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BEGIN TO REPLY TO SADAT'S MESSAGE BEFORE GOING TO OSLO ON DEC. 10

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin will reply to the special message he received last Thursday from President Anwar Sadat of Egypt this week, possibly as early as tomorrow, before leaving for Oslo to accept the Nobel Peace Prize on Dec. 10. So far the government has maintained an unusual silence about the message which was delivered to Begin by U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis.

The Cabinet met today for four hours to formulate a reply to Sadat amidst growing understanding that the peace negotiations may take several weeks before they are concluded. The Cabinet authorized Begin to prepare a reply to Sadat, but the content of Sadat's letter was not released for publication.

Talking to reporters after the Cabinet meeting, Begin said both countries agreed to keep secret the content of Sadat's letter and Israel's reply. "This is a very important contact between our two governments," the Premier said. "Both countries agreed not to make public the contents of the communications unless agreed otherwise."

It was learned, however, that in general, Sadat expressed the desire to continue with the peace negotiations. Sadat reportedly explained that Egypt's demand to drop Article VI in the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty draft--giving the treaty priority over earlier agreements between Egypt and other Arab countries--and linking Israel's withdrawal from Sinai with the issue of autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip did not mean that Egypt was trying to keep an option open not to fulfill its obligations. Begin is expected to reject these demands, which have bogged down the peace negotiations.

Observers here see Sadat's message as part of a new "peace offensive" on the part of the Egyptian President in an effort to soften the Israeli stand and perhaps allow for more American pressure on Israel. However, the observers also noted the "warm character" of Sadat's message to Begin.

It was also understood that Israel does not, at least presently, intend to send its negotiating team back to Washington. "There is no crisis," some Cabinet ministers said as they emerged from the Cabinet meeting, "but neither is there a breakthrough." (See related stories, P. 3.)

UAHC BOARD APPROVES PROPOSAL THAT REFORM JUDAISM RECRUIT CONVERTS

HOUSTON, Dec. 3 (JTA)--A proposal by Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) that Reform Judaism actively recruit converts to the Jewish faith among "the un-churched," was approved by the UAHC's policy-making board at its meeting here today. The board acted in response to Schindler's plea last night for "an effort of affirmative action to turn the tide which threatens to sweep us away, into directions which might enable us to recover our num-

bers and recharge our inner strength." He was alluding clearly to the erosion of the number of practicing Jews in the United States because of a declining birth rate, intermarriage and assimilation. Although his proposal would reverse a centuries-old Jewish tradition that eschews and even discourages proselytizing non-Jews, the Reform leader contended that "the notion that Judaism was never a missionary faith is wide of the truth."

He said it was "time for our Reform Jewish movement to launch a carefully conceived and adequately funded out-reach program aimed at all Americans who are un-churched and who are seeking roots in religion." He indicated, however, that the focus of the effort should be non-Jewish spouses in mixed marriages.

Seeking The 'Un-churched'

He criticized congregations that fail to integrate the non-Jewish partner. "We do not help them to make a Jewish home, to rear their children Jewishly, or, more seriously, we do not really embrace them or enable them to feel a close kinship with our people," he said. Schindler stressed that he was not advocating evangelical activities among practicing members of other faiths.

"I want to reach a different audience entirely," he said, "the un-churched...the seekers after truth who require a religion which tolerates, nay, encourages, all questions and especially I want to reach out to the alienated and the rootless who need the warmth and comfort of a people well known for its close family ties and well known also for its ancient and noble lineage."

Schindler referred obliquely to the recent cult deaths in Guyana when he observed that "millions of Americans are searching for something...many of the seekers have fallen prey to mystical cults which literally enslave them." But Judaism, he said, "offers life, not death. It teaches free will, not surrender of the body and soul to another human being...Judaism is a religion of hope, not despair...Judaism has an enormous amount of wisdom and experience to offer the troubled world and we Jews ought to be proud to speak about it frankly, freely and with dignity."

The plan approved by the UAHC board would establish a 30-member commission whose members would be drawn from the several Reform bodies such as Hebrew Union College, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, temple sisterhoods and brotherhoods and regional offices. The UAHC is the congregational arm of Reform Judaism in the U.S. and Canada.

