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GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OF NEW WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS DENIED, CONFIRMED

By Gil Sedan and Barbie Zelizer-Meyouhas

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13 (JTA)--There seemed to be a question today whether the government has approved five new settlements on the West Bank, three of them in the Jericho area, as proposed by Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, head of the ministerial settlement committee.

Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin strongly denied earlier today that any government body had given such approval. But Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor said late today that the Cabinet, sitting as the ministerial security committee on June 28, decided to establish five new military outposts along the Jordan River. Yadin, leader of the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC), opposed the decision and demanded further discussions.

Naor did not elaborate today. But judging from Yadin's comments today there was no further discussion of the subject. Yadin said earlier that there was no government decision on new settlements, which should mean that as far as he was concerned the government decision of June 28 was invalid.

Commenting on Naor's announcement, Yadin said he would raise the issue before the Cabinet. The Cabinet is scheduled to meet tomorrow since its regular weekly session was postponed today due to Tisha B'av. Yadin said if the Cabinet approves the settlements, he will ask the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security committee for a ruling. Under the coalition agreement, the DMC ministers are entitled to have any decision on new settlements brought for approval to the Knesset committee.

Sharon Told Volunteers To Get Ready

It has been revealed that Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon met with the leaders of the various kibbutz and meshav settlement movements and told them of the government decision. He reportedly urged them to get their volunteers and resources ready for the task. The World Zionist Organization Settlement Department was also reportedly instructed to locate the sites for the new settlements--all on government land which did not need to be expropriated.

Most of the representatives of the settlement movements approved of the plan. Arik Nehemkin, secretary of the Labor Party-affiliated moshavim movement, even noted that the plan meshed with the settlement plans of the former Labor government. The only one who criticized the plan was the representative of the Mapam-affiliated Kibbutz Artzi movement.

Yisrael Galili, who was chairman of the Ministerial Settlement Committee in the Rabin government, said today that not all of the five settlements planned were in accordance with the previous government settlement plans. Sharon reportedly told the representatives that if they do not act now, it might not be possible to act next year.

As soon as the meeting between Sharon and the leader of the settlement movements was leaked

to the press, there were two developments: the military censor banned the story for publication and Sharon suspended all further contacts with the settlement movements.

The story might have remained secret had not Labor Alignment MK Yossi Sarid protested that decisions on settlements were protected by a veil of military secrecy, and had not activists of the "Peace Now" movement plastered posters on walls and buildings in Jerusalem and other major cities informing the public of the decision. The contents of the posters were then published in the local press and the military censor lifted his publication ban today.

Peace Now spokesmen said such a settlement move is an obstacle to peace and could halt the momentum resulting from President Carter's invitation to Premier Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to meet with him at Camp David in Maryland Sept. 5. Police tore down many of the posters and seven movement members were arrested but released later without charges.

Major Coup By Peace Now Movement

Meanwhile, in a major coup, the Peace Now movement put up a 25-foot high monument today alongside the controversial Gush Emunim "archaeological" settlement at Shiloh on the West Bank. The monument, called "Peace," by Israeli sculptor Yigal Tumarkin, is an abstract expression of a dove in clay and steel. Peace Now leader Amos Arietel told some 3000 supporters that Shiloh was "chosen as the site for the peace monument because it was the very symbol of government obduracy and deceit."

Other speakers voiced the hope that the monument rather than the settlement would remain and that when peace comes it would commemorate the inauguration of Arab-Israeli coexistence.

Members of the Shiloh settlement claimed that they were deceived by the Peace Now people who had constructed the monument's base 10 days ago and told them it was a communications antenna. The Gush Emunim settlers said they even watered the base daily so that it would harden properly and were thus perturbed to find out that it would be the base for the peace monument. The military police was caught off guard by today's Peace Now demonstration. Although the demonstrators had no permit the army did not hamper the ceremony.

BACKGROUND REPORT ON SUMMIT CONFERENCE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13 (JTA)--The forthcoming trilateral Mideast summit conference took on new coloration last Friday. Saudi Arabia, in a turnabout of its opposition to Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, has now publicly endorsed the meeting at Camp David which begins Sept. 5, and President Carter, in a newspaper report that the White House did not deny, was personally quoted as having said he called the summit because he feared another Arab-initiated war against Israel.

