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VANCE, ISRAELIS DESCRIBE TALKS IN JERUSALEM AS GOOD AND USEFUL

By Yitzhak Shargil and Barbie Zelizer-Meyuhas

TEL AVIV, Aug. 7 (JTA)--U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance left for Alexandria this afternoon in a final attempt to salvage his latest Middle East peace mission and end the deadlocked talks between Israel and Egypt. Vance, who will be meeting with President Anwar Sadat, is expected to caution the Egyptian leader that if negotiations are not resumed a dangerous regional deterioration could take place.

Speaking to reporters at Ben Gurion Airport, Vance said the discussions he had with Premier Menachem Begin and a team of Cabinet members over a two-day period were "important and useful." He thanked Begin and Israeli officials for the hospitality they extended, adding: "As far as the United States is concerned, we shall continue our efforts in the cause of peace. There is no more important cause that we can devote our efforts to."

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who had a one-hour meeting with Vance this morning and then accompanied him to the airport to see him off, thanked the Secretary for his efforts on his mission on behalf of President Carter and termed the two days of talks "useful and good." Dayan added: "We are looking forward with much hope to your talks in Alexandria and we hope that after that we shall somehow, some way, have the continuation of the peace-making process."

Independent observers, however, noted that the immediate prospects of breaking the deadlock were bleak, with no signs of a breakthrough emerging from either Jerusalem or Cairo. Vance's scheduled return Wednesday to the U.S. has also dampened any remaining hopes that a new Israel-Egypt meeting would take place at one of the Sinai outposts next week.

During the course of his visit, the Secretary of State held an impressive round of talks with Israeli leaders. He met with Begin, Dayan, the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Labor Party leader Shimon Peres and President Yitzhak Navon. Following his meeting with Vance, Navon noted that "despite the fact that he sees difficulties (in the negotiating process), the Secretary has not despaired and claims that ways must be found to renew the negotiations."

Positive Consequences Of Vance Visit

Despite the almost certain fact that an immediate break in the negotiating deadlock was not secured, other developments in the Vance visit were viewed positively by Israel. The U.S. and Israel agree that the negotiating process must continue and that such negotiations must be without any preconditions. Vance is said to view Israel's position, as enunciated at the foreign ministers conference in Leeds, England last month, as a good starting point for negotiations.

Although the American and Israeli views are not identical, there is at least agreement on

the direction in which the position is heading. The position was that Israel is prepared to discuss a territorial compromise on the West Bank if one is proposed and that it is prepared to discuss questions of sovereignty for that territory after five years of selfrule.

Another positive consequence of the Vance visit centers around the Secretary's successful efforts at proving to Israel that the U.S. does not intend to force its own ideas on the negotiating parties, and that the Americans are convinced that any solution must be based on negotiations between the parties involved. Begin emphasized there had been no American request for Israel to change its position. The Americans are waiting, instead, to see what happens in Alexandria before deciding whether to bring up any new proposals, observers noted.

In that light, William Quandt, a member of the U.S. National Security Council, and part of Vance's entourage, will be returning to Israel Wednesday to report to Begin on developments in Alexandria. At Begin's request, Vance plans to take up with Sadat the personal attacks on the Premier, which have been recently leveled at him in the Cairo press.

Vance declined to discuss the idea of a partial Sinai settlement, despite the fact that Israel favors such a move. Vance emphasized that the present process must continue, since the only realistic alternative in the event of failure, would be a return to the Geneva framework.

BOMBING TRAGEDY AVERTED IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, Aug. 7 (JTA)--An army spokesman said tonight that security services had recently arrested members of five terrorist groups on the West Bank and that one of the scores of detained suspects led police to a completed bomb which the suspect had planned to place at the densely inhabited Yad Eliyahu quarter in southeast Tel Aviv the next morning. The police said the arrests spared Tel Aviv from still another deadly terrorist act like the one last Thursday which killed one person and injured 50 in the Carmel market.

The spokesman said a series of recent acts of terror and sabotage had been attributed to some of the detainees. He said large quantities of explosives, pistols, hand grenades and detonators, as well as electric activating devices were found in the raids. The investigation of the terrorist groups is continuing.

