We are pleased at the elimination of a potential danger to ourselves as well," an Israeli diplomat said.

However, it is too soon to say that the action against the Iraqis will put an end to Arab terrorism in London. This was illustrated last Friday when a Palestinian woman threw a hand grenade at the car of the Iraqi Ambassador, who was preparing to return to Baghdad. The Ambassador was not in the car at the time.

The action may have been an attempt to revenge the death in January of Said Hammami, the London representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization. He is believed to have been killed by the Iraqi-based "Black June" Palestinian movement, headed by Sabri al-Banna, alias "Abu Nidal." The Libyans, too, have long been suspected of supplying passports and arms to gunmen.

In addition, the Iraqis are believed to have permitted terrorists in Britain and Europe to transmit coded messages over the embassy radio link. Since the Lebanese civil war, London has replaced Beirut as the Arab states' main diplomatic meeting place. Here exiles plot against their own countries, and the individual states conspire against each other.

Not being a police state, like their own countries, Arab gunmen have been able to fly in and out of Britain and pick off their victims with relative ease in London's crowded streets. They have now been warned, though, that the shooting has to stop.

Meanwhile, in Paris yesterday, an Arab-speaking terrorist who shot his way into the Iraqi Embassy surrendered to police after holding eight hostages for 8-1/2 hours. As he was being led away Iraqi security men opened fire, and one policeman and one Iraqi were killed in the subsequent shootout. According to Arab sources, the raid was motivated by a dispute between Iraq and PLO leader Yasir Arafat.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Henry Rosenbaum was appointed recently as project implementor of the Joint Distribution Committee in Israel, Harold Trobe, director of the organization, announced in Jerusalem. Rosenbaum was the first graduate in 1973 of the Federation Executive Recruitment and Education Program of the Council of Jewish Federations. Prior to settling in Israel in May, he served as assistant director of the Rochester Jewish Community Federation.