Although the Carter Administration sought to put the conference details under cloak of secrecy and urged quiet by all parties as intense diplomatic and security preparations were rushed, the State Department warmly welcomed the Saudi endorsement

of the summit that also carried continuing Saudi criticism of Israeli "intransigence."

Presidential News Secretary Jody Powell said the President's summit invitation to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin was "not based on any particular event" and would make "no comment" on Egypt's reported military buildup that presumably led to the summit. Powell said the President's initiative resulted from "a very careful analysis of the situation."

Reports of an Egyptian buildup as motivating Carter emerged even before the summit was announced and Administration sources discounted them. But the Jerusalem Post on Friday reported that Carter told Hedrick Smith of The New York Times and Barbara Walters of ABC-TV of the Egyptian buildup during a private off-the-record dinner last Monday at which it was said Carter received the news that Sadat had accepted his invitation to the summit talks.

According to the Jerusalem Post, "the President feared that Sadat might start another war against Israel in October unless serious peace negotiations got underway." Sadat had previously indicated October was his deadline for the peace process to show results. The 1975 Sinai troop disengagement agreement expires in October, the fifth anniversary of the Yom Kippur surprise attack by Egypt and Syria against Israel.

Powell acknowledged the President's meeting with press people, including Smith and Walters, but he neither confirmed nor denied the motivation attributed to Carter. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency, however, was told by a source knowledgeable about the dinner conversation and the principals, that the report of Carter's expression was true.

Saudi Arabian Support Appreciated

At the State Department, Vance's spokesman Hodding Carter noted that Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Fahd had expressed Saudi Arabia's "support" for Carter's Camp David meeting. Fahd's statement followed his meeting with U.S. Ambassador-at-Large Alfred Atherton who had gone from Alexandria to Saudi Arabia to convey the results of Vance's visits with Sadat and Begin.

"We greatly appreciate the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Camp David meeting," spokesman Carter said in a prepared statement to reporters, "and remain hopeful that the talks between the two leaders with President Carter as a participant will further the movement toward the just and lasting peace we all seek."

The spokesman's description of Carter "as participant" is a departure from Vance's emphatic agreement with Sadat in Alexandria last Tuesday and the State Department's own characterization last Thursday. According to the State Department's transcript of Vance's remarks in Alexandria, the Secretary stated "as President Sadat has said, we are prepared to play a role as a full partner" in the summit talks.

When a reporter said "partner suggested that you are not going to mediate but that you are going to do something beyond that," Vance replied that "a solution has to be reached between the parties, that at any time we feel there are obstacles that are impeding progress in the area, we will feel free to make our own suggestions."

At the White House, seasoned observers noted that Sadat would not have agreed to the summit and Saudi Arabia would not have expressed its support if they did not understand that Carter was

prepared to lean heavily on Israel to agree to move out of all but small parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip that would fit the President's view of "minor adjustments" in Israel's borders. "Minor adjustments" in that perception are not acceptable either to the Begin government or Israel's Labor Party opposition.

INTER-PARTY DISCUSSIONS ON SUMMIT CONFAB

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13 (JTA)--In a rare case of inter-party cooperation, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan recently initiated discussions with leading Labor Party Knesset members Yitzhak Rabin and Abba Eban over anticipated developments at the upcoming Camp David talks between Israeli Premier Menachem Begin, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and President Carter.

The sessions are apparently directed at ensuring the Labor Alignment's support for the government's position on the summit conference which is that it will be an arena for the leadership and top officials of the three countries to exchange views on how to unstick the deadlocked peace talks between Israel and Egypt. It is understood that the inter-party meetings have the support of Begin.

Meanwhile, Labor Alignment leader Shimon Peres said over the weekend that the Alignment is considering calling the Knesset into special session during its recess to discuss the summit talks. At the same time, the National Religious Party (NRP) objected to the anticipated inclusion of Yigael Yadin, the leader of the Democratic Movement for Change, in Israel's delegation to Camp David. The NRP is demanding that one of its leaders, Interior Minister Yosef Burg, be included as well.