ISRAELI, JEWISH LEADERS EXPRESS SORROW AT THE DEATH OF POPE PAUL VI

By Reena Sigman Friedman

NEW YORK, Aug. 7 (JTA)--Israeli officials and Jewish leaders in the United States today extended their condolences to Catholics throughout the world upon the death of Pope Paul VI. The head of the Roman Catholic Church died yesterday at the age of 80 after a heart attack in his summer residence at Castel Gandolfo.

Israeli leaders, including President Yitzhak Navon, Premier Menachem Begin and Minister of Religion Aharon Abu-Hatzeira, sent condolence cables to the Vatican this morning. In a statement released today, Israel's Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren said of the Pope, "He tried to remove the chronic hatred between Christianity and Judaism."

Prominent spokesmen for the American Jewish community responded similarly to news of the Pontiff's death. Theodore R. Mann, Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, communicated his condolences to the Catholic world. Rabbi Ely E. Pilchik, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the umbrella organization for Reform congregations, said "we extend our sympathetic hand to the distinguished clergy and world of Catholics in this great hour of mourning for His Holiness, Pope Paul VI. The great Father of the Church did so much in his endeavors to keep alive the hopes of peace for mankind."

World Jewish Congress President Philip M. Klutznick, and the organization's Secretary-General, Gerhart M. Riegner, noted that Pope Paul "will always be remembered by Jewish communities throughout the world as one of the architects of the improvement of Christian-Jewish relations so hopefully inaugurated by his predecessor and the Second Vatican Council. We are confident that the spirit he infused into this effort will continue into the future."

Richard Maass, President of the American Jewish Committee, echoed these sentiments in observing that "It was during Pope Paul's reign that major strides occurred in advancing understanding and mutual respect between Catholics and Jews. Pope Paul will also be remembered for his ardent advocacy of the cause of world peace, social justice and human rights to which the Jewish community is also dedicated."

Improved Jewish-Christian Relations

The message sent by officials of the Synagogue Council of America stated, in part: "We are particularly mindful of the impetus he (Pope Paul) gave to a continuation of the Catholic Church's rapprochement with Judaism initiated by the late Pope John, and his personal encouragement and support of the Guidelines for the implementation of *Nostra Aetate* No. 4, a document that holds promise of a new era in Catholic-Jewish relations." The message was signed by Rabbi Saul Teplitz, President of the Synagogue Council and Rabbi Henry Siegman, Executive Vice President.

David M. Blumberg, President of B'nai B'rith said "The Pontiff will be remembered as one who broadened the involvement of the Holy See to matters never before confronted by the Vatican. His sense of obligation to humanity was perhaps best embodied in his extensive travels to diverse parts of the world, including Israel, and his impassioned pleas for world peace before the United Nations."

Burton M. Joseph, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said that Pope Paul carried out programs "for improving Jewish-Christian relations begun by Pope John XXIII. He will be remembered by the Jewish community for the establishment in 1974 by the Vatican of the Commission for Religious Relations with Jews, and the Commission's 1975 publication, the Guidelines on Catholic-Jewish Relations."

Established A Number Of Firsts

A number of Jewish leaders praised Pope Paul's key role in speaking out for peace in the Middle East. In recent years, the Pope made several nonpartisan appeals for peace. He consistently called for a resolution of the Palestinian

refugee problem and supported the creation of "an internationally guaranteed status for Jerusalem and the holy places."

In 1964, Pope Paul became the first Pontiff to journey to Israel, at which time he visited the Church of the Nativity in Nazareth and the Church of the Last Supper on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives. Although the visit did not represent any change in the Roman Catholic Church's traditional position regarding the State of Israel, Pope Paul did meet unofficially with former President of Israel Zalman Shazar at the Mandlebaum Gate in Jerusalem.

During his reign, the Pope also established contact with Jewish political and intellectual leaders from Israel and other nations. In addition to receiving Abba Eban, Moshe Dayan and other leading Israelis, the Pontiff held an unprecedented meeting with Premier Golda Meir in January, 1973, the first audience granted to an Israeli head of state. A Vatican statement released later noted that, during the meeting with the Israeli Premier, the Pope had recalled "the history and sufferings of the Jewish people."

