

DAYAN TO PROPOSE COMPROMISE FORMULA TO BREAK DEADLOCK IN PEACE TALKS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is expected to propose to the Cabinet a compromise formula that should break the present deadlock in the negotiations with Egypt, according to informed sources in Jerusalem. Dayan met today with Premier Menachem Begin and briefed him on his talks over the weekend in Brussels with Egyptian Premier Mustapha Khalil. He apparently tried to win the support of Begin to his views.

The Foreign Minister is expected to propose that Israel move toward Egypt on two issues: the fourth clause in the draft peace treaty which allows for a review of the agreement within an agreed period of time, and the Egyptian demand for a target date on the implementation of the autonomy.

In return, Dayan reportedly proposes Israel should insist on the two main points in Article VI -- namely, that the agreement with Israel should hold priority over previous agreements between Egypt and other Arab states, and that no linkage be made between the Sinai pullback and the progress of talks on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Indication Of Egypt's Willingness

There is still a heavy curtain of secrecy cast over the Dayan-Khalil talks. However, there is at least one indication that Dayan apparently believes his compromise formula would be accepted by the Egyptians. When he arrived from Brussels last night he said the differences could be bridged "if both sides move toward each other's position and if the governments decide they are ready for this." He said the Brussels talks have shown that an agreement is possible.

Yediot Achronot reported today that the Egyptian-Israeli talks would resume next month. However, the paper said there was neither a date nor the form of the negotiations. The Cabinet may convene Wednesday in order to hear a briefing from Dayan on the Brussels talks. Israel Radio, however, reported today that the Cabinet meeting could take place tomorrow.

(Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said upon his return to Washington last night that his meetings with Dayan and Khalil were "helpful." He stressed that the purpose of the talks "was to explore the nature of the next steps to be taken in the negotiations and not to set a date for the resumption of negotiations." Vance's statement was seen as a rebuttal to media reports that he had failed to break the deadlock in the Egyptian-Israeli talks. Vance had gone to Brussels from inconclusive talks in Geneva with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT). See P. 3 for full Brussels talks story.)

BEGIN: ISRAEL IS NOT TAIWAN

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25 (JTA) -- Israel is not Taiwan, Premier Menachem Begin commented briefly when asked by foreign correspondents in Jerusalem to draw the conclusions of the present

crisis in the Taiwan-U.S. relations. Begin refused to go into a deeper analysis of the issue, but his brief comment was noted as quite different from the early reactions by a number of Cabinet ministers. Those ministers were quoted as saying that Israel should learn from the Taiwan experience the value of American international commitments.

Begin spoke last Thursday at a luncheon in honor of the Foreign Press Association. He devoted most of his speech to the resumption of terror attacks from Lebanon. He said the air raids on terror bases in that country have proved effective in preventing a number of terror acts. Begin added: "We shall not let those who spill Jewish blood go without punishment. Therefore, the air force raids also have a moral aspect."

He was referring to the air force strike last Wednesday against terrorist bases in south Lebanon in retaliation for a rash of terrorist bombings in Israel during the last six weeks in which five people were killed and 76 injured. The latest terrorist attacks occurred last Tuesday in Jerusalem and last Thursday in Kiryat Shemona.

CHINESE OFFICIALS FOCUS ON SOVIET STRATEGY TO DOMINATE THE MIDEAST

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 (JTA) -- Chinese officials responsible for shaping their country's foreign policy continue to warn important American visitors that the Soviet Union's strategy is domination of the Middle East and control of its oil resources, according to impressions gained by the latest Congressional group returning from the People's Republic of China.

Five Senators, who were inside China for 12 days at the Chinese government's invitation to explore the country and meet its leaders, did not directly ask their hosts in Peking about their feelings toward Israel. Instead, they posed the question to two high level authorities in seeking what they could do to assist in bringing peace to the Middle East. In their responses, the Chinese did not discuss Israel.

A spokesman for Harrison Williams Jr. (D. NJ), chairman of the Senatorial group which returned to the United States last Tuesday, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the responses from these authorities on the question focused on Soviet maneuvers towards control in the Middle East and in the Horn of Africa. Their silence on Israel was in accord with expressions by other Chinese leaders in recent weeks to subordinate the Israel-Arab conflict to primary interest on Soviet intentions.

At the People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, the spokesman said, Secretary General Hsieh Li said, in a brief comment on the Middle East, that China's influence is very limited in that area but he stressed the Soviets seek influence that would be detrimental to the United States.

At the Great Hall of the People, Vice Premier Ken Piao, who was described as China's Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and National Security Affairs Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski rolled into one, went into a longer response that boiled down to the same point -- the Soviet's desire to control the Middle East oil and prevent deliveries to nations outside its influence.