4 HELD IN SLAYING OF ORTHODOX JEW; KOCH WANTS PROBE OF POLICE-HASIDIM CLASH; JEWISH GROUPS TO MEET WITH POLICE ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS

NEW YORK, Dec. 3 (JTA)--Four suspects, identified as Hispanics, were apprehended today in the pre-dawn street robbery and stabbing death yesterday of a 65-year-old Orthodox Jew, Irving Sussman, in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn, and a fifth suspect is being sought, according to a police department spokesman.

At the same time, Mayor Edward Koch has pledged a "full and complete investigation" of the violence that erupted following the slaying between police and thousands of Hasidic residents in the area

at which at least 70 people were injured, several seriously.

Meanwhile, the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) has scheduled a meeting tomorrow with its constituent organizations and with representatives of the police department, the Borough Park Community Board and the Borough Park Jewish Community Council. Malcolm Hoenlein, JCRC executive director, said today that "we are concerned about this specific incident, but while we are concerned about this incident we are also concerned about the state of relations between the police and the Jewish community in New York."

According to police and other witnesses, what began as an orderly though angry demonstration by some 3000 Hasidim who milled around the 66th Precinct station house to protest the alleged delayed response by police to the slaying, turned ugly when about 200 Hasidim entered the station house and began to smash furniture, overturn file cabinets and, allegedly, assaulted the three police officers on duty.

About 100 police reinforcements were summoned and bloody fighting spilled into the streets as police wielded clubs and protestors punched, clawed and hurled bricks. First Deputy Police Commissioner Joseph Hoffman estimated damage to the station house at more than \$10,000. No arrests were made but a police spokesman said charges might be lodged against some of the demonstrators.

Claim Police Used Unnecessary Violence

Koch rushed to the scene as did his community liaison officer, Rabbi Edgar Gluck, and Democratic State Assemblyman Samuel Hirsch, who represents the 48th Assembly District that includes Borough Park. Hirsch was badly battered--by police clubs he claimed--and both he and Gluck supported charges by the Hasidim that the police used unnecessary violence to disperse the protestors.

According to police, 62 of the injured were police officers and only eight were civilians, including one who suffered a heart attack during the melee. Hirsch and Gluck disputed that figure. One police officer was reported partially paralyzed after being struck by a brick. The injured were treated at Maimonides Medical Center in Borough Park and in Kings County, Lutheran, Methodist and Coney Island hospitals also in Brooklyn.

Koch, who visited the injured in the Maimonides emergency room, spoke at length to Hirsch and Gluck. "This is going to require a full, complete investigation," he told a reporter. Hirsch, who said he went to the scene in an attempt to calm the protestors, agreed that the assault on the precinct house was an illegal act but insisted that the injury of civilians by the police was "more serious." Gluck claimed that the police knew there was a community reaction to the killing and should have "taken proper measures in a non-violent way."

Try To Explain Delay

Sussman, a plumber who lived alone, was stabbed to death some time after midnight yesterday on his way home from Sabbath services at the Bobover Synagogue several blocks from his home. An Orthodox Jew, he carried neither money nor identification. The Hasidim charged that the police took 45 minutes to respond to the crime after Sussman's body was found by another Hasid, Moses Benfield. They claimed that homicide de-

tectives failed to arrive for more than two hours. Police attributed the delay to the fact that Benfield does not speak English, did not know how to call the police and wandered around the empty streets looking for help. They said the first call came in at 1:17 a.m., 27 minutes after the body was discovered and that officers were on the scene 13 minutes later.

Relations between the police and the 250,000 Orthodox, mostly Hasidic, Jews concentrated in Borough Park have been generally good according to police and some community residents. But underlying tension between Hasidim and the increasingly large numbers of Hispanics and Blacks, who have moved into the neighborhood has sparked incidents in the past. Street crimes, generally, have been committed against Hasidic Jews.

"Demands for improved police protection have become a rallying cry. Most protests in the past were peaceful but there have been some violent confrontations. Five years ago five police officers were bruised and cut when Hasidim tried to storm the station house after some Hasidic youths were allegedly beaten up by Italian-American youths from the adjoining Bay Ridge section."