Subsequently, however, the papal spokesman, Professor Frederico Alessandrini, felt compelled to issue a "verbal note" to the press asserting that the audience with Mrs. Meir was not granted as a "preferential exclusive gesture" by the Pope, but rather was arranged in order "not to let slip any opportunity to act in favor of peace, in defense of all religious interests, and most of all the Palestinian refugees."

Major Theological Decisions

Jewish leaders also lauded the Pope's major theological decisions regarding Jews and Judaism. Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, noted that Pope Paul, following in the spirit of his predecessor, Pope John XXIII, took steps to change Catholic attitudes toward Judaism and to improve relations between Catholics and Jews.

In the wake of Vatican Council II, convened in the fall of 1962, and Pope John's overtures to Jewish leaders through his appointed representative Cardinal Bea, Pope Paul held a dramatic meeting with Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, the great philosopher of Judaism. Heschel, who had attended the Vatican Council, appealed for a modification of Catholic doctrine regarding the issues of deicide and conversion of Jews.

It was apparent, from the Pope's subsequent references to Heschel's writings that he was much impressed by Heschel and that the two men had developed a personal friendship. The Pontiff declared publicly that he had received much inspiration from Heschel's work and that his understanding of Jews and the Jewish religion had been greatly enhanced.

Following his audience with Heschel, the Pope on Oct. 20, 1965 promulgated the well-known Vatican Declaration on Non-Christian Religions, which represented a major shift in Catholic doctrine regarding the Jews. The Declaration repudiated the "false charge of collective Jewish guilt for the death of Christ" and called for "fraternal dialogue and mutual respect between Catholics and Jews throughout the world." In the wake of this document, a Vatican Secretariat on Catholic-Jewish Relations was established in an unprecedented attempt to encourage cooperation between Catholics and Jews in the United States, Israel and other parts of the world.

The Catholic-Jewish dialogue was continued in the form of annual conferences beginning in 1970 between the International Jewish Committee for

Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC), and the Vatican. The IJCIC is an umbrella organization composed of representatives of the Synagogue Council of America, World Jewish Congress, Israel Interfaith Committee, American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Pope Paul met with the leaders of this group in 1975.

Pope Paul met with leaders of the IJCIC and subsequently issued a set of Vatican Guidelines for the implementation of the principles outlined in his 1965 Declaration. These guidelines included plans for the revision of anti-Jewish teachings contained in Catholic textbooks, liturgy and sermons. The guidelines were hailed by Tanenbaum as "a watershed event in relations between Christians and Jews."

Recently, in 1977, the Pope renounced all Catholic efforts to proselytize among Jews in a statement made before the annual IJCIC-Vatican Conference in Venice. This declaration, according to Siegman, was indicative of a major shift in Catholic doctrine, in that Judaism was for the first time recognized as a legitimate and eternal faith in its own right rather than merely the precursor of Christianity.

Some Express Disappointment

However, in spite of much that was positive in Pope Paul's policy toward the Jews, a number of Jewish leaders expressed disappointment in the fact that the bright promise of a new era in Christian-Jewish relations held out by Pope John XXIII was only partially fulfilled by his successor. They explained that the Pope's pronouncements on the decide and conversion questions fell short of the pledges made by Cardinal Bea.

It was also recalled that during his 1964 visit to Israel, the Pope defended the behavior of Pope Pius XII who has been condemned for his silence in the face of Hitler's extermination of European Jewry. "Some Jewish leaders were also extremely disturbed by the fact that the Vatican delegation to a UN confab in Vancouver in 1976 supported a resolution condemning Zionism. The Vatican delegation to an Islamic-Catholic conference held in Tripoli, Libya in 1976 also signed a joint resolution containing attacks on Israel and Zionism. The Vatican was subsequently compelled to disavow those attacks in response to a storm of criticism from Catholic and Jewish organizations.

Goren recalled that, over the years, he had made four appeals to Pope Paul to help secure the release of Jewish prisoners in the Soviet Union and Syria. In each instance, the Pope had promised, through his delegate in Jerusalem, that the Vatican would offer its assistance by means of quiet diplomacy.