The Senators besides Williams were Howard

Cannon (R. Nev.), Henry Bellmon (R. Okla.), Dale Bumpers (D. Ark.) and Donald Riegel (D. Mich.). They were appointed by President Carter to make the visit after the Chinese government had requested a Senatorial delegation to tour China.

BILLY CARTER REPRIMANDED FOR USE OF TERM 'BASTARDIZED JEW'

ATLANTA, Dec. 25 (JTA) -- Billy Carter, the President's brother, was sharply reprimanded in "an open letter" and an editorial published in The Southern Israelite for his apparent inability to distinguish "between ethnic humor and ethnic insult." The latest embarrassment arising from Billy's frequent habit of putting words before thought stemmed from his use of the term "bastardized Jew" at a local fund-raising dinner several weeks ago.

The occasion was a "roast" -- a good-humored needling -- honoring Phil Niekro, a sports figure of Polish descent. Carter reportedly said he didn't know Niekro was a "Pollack" but thought he was a "bastardized Jew." One account erroneously reported that he had used the words "Goddamned Jew."

President Carter, when asked for a reaction, made it clear that he does not comment on controversies surrounding his brother Billy, of which there have been many. Billy Carter himself has been unavailable for comment since the incident.

Rapped By ADL Official

The "open letter," signed by Stuart Lewengrub, director of the Southeastern Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, observed: "Had this been a private affair, one that did not have an audience of 1200 people, plus press and television cameras and you were not the brother of the President of the United States, perhaps your remarks would have gone unnoticed. However, because you are a public personality and as such what you say in public carries greater weight, it seems to us that you bear a special responsibility in terms of what you say, even in jest."

Lewengrub pointed out that "it is highly questionable whether terms such as 'bastardized Jew' and 'Pollack' are humorous, or appropriate" even in the context of a roast. "We trust," he wrote, "that you personally bear no ill will toward the Jewish people or those of Polish descent, and that your future comments, be they serious or humorous, will reflect the kind of sensitivity to others that you would expect to be directed toward you, your family and your heritage."

The editorial, signed by Vida Goldgar, managing editor of The Southern Israelite, stated: "It has become increasingly difficult to dismiss 'First Brother' Billy Carter as just a loud-mouthed, publicity-seeking (but basically goodhearted) buffoon. His latest remarks at a 'roast' honoring one of the sports world's truly fine personalities were ill-conceived, grossly insensitive and showed an utter disregard for any semblance of responsibility."

CHANUKAH, CHRISTMAS CELEBRATED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25 (JTA) -- Chanukah and Christmas were celebrated in a variety of ceremonies in Jerusalem and Bethlehem yesterday as well as throughout the country. The Jewish festival of lights began last night with the lighting of the first candle at the Western Wall by

Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren. The ceremony was dedicated to Soviet Jewry, and most of the crowd consisted of new immigrants, public figures and tourists.

Goren was handed a torch by Yigal Hanoch, the 6-year-old son of Prisoner of Zion Leib Hanoch. Among the speakers was Prof. Benjamin Levich, the Soviet aliya activist who only recently arrived in Israel. Speaking in Russian, he implored the public not to forget the Jews who have not yet been granted exit visas from the USSR. Goren, in his speech, called on Iranian Jews to leave for Israel before it was too late.

After the lighting ceremony, 300 youths from the city's youth clubs came to the Wall to watch 15 beacons lighted. The beacons were carried by runners to the city's youth clubs. Other runners will carry a torch from the Maccabean birthplace of Modi'in to the Presidential residence in Jerusalem Tuesday evening. President Yitzhak Navon will then light the third candle in their company. The torch will be flown abroad to light beacons in Jewish communities around the world.

Special Festive Air

The Jewish National Fund last night lit the giant torches in the form of menorahs on 18 lookout posts from the Golan Heights in the north to Sharm el-Sheikh in the south. Some 20,000 youths, settlers and soldiers, participated in these ceremonies. In Jerusalem, the coincidence between Chanukah and Christmas, for the first time since 1940, lent a special festive air to the city, as the lights from Chanukah menorahs mingled with those from Christmas trees and other decorations.

Some 150 Lebanese pilgrims attended a special Christmas eve service held at the King David Citadel in East Jerusalem in solidarity with the Christians of Lebanon. The service was held under the slogan: "Nevertheless, Lebanon Wishes You a Merry Christmas."

Thousands of pilgrims from all over the world attended the midnight mass at Bethlehem's Manger Square. Others filled the numerous churches in East Jerusalem. All events took place without disturbances.