BLUM ACCUSES USSR OF VIOLATING BASIC RIGHTS OF ITS JEWISH CITIZENS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 3 (JTA)--Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, accused the Soviet Union of violating the basic human rights of its Jewish citizens, harrassing those who wish to emigrate and of engaging in a "virulent anti-Semitic campaign."

Addressing the General Assembly's Third Committee last Friday, the Israeli envoy declared: "Israel will not rest until the Jews in the Soviet Union achieve their human and national rights--to live according to their faith, culture, language and national consciousness, and to be reunited with their brothers in Israel and with their families wherever they may be."

"Above all," Blum continued, "we will continue to press for the release of Jewish prisoners of conscience still languishing in deplorable conditions in Soviet prison camps and currently denied even the elemental visitation and correspondence rights guaranteed by Soviet penal codes."

Charging that the Soviet Union launched its anti-Semitic campaign in 1967, which reached its "apex" in the last two years, Blum said the Soviet media "frequently engage in overt anti-Semitism, screening vicious anti-Jewish film on Russian television. It is a frightening and puzzling phenomenon that a state that suffered so terribly at the hands of the Nazi invaders is today the greatest purveyor of anti-Semitic incitement since the Nazis."

The Israeli envoy said his country welcomed the recent increase in the number of exit visas issued by the Soviets. He added: "However, Israel strongly feels that the Soviet Union has not yet lived up to its official undertakings at the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Aug. 1975, after which it was widely hoped that all Jews who aspired to be reunited with their brethren in their homeland would be able to do so without hindrance."

* * *

UNITED NATIONS (JTA)--The Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights for an additional period of six months, until May 31, 1979. The vote last Thursday night in the 15-member Security Council was 14-0. China, as in previous instances, did not take part in the vote. UNDOF is separating Israeli and Syrian forces on the Golan.

U.S.-EGYPTIAN TALKS CONTINUE

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 (JTA)--Talks between Egypt and the United States on President Anwar Sadat's demands for alterations in agreements Egypt has already reached with Israel on a peace treaty will continue at least till tomorrow evening.

Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil, who arrived here last Thursday for talks with President Carter and other top Administration officials, decided to postpone his scheduled departure for Europe last night after he met for two hours yesterday with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and afterwards described the talks as "useful and constructive." Asked if a decision was taken to resume the negotiations, Khalil said Egypt would like to see the talks resumed, "but there is no decision."

(In Jerusalem, Premier Menachem Begin said over the weekend that Israel is ready to sign the present peace treaty draft any moment, although he noted that it may be a matter of weeks before it is actually signed. Speaking before a United Jewish Appeal delegation, he expressed confidence that a treaty would be signed. "Only war is avoidable, peace is unavoidable," Begin said.

(In Cairo, Acting Foreign Minister Boutros Ghali said in an interview with Al-Ahram that Egypt and Israel might decide to postpone their Dec. 17 deadline for signing a treaty. He said he doubted that Israel would oppose this, but if it did, Ghali said, "this means it does not want peace.")

New Treaty Language May Be Necessary

Khalil delivered Sadat's latest position to Carter at a three-hour meeting Friday at the White House, which was also attended by Vance, Vice President Walter Mondale and National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski. The unexpectedly long meeting was interpreted by some qualified sources as indicating that Carter has not accepted Sadat's view as offered to him but that new language was necessary to obtain at least a measure of Israeli agreement.

The session yesterday between Khalil and Vance was seen as designed to do that. However, it is believed that no decision was made, pending Israel's Cabinet meeting today. There was some indication that Khalil may have decided to delay his trip to Europe to await the results of the Cabinet meeting and to discuss those with Administration officials tomorrow.

Vance said after the White House meeting that "it was emphasized that the negotiations" between Israel and Egypt "will continue in fulfillment of the accords reached at Camp David" but he did not say when they would be resumed. The Blair House conference, started on Oct. 12, has been in a state of suspension for three weeks as a result of the new demands from Sadat.