Yadin noted that the composition of the delegation has not yet been established, while other government sources said that the delegation's size and composition will be determined by the composition and size of the Egyptian and American delegation to the Camp David summit.

TISHA B'AV WORSHIPERS AT WESTERN WALL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13 (JTA)--The Western Wall was crowded last night with thousands of Jews lamenting the destruction of the First and Second Temples as the Tisha B'Av fast began. The worshipers recited the Book of Lamentations and mourning prayers at the Western Wall. The area of the wall and the roads leading to it were guarded by hundreds of policemen. Places of entertainment were closed throughout the country.

Meanwhile, a group led by Jerusalem City Councillor Gershon Salomon attempted to pray on the Temple Mount today. A "solemn warning" from Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yoseph which forbids Orthodox Jews from praying on the Temple Mount did not deter the group. The 30 worshipers, however, were stopped by police on their way to the Temple Mount. But they began their prayers where they were stopped.

RALLY RAPS SOVIET UNION

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA)--More than 100 campers from Camp Tel Yehuda, members of Young Judea which is sponsored by Hadassah, participated in a special demonstration last Thursday marking the 26th anniversary of the "night of the murdered poets" and protesting the Soviet government sanctioned publication of anti-Semitic literature. The campers, who arrived in two buses from the camp in Barryville, N.Y., some two hours driving time away, picketed in front of the Four Continents

Book Store. Ian Stern, representing the campers, said that the book shop site was chosen not only because it is the major New York distributor for Soviet literature "but because it allows sales of official Soviet anti-Semitic material." A spokesperson for the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, sponsors of the demonstration, said that a Conference staff member had recently purchased an anti-Semitic book in the book store, "The Star of David," by Leo Korn, published by Novosti in Moscow.

"We have seen official Soviet smear propaganda right here in New York City," stated Margy Ruth Davis, executive director of the Conference. "It would be in keeping with the Helsinki Accords and other international agreements if the Soviet Union were instead to permit freedom of expression and publish works such as the poems of those who were murdered 26 years ago."

The spokesperson said that the picketing of the book store was not an attempt to infringe on its Constitutional right to sell books but to get the store's management to stop selling anti-Semitic literature.

The rally featured the reading of poems of those who were martyred as well as a special one by Felix Kandel, a prominent Soviet Jewish writer and poet who was a close friend of Anatoly Shcharansky and who himself was permitted to leave the Soviet Union only last year. The poem entitled, "My Son, Anatoly Shcharansky," reads in part: "In a solitary cell/ Without friends and relatives/ Under the shadow of an extreme verdict... / How much they wanted to break him then! / How much they want to do it now!..."

The "night of the murdered poets" occurred Aug. 12, 1952, in Moscow's Lubianka Prison where 24 leading Jewish writers and poets were systematically killed on orders from Stalin. To date, Soviet authorities have not acknowledged the brutal act which was part of a carefully calculated campaign to eradicate Jewish culture from the Soviet Union.

ISRAEL, U.S. BOYCOTTING UN CONFERENCE

GENEVA, Aug. 13 (JTA)--Israel said it would not participate in the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination opening here tomorrow. In a statement, the Israeli Mission to the United Nations office in Geneva noted that "in 1974 the United Nations Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was irremediably stained by the infamous resolution against Zionism. Israel then announced that it would withhold all cooperation with the program of the Decade, including the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. This position was taken as a matter of principle and was since consistently upheld."

At the same time, the statement said, "Israel reaffirms its unswerving opposition to all notions and forms of racial discrimination. Israel, faithful to the Jewish traditions of equality and dignity, remains committed to every effort sincerely intended to ban hatred and prejudice between races, creeds and peoples and to spread among them understanding and harmony."

The U.S. also announced it would not participate in the conference for the same reason.