The Christmas celebration began at noon yesterday when the Latin Patriarch, Giacomo Beltritti, left Jerusalem for Bethlehem escorted by a long motorcade of notables. Halfway between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, at the Mar Elias Monastery, the Patriarch was greeted by the Mayor of Bethlehem, Elias Freij. He entered the city accompanied by Freij and mayors of the nearby largely Christian towns of Beit Sahur and Beit Jala.

TWO CANADIAN RESIDENTS IDENTIFY MAIDANEK GUARDS

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Dec. 25 (JTA) -- Two Toronto sisters have returned home after testifying at the trial in Dusseldorf of former guards at Maidanek, a Nazi prison camp in Poland. "It was very important for me to go there. It was a duty," Leah Givner, 54, said on her arrival from West Germany with her sister Mary Awronski, 59.

They said the satisfaction of identifying and confronting their Nazi tormentors served to compensate them for the pain of visiting Germany and telling the story of their imprisonment. In testimony, they identified four of their former guards among the 14 defendants. They recognized but were unable to positively identify a fifth defendant. All of the 14 are accused of murdering thousands of Jews and other prisoners at the camp.

The sisters identified defendant Hildegard

Laechert, 57, nicknamed "Bloody Brigitta" by the inmates, as one of the most hated Maidanek guards. Mrs. Laechert is charged with 1183 murders. Mrs. Awronski and her sister were prisoners for about 10 weeks at Maidanek. Their mother, their sister and two daughters died in the camp.

One of the defendants, identified by Mrs. Givner, was Hermine Braunsteiner Ryan who was denaturalized by a U.S. court and deported from Queens, N.Y. to Germany. Mrs. Givner stopped in front of her and said immediately: "This is Kobyla. I know when I see those evil eyes. I shall never forget them." Kobyla is the Polish word for "mare." Mrs. Ryan was called this for her habit of violently kicking prisoners.

Mrs. Awronski talked to a group of German school children who came to observe the trial with their teacher. She pointed out that they had met with a warm reception. "The people in Germany were very friendly. They gave us such respect it was really something." All the defendants, she pointed out, are free on bail.

EGYPT, ISRAEL AGREE TO TRY TO BREAK DEADLOCK IN TREATY TALKS

By Edwin Eytan

BRUSSELS, Dec. 25 (JTA) -- Egypt and Israel agreed yesterday to remain in contact through Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in order to try and break the current deadlock and resume peace talks. After a three-and-a-half hour meeting here, Vance read a brief statement indicating that no concrete results were reached, neither as to the level of the negotiators nor the subjects to be discussed. Vance said in his statement that Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Egyptian Premier Mustapha Khalil had had "a useful and full exchange of all the issues."

Observers here stressed that the word "cordial" or "understanding" was not mentioned. Diplomatic sources also indicated that the two sides, Israel and Egypt, remained in their pre-stated positions; Dayan stressing that he is prepared to discuss only the "mechanisms" of the future talks and Khalil wanting to analyze the issues at stake.

The two sides agreed, however, according to these sources, to keep a period of relative silence in order to enable tempers to calm down and obtain an atmosphere more conducive to the resumption of the talks.

Prior to yesterday's trilateral session, Vance met separately with Dayan and Khalil Saturday night. The Secretary of State arrived in Brussels late from his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Geneva on the SALT talks. In his absence, the Israeli and Egyptian diplomats got together informally Saturday evening. Dayan and Khalil and their advisors met for 30 minutes in the Egyptian's hotel suite and then dined together in the hotel restaurant. They were seen chatting and occasionally laughing together.

But despite the apparently relaxed atmosphere, Israeli and Egyptian sources said their positions were still far apart. In Cairo, several important officials, including the Defense Minister, said the Egyptian position has not changed since the peace talks broke down. The Cairo magazine, "October," reported that President Anwar Sadat has written to a number of Arab leaders pledging that he would not forget the rights of the Palestinians and Egypt's obligation to their cause.

Will Not Give Up West Bank, Gaza

In Brussels, Dayan told three West European

Foreign Ministers Friday that Israel has no intention whatever of giving up the West Bank and Gaza Strip or withdrawing its troops from those territories. He was quoted by diplomatic sources as saying, "We have differences with the Arabs, we have differences with America and we might have differences with you (the West Europeans) as well. But even if the whole world is against us, we will not give up the West Bank or Gaza or accept the creation of a Palestinian state or a Palestinian entity."

Dayan also reportedly said after the initial freeze on new settlements in the occupied territories, Israel intends to resume settlement activity "and have Jews and Arabs live side by side without displacing the Arabs or chasing them off their lands." Yet, despite the hardening of positions on both sides, both the Israeli and Egyptian delegations stressed their desire to continue their talks convinced that "a peace treaty will be signed" in a relatively short time and the U.S. will continue its mediation efforts to bring that about.

CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS IN EEC

BRUSSELS, Dec. 25 (JTA) -- Israel's concern over developments in the European Economic Community (EEC) were expressed by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan in meetings with EEC foreign ministers here over the weekend, prior to his talks with Egyptian Premier Mustapha Khalil and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Israel is worried about the pending entry into the EEC of Spain, Portugal and Greece which export many of the same products that Israel sells. As full members, they will enjoy the same tariff benefits as Israel and could offer stiff and possibly unfair competition. Last year, Israel's trade deficit with the EEC member states amounted to \$1 billion and it is feared that the new competition would further reduce Israel's exports. Moreover, Spain and Greece do not have full diplomatic relations with Israel but would participate in the formulation of EEC policy on the Middle East.

Dayan met here with the outgoing chairman of the EEC, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. He promised Dayan that the EEC authorities would meet with Israeli experts to try to solve these difficulties and that the member-states would do "their best" to convince Spain and Greece to establish normal diplomatic relations with Israel. (By Edwin Eytan)

NEW YORK (JTA) -- According to information received by the American Friends of the Alliance Israélite Universelle in New York, the Ettehad schools of the Alliance in Iran have resumed their normal functioning. Only a very small number of students were absent when the schools were reopened. It is believed that their absence does not indicate that there were departures from the country among the families of the students, the Alliance said. There are about 4000 students in the 14 Ettehad schools in Teheran and other cities of Iran.

BUCHAREST (JTA) -- The "Chanukah Mar-athon" conducted by Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen began Saturday night and will continue until Jan. 2, during which he will visit 27 Jewish communities in Romania. Accompanying him are orchestras and choirs of Talmud Torah classes which present Jewish songs to the communities in Moldavia, Transylvania and Bucovina.

BRUSSELS (JTA) -- A third Jewish school was inaugurated here last week. It will include general as well as traditional Jewish studies.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON THE CASE OF JESSICA KATZ

BOSTON, Dec. 25 (JTA) -- Jessica Katz, the one-year-old daughter of Boris and Natasha Katz of Moscow, arrived earlier this month with her parents and 10-day-old sister Gabrielle at Logan International Airport. Jessica, who had been reported to be suffering from a digestive ailment, appeared healthy.

The New York Times launched a campaign in a news article and a subsequent editorial to the effect that they and the American public had been taken in by an "erroneous story," as it was termed in The Times Dec. 6 editorial, by "Jewish organizations that seek to dramatize the plight of Soviet Jews."

The Action for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, which were the prime Soviet Jewry groups to publicize Jessica's plight, have sought to set the record straight. Bailey Barron and Judy Patkin, co-chairwomen of Action, and Robert G. Gordon, president of the Union, released the following statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on the Jessica Katz case:

Issues Beneath The Surface

A number of issues lie buried beneath the surface of the accusations emanating from The New York Times insisting that Jewish organizations exaggerated publicity to free Jessica Katz and call attention to the situation of Soviet Jews.

We in Action for Soviet Jewry, who were the prime initiators and coordinators of the Jessica Katz saga, knew that we had not misrepresented Jessica's condition and a review of all the literature available to us revealed no substantial misrepresentations in publicity developed by other Jewish organizations or by political figures with whom we had contact.

Nevertheless, there is no question that many persons waiting at Boston's Logan Airport expected to see a critically ill baby instead of an apparently healthy, smiling child. The question as to whether the public had been duped was quickly raised by (only) The New York Times reporter.

The heart of the answer lies in the criticality of Jessica's illness. Jessica experienced no weight gain between early December 1977 and March 30, 1978. She received multiple blood and plasma transfusions and experienced acute and chronic diarrhea. It was only when American tourists brought predigested formula, Pregestimil, to Jessica at the suggestion of Dr. Richard Feinbloom of Boston that the baby (who was then in the hospital) responded and immediately started to gain weight. Thereafter, despite two relapses in May and June, Jessica grew and developed in an apparently satisfactory manner.

Criticality Of Jessica's Condition

Why then should Jessica's health have been described as critical when she seemed to be progressing so well? The criticality of Jessica's situation hopefully did not lie in her condition after March 30, although Dr. Feinbloom contends that Jessica may indeed have remained in a critical health condition, but in the possibility that her life-line, the tourists bringing in Pregestimil, might break down.

We and Dr. Feinbloom had tried to find other methods of insuring the continuing and proper care of Jessica. Dr. Feinbloom on February 27 and on March 1, tried to make contact by mailgram and mail with the Hon. Boris

Vasil'evich Petrovskii, Minister of Health of the USSR. The American political figures were sometimes acknowledged with the claim that Jessica was "receiving medical care from the best specialists," but we knew that the "best specialists" had been unsuccessful for four months in treating Jessica.

In