BYRD URGES ISRAEL TO RESUME PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT

By Barbie Zelizer-Meyouhas

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA)--United States Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd of West Virginia urged Israel last night to resume peace negotiations with Egypt and called on Israel for greater flexibility in the negotiations and restraint in its public statements. The Senator, who was speaking here at a dinner in his honor given by Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, stated, "I would

hope that we measure what we say lest we make the negotiations more difficult."

Byrd, who met with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Cairo last week and left Israel today to meet with Jordan's King Hussein before returning to Washington to report to President Carter, visited the Middle East as Carter's "special envoy."

In his speech, Byrd said that Carter was determined to conclude a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt and to reach accords with its neighboring countries as well. He said Carter had the full support of the American people on this point, and the "absolute, total and complete" support of himself as well.

In a lighter moment, Byrd serenaded the assembled guests with a Scottish highland ballad played on a violin Yadin had provided for him. "I am the Isaac Stern of the U.S. Senate," Byrd quipped.

Says Palestinians Can Rely On U.S. Support

Earlier over the weekend, the Senator met with a number of West Bank dignitaries in an attempt to convince them to accept the autonomy plan. The Arab notables, however, voiced their fervent opposition to Camp David and reaffirmed their opposition to the autonomy plan. Byrd was quoted as saying that "despite some vague phrases," the Camp David agreement "constitutes a good basis for a Middle East peace settlement."

He reportedly "assured" the notables that once negotiations begin, "the Palestinians can rely on American support." He also reportedly told the dignitaries that the present U.S. Administration "takes a more even-handed" approach to the Israel-Arab conflict than previous Administrations. In his opinion, "the U.S. public is less pro-Israel than in the past," and it was thus worth the notables' efforts to enter negotiations on the autonomy in the region.

Speaking with reporters at Ben Gurion Airport this afternoon, Byrd again said, as he did after meeting with Begin last Thursday, that he is firmly convinced Begin is resolved to achieve peace and to fulfill the agreement he and Sadat signed at Camp David. During his visit to Israel, the Senator visited Yad Vashem and was apparently deeply moved by what he saw there. He remarked afterwards that he could now better understand the feeling of Israelis and the spirit of dedication and love for their homeland.

ARAFAT REPEATS OLD PLO CONCEPT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 (JTA)--PLO chief Yasir Arafat reiterated today what he described as a six-year-old PLO concept that the PLO would "accept to establish" its own "independent state in any part" of Palestine from which Israel "withdraws" or which "we liberate" from Israel. Appearing on the CBS-TV "Face the Nation" program, taped in Beirut Friday, Arafat rejected the Camp David framework for "self-rule" on the West Bank and Gaza Strip as "new slavery."

He appeared to repudiate a statement by Rep. Paul Findley (R. Ill.) who met him in Damascus last week that the PLO is ready for a "de facto" peace with Israel if it could establish a homeland on the West Bank and Gaza Strip with a corridor between them. "What I told Findley," Arafat at another point in the interview said, "is that we are ready to establish our state in any part of Palestine which we liberate" or from which "Israel withdraws."

CBS reported later that after the televised portion of the interview ended, Arafat said "on the record" that he thought Israel and Egypt would sign a peace agreement. No mention was made during the interview of PLO terrorist activity.

IRS PLANS TO DENY TAX EXEMPTION TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS WORRY JEWISH GROUPS By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Dec. 3 (JTA)—Two officials will testify Tuesday in Washington on behalf of a wide range of Jewish organizations at hearings on Internal Revenue Service plans to strengthen regulations denying tax exemption to private schools practicing racially discriminatory admission policies, plans the organizations fear might adversely affect Jewish day schools.

According to a March 21 letter to the IRS from the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), the issue dates back to July, 1970, when the IRS announced guidelines to deny tax exempt status to racially discriminatory private schools. The guidelines were reportedly aimed at schools organized by white parents opposed to their children attending integrated public schools. The guidelines excluded private schools in which student admission was unrelated to racial considerations "as by a religious seminary."

The exemption of Jewish and other religious private schools was affirmed by a 1975 ruling, declaring such private schools remained exempt if membership was "open to all on a racially non-discriminatory basis."