Yet, the Pope actively interceded on the part of Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, sentenced in December, 1974 by an Israeli court to 12 years imprisonment for smuggling terrorist arms into Israel. The Vatican, through negotiations with an Israeli official, was successful in obtaining Capucci's release which was as a "good will gesture toward the Christian world."

Nevertheless, despite reservations on the part of some Jewish leaders, Goren, in today's statement, praised Pope Paul and expressed the hope that his successor "will continue to promote the spirit of brotherhood between the different faiths and will extend formal recognition to the Biblical phenomenon being enacted in the Holy

Land with the renaissance of the State of Israel, which implements the vision of the Prophets."

MANN: U.S. WILL MAKE SERIOUS ERROR IF IT PRESSES ISRAEL FOR CONCESSIONS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Aug. 7 (JTA)--Theodore R. Mann, the newly elected chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, declared today that the Carter Administration will make "a serious error" if it pressed Israel now to make concessions to Egypt in view of the impasse in negotiations between the two countries.

Addressing a press conference at the Conference headquarters here, his first since he assumed office July 1, Mann charged President Anwar Sadat of Egypt with responsibility for the present deadlock in the Mideast peace negotiations.

He said that President Carter must insist now that Egypt resume negotiations with Israel, since it was Sadat who broke off the talks between the two countries after the recent foreign ministers summit meeting in Leeds, England. Mann said the proper role of the United States in the Mideast should be "to bring the parties together—not to favor one side over the other or impose its own solution."

He also said that the consensus among American Jewry, and other segments of American society, is that Sadat has not shown a commitment to continue with negotiations and, therefore, the Carter Administration must urge the Egyptian leader to resume the peace process.

But, Mann said, in response to a question, that his feeling is that the Administration does not favor any side in the Mideast and at present is playing the role of a mediator. He said that he anticipates that relations between American Jewry and the Administration "will be good" in months to come, although he noted he was aware that there were some "negative" feelings after the Mideast plane package deal providing Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia with American warplanes.

Mann recalled that in successfully pressing for Congressional approval of jet fighter sales to Egypt and Saudi Arabia in May, Carter had argued that sending arms to these two countries would support the forces of "moderation" in the Middle East and promote the cause of peace. "But the assurance of American arms has hardened the Egyptian and Saudi position."

The Conference of Presidents leader expressed "deep gratification" at the passage a week ago, by a vote of 87-0, of a Senate resolution urging approval of additional advanced aircraft for Israel, continued U.S. economic and military assistance and the encouragement of direct negotiations between Israel and Egypt based on the establishment of "secure, recognized and defensible borders between Israel and its neighbors."

WASHINGTON (JTA)--The leadership of the House of Representatives has postponed further consideration of the foreign aid appropriations bill until possibly next week and perhaps until early September, it was indicated Monday. The bill contains the amendment, introduced last week by Edward Derwinski (R. Ill.) which would suspend a \$90 million grant to Syria because of its attacks on Lebanese Christians. The Senate is not expected to consider appropriations for foreign aid until after the House acts. About two-thirds of the approximately 50 amendments were acted on by last Friday but no time was allocated to act on the others.

ONGOING DIALOGUE PLANNED BETWEEN RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND WHITE HOUSE ON FOREIGN AID, HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

NEW YORK, Aug. 7 (JTA)--A group of 30 national Jewish and Christian religious leaders who met last week for 2-1/2 hours at the White House with President Carter and top Administration aides to express their support for the foreign aid package before Congress are scheduled to hold a similar meeting Thursday, Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Similar meetings over the next few weeks and months are being planned, he added. These meetings may also include, in addition to Carter, National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski. In addition, Jewish and Christian leaders are meeting today in New York to arrange for conferences with majority and minority leaders in both houses of Congress, Tanenbaum said, to help assure the passage of a maximum foreign aid bill.

According to Tanenbaum, the meetings with Carter and top Administration officials constitute an ongoing dialogue on the issue of foreign aid and human rights. He said that when the President was asked if he was willing to participate in such a dialogue, the nation's chief executive indicated that he was.