BAEZ BACKS OUT OF ISRAELI CONCERT

TEL AVIV, Aug. 13 (JTA)--Joan Baez, the American folk singer and proponent of progressive social views, has cancelled her plans to come to

Israel to appear at the pop and folk song festival being held at the end of the month at Neviot in Sinai between Eilat and Sharm el-Sheikh. She claims that Neviot is occupied territory and she did not know this when she accepted the invitation to perform.

The song fest is part of Israel's music and drama festival held annually during July and August. A number of leading folk and pop singers were invited to participate along with the Paris Symphony Orchestra, ballet groups from Belgium, Holland and Japan and soloists from a number of European symphony orchestras.

Ms. Baez was given all the information about Neviot, according to the Israeli organizers of the event, which is sponsored by the CBS recording company here. She demanded, before accepting the invitation, that she be given time prior to her performance to issue a political statement which she would make at the concert and which would be included in the record album of the festival.

Although it was known that Ms. Baez hews to an anti-Israeli view, the organizers agreed to her request, but she nevertheless cancelled her plans. The organizers tried in vain to persuade Ms. Baez that music and politics should be viewed as separate entities. Thus, instead of hearing Ms. Baez, Israelis will be listening to one of America's top pop singers, Roberta Flack.

GREGORIO VERBITSKY DEAD AT 68

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 13 (JTA)--Funeral services were held Friday for Gregorio Verbitsky, who died at the age of 68 after a long illness. Born in Argentina, he was a co-founder and assistant editor of the centrist daily, Noticias Graficas. From 1948 to 1964 he served as a press official at the Israel Embassy here. After two years abroad he worked, until his retirement in 1970, as the co-editor of the conservative weekly, Analisis. Verbitsky wrote booklets about Jewish colonization activities in the province of Buenos Aires and was the author of a pamphlet, "Israel as a Spiritual Undertaking." His brother, Bernardo Verbitsky, is one of Argentina's leading fiction writers.

EXHIBITION ON ANNE FRANK IS A GREAT SUCCESS IN JAPAN

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 13 (JTA)--An exhibition on Anne Frank, which was organized by the Anne Frank Foundation here at the request of the Japanese daily, Asahi, is currently being held in Tokyo and is drawing large numbers of visitors. Present at the opening of the exhibition were Jan and Mijep Gies, who supplied the Frank family with food during their period in hiding when the Nazis occupied Amsterdam.

Some ten million copies of the Japanese translation of the Anne Frank diary have been sold and practically all Japanese tourists visiting Amsterdam visit the Anne Frank House. One reason for this interest, according to Japanese sources, is that numerous Japanese during World War II tried, in a fashion similar to the Frank family, to hide from the Japanese secret police.

AMSTERDAM (JTA)--A non-profit Jewish marriage bureau, "Mazel Tov," has been established by Rabbi Isaac Vorst of Amstelveen near Amsterdam, and Rabbi Hans Jacobs of Amersfoort, both Lubavitcher movement members, and a young couple who are social workers. The bureau will cater not only to the Orthodox but also to non-Orthodox, provided they are halachically Jewish.

SACHER PUBLICLY CRITICIZES PEACE POLICY OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Aug. 13 (JTA)--Michael Sacher, the British Zionist leader and philanthropist, has publicly criticized the Israeli government's peace policy and has called on Premier Menachem Begin to seek a new mandate from the nation. In a letter to the editor published in last Thursday's Jerusalem Post, Sacher, a leading member of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, president of the Joint Israel Appeal (JIA), and scion of one of Jewry's leading Zionist families, declared:

"The question of peace with Israel's neighbors is indivisible from the return of territories under (UN) Resolution 242.... Any other course seems likely to lead to another series of wars, which, at the very least, will result in much loss of life for our fellow Jews of Israel and to a continuing unbearable economic burden...."

Sacher's letter also stated: "The attitude of the present Administration in Israel causes much heart-burning to those of us in the diaspora who have been deeply involved with Zionism and Israel all our lives. We have, ever since the creation of the State of Israel, held the view that it was not our right to comment or criticize Israeli government policy publicly as it was a sovereign state. Our views, therefore, have been expressed behind the scenes. The issues of peace and survival are too important for me to remain publicly silent any longer...."