Ambiguity In Proposed Procedures

The decision of the Jewish organizations to ask for opportunities to testify at the hearings stemmed from what appeared to be ambiguity in the proposed 1978 proposed revenue procedures, as such IRS regulations are called. The proposed 1978 revisions, reportedly stemming from IRS doubts that the existing guidelines were adequate, specify that the revised guidelines apply to "church-related and church-operated schools," cited in the 1975 ruling but that, under the proposed revisions, tax exempt schools must meet "certain affirmative record keeping and publicity requirements along with other guidelines for determining whether schools have racially nondiscriminatory policies as to students."

To clarify the issue and obtain language in the proposed revisions to end any ambiguities and reinforce the tax exemption for Jewish day schools, the Jewish organizations chose Martin Cowan, COLPA vice-president, and Nathan Z. Dershowitz, director of the Commission on Law, Social Action and Urban Affairs of the American Jewish Congress, to testify at the hearings.

Initially, the IRS set the hearings for one day—Tuesday. But because of the widespread concern expressed to the IRS over the proposed changes by many non-public school organizations and religious groups, the hearings have been extended to Wednesday and Thursday. In addition to the March 21 COLPA letter to the IRS, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was provided with an outline of the statement Cowan will present and a draft of the text of Dershowitz' planned testimony.

Howard Zuckerman, COLPA president, said the COLPA presentation was worked out with Rabbi Bernard Goldenberg, chairman of the executive committee of Torah Umesorah. Cowan will testify on behalf of Torah Umesorah and the Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools, and for the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, Agudath Israel of America, National Council of Young Israel, Poalei Agudath Israel of America, the Rabbinical Alliance of America, Religious Zionists of America, and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congre-

gations of America. The Dershowitz statement was worked out with the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council and Dershowitz will testify for the AJCongress, the NJCRAC and its member agencies and local Jewish community relations councils; and for a number of umbrella agencies, expected to include the American Association for Jewish Education, the Council of Jewish Federations and the Synagogue Council of America.

Positions To Be Presented

Basically, Cowan and Dershowitz will present the same positions. The 1978 proposed revisions are aimed at private schools in areas in which public schools are being or have been integrated. Private schools in such areas may be presumed to be discriminatory if their minority enrollment is not at least 20 percent of the local school age minority population, or if there has been a substantial increase in white student enrollment which may be related to the integration of the area public schools. The burden will be on the school to satisfy the IRS that the school does not discriminate against minorities.

Both Cowan and Dershowitz plan to testify that no Jewish religious school discriminates on the basis of race because, as the COLPA statement puts it, "as long as the student is in fact Jewish, it would be contrary to Jewish religious principles to discriminate against him or her on the basis of race, skin color or similar factors."

The two experts will point out that few Blacks, Orientals or members of other minorities in this country are Jewish and therefore few students at Jewish religious schools are members of such minorities. Accordingly, absence of Black students from Jewish religious schools is in no way proof of racially discriminatory policies and the presumption of such discrimination is irrational.

The undeniable growth in student populations in Jewish day schools stems from the way such schools are structured, starting usually with a kindergarten and first grade and then adding grades annually as the pupils prepare for promotion to the next higher grade. Establishment of Jewish schools to serve the needs of the Jewish community, a constitutional right, will necessarily result in enrollment expansion totally unrelated to the advantages or disadvantages in local public schools.

Dershowitz will stress that the proposed IRS revisions could, by unfairly burdening Jewish religious schools through placing on them the costly burden of proof of non-discrimination, seriously impinge on the religious rights of American Jews.

Proposal To The IRS

The Dershowitz statement raises the possibility that the "suspect" Jewish schools might be forced to spend their limited funds on recruitment of minority students and faculty whose presence in such a school could only dilute the school's program and inhibit its communal and religious mission.

He will propose that the IRS rewrite its definition of a "reviewable school"—one suspect of racial discrimination—to exclude any religious school in which the absence of minority students or presence in insignificant numbers can be fairly attributed to the absence or insignificant numbers of minority group children in the school area belonging to that school's religious denomination. He will also warn that application of the proposed revisions to Jewish religious schools could produce serious problems of undue entanglement of church and state and improper interference with religious liberties.