Tanenbaum told the JTA that this dialogue may be the first of its kind on a sustained basis between Administration officials and religious leaders in the area of foreign aid and human rights. It is also unprecedented in that it represents a broad-based effort of Roman Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical Christians, Greek Orthodox, Jewish, and Black religious leaders to support a foreign aid package which includes \$1.75 billion in economic and military aid to Israel, Tanenbaum said. The foreign aid appropriations measure, which has already been approved by the House and Senate, with some variations, must now be reconciled by a House-Senate Conference. The measure for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 may not be finalized until after Labor Day, he said.

Joint Statement Issued

During their meeting last week, the religious leaders issued a joint statement urging Congress to resist any further reductions in foreign aid. Noting that there are multitudes throughout the world "who live in conditions of absolute poverty, deprived of basic nutrition, without adequate shelter, education, health care or employment," the joint statement added:

"We have both pressing needs and poor people here in our own society, but the added burden of the global poor is that they have even less voice and visibility in our midst. Our purpose... is to call attention to the urgency of their needs and to reassert the moral responsibility we have as members of the international community to do our part on their behalf."

Tanenbaum, in discussing the rationale for the support by religious leaders of foreign aid, said: "While some Americans object to foreign aid, especially at this time of inflation and high unemployment, the plain fact of the matter is that America, still the wealthiest nation in the world, contributes less than one percent of our entire federal budget in aid of starving millions of human beings. Of the 17 nations that have foreign aid programs, the U.S. ranks 13th."

The meeting last week was arranged on two levels, Tanenbaum noted. The Synagogue Council of America coordinated the Jewish organizations which were represented, and Tanenbaum was the consultant in getting together the Jewish and Christian leaders.

The Jewish leaders at the meeting were: Rabbi Benjamin Kreitman, executive vice president, United Synagogue of America; Rabbi Ely Pilchik, president, Central Conference of American Rabbis; Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz, president, Rabbinical Assembly; Rabbi Bernard Rosensweig, president, Rabbinical Council of America; Rabbi Henry Siegmán, executive vice president, Synagogue Council of America; and Tanenbaum.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA CHAMPION HOOPSTERS TO VISIT ISRAEL By Haskell Cohen

NEW YORK, Aug. 7 (JTA)--The Washington Bullets, champions of the National Basketball Association (NBA) this past season, will be leaving for Israel Sept. 4 for a one-week visit as guests of their owner, Abe Pollin. Pollin is rewarding his players for their gutsy play during the course of the playoffs which resulted in their going all the way to the top.

The bulk of the team, including such stars as Elvin Hayes, Wes Unseld, Mitch Kupchak, Kevin Grevey, Robert Dandridge, Tom Henderson, and Larry Wright, with their wives, will leave for the Holy Land on the night of Sept. 4. In addition, several prominent guests, including Commissioner Lawrence O'Brien of the NBA and Ed Gottlieb, one of the founders of the major-league basketball circuit, have been extended invitations by Pollin to accompany the Bullets on their trip, as his personal guests.

The trip planned calls for one game to be played by the Bullets against a top quintet in Israel, the Maccabi Club of Tel Aviv. This contest is slated to take place on the night of Sept. 7 at the Sports Arena in Yad Eliyahu, Tel Aviv. It is anticipated that a prominent NBA player from an opposing team in the pro-circuit will be taken along to help augment the obviously out-manned Maccabi five in the one game scheduled between these two teams.

AUG. 15 SET AS SYRIAN JEWRY DAY

NEW YORK, Aug. 7 (JTA)--The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC) has called upon its member organizations, synagogues, Jewish institutions and camps to join in marking Syrian Jewry Day, Aug. 15. George Klein, chairman of the JCRC Commission on International Concerns, said "With the many pressing issues affecting the Jewish community, we often do not give the proper attention to the continuing plight of the Jews in Syria. It is imperative that the Syrian government, as well as our own, realize that this is a matter of grave concern."

Governor Hugh Carey has issued a proclamation to the Committee for the Rescue of Syrian Jewry designating Aug. 15 as Syrian Jewry Day in New York State. In conjunction with this occasion, the JCRC has urged that people write to the Syrian Ambassador in Washington, Sabbah Kabbani, and Ambassador Mowaffak Allaf at the Syrian Mission to the United Nations. Communications to President Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, as well as Senators and Congressmen, are also being sought. The JCRC has prepared fact sheets detailing the current situation in the Arab countries.