Suggests Begin Seek New Mandate

Continuing, Sacher stated: "...I do appreciate the security aspects and recognize that time, perhaps much time, may be needed for assurances by Egypt and others to become meaningful. But the direction which negotiations must take is, to me, clear.... Perhaps I would be less critical were I to be sure that the view of the people of Israel supported Mr. Begin's seemingly inflexible approach."

"The Prime Minister makes much play of being the leader of a democratically elected coalition. Perhaps I could remind him that he was elected, fundamentally, on his economic program. The question of negotiating for peace was not a factor in the elections. Should he not go to the polls again, on this specific subject, get the support he presumably believes he has or, if not, pass the leadership of the government over to someone else who may then be in a position to carry on more fruitful negotiations for peace with Egypt?"

Sacher's letter came within weeks of a similar statement in a letter to the Jewish Chronicle by Britain's Chief Rabbi, Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits. The rabbi's pronouncement caused considerable controversy inside Anglo-Jewry and in Jewish communities in other countries. Sacher's letter is thought likely to do the same.

Sacher is by far the most influential British Zionist to have aired his unhappiness with the Israel government's foreign policy. Its impact will be all the greater given his deep distaste for public argument. But his declaration that peace is "indivisible from return of territories" is no surprise to those familiar with his views. Early last year he asked Israeli Deputy Premier and leader of the Democratic Movement for Change, Yigal Yadin, to explain the rationale behind the establishment of new settlements in occupied territories to a London fund-raising function.

His suggestion that Begin should seek a new mandate to test public support for his foreign policy goes much further than the remarks by Jakobovits. Indeed, the Chief Rabbi subsequently denied that he was criticizing the Begin government and claimed he was misinterpreted, saying that he was criticizing only "the intransigent stance" by some "religious elements" in Israel.

Parts Company With Colleagues

In writing to the Jerusalem Post, Sacher parted company with some of his closest colleagues in the JIA. Cyril Stein, a JIA vice president, has publicly deplored attacks on the Israel government by diaspora leaders and called for unity in the ranks. The only concession Sacher made to such a view is that he aired his opinion in an Israeli newspaper rather than a British one. It is characteristic of Sacher, however, that despite eschewing public argument, he did not mince words when he finally decided to speak out.

Sacher is deeply influenced by the Chaim Weizmann brand of pragmatic Zionism with which his father, the late Harry Sacher, as well as the related Sieff and Marks families were associated. Sacher is vice chairman of the famous Marks and Spencer department store chain, which has been a major contributor to Zionist causes for over 50 years. Sir Marcus Sieff, son of the late Lord Israel Sieff, is chairman. Sacher's own personal contribution to Israel each year is reputed to amount to many hundreds of thousands of Pounds Sterling.

CARTER GIVES YIDDISH A BOOST

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA)--Colloquial Yiddish, long part of everyday New York speech, has finally made it as Presidential jargon. President Carter, speaking from the steps of New York's City Hall last week before signing the government loan guarantee bill for the city, praised New York Governor Carey, saying he is "what we Southern Baptists call a real mensch." Carey laughed heartily. Carey is in a primary contest for the Democratic Party nomination for Governor to face Republican Perry Duryea.

SCHINDLER DENIES HASBARA POST

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA)--Rabbi Alexander Schindler, immediate past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, has denied that he accepted a request from Premier Menachem Begin to coordinate public relations efforts of Jewish organizations in the United States for Israel.

Schindler told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that reports in Israel that he has accepted are inaccurate. He said the subject was discussed by him and Begin but that no decision was taken by either one. "It's a possibility," Schindler said, "but the discussion never came to any conclusion."

He said he indicated to Begin that he would be "glad to help" in this area but this depended on a number of factors, not the least of which is the reaction of the Jewish organizations with which he would have to work. So far as the need for good public relations activity for Israel in this country, Schindler said: "It certainly needs doing."

LOS ANGELES (JTA)--NBC-TV's "Holocaust" series led all programs in the 1977-78 season with 16 Emmy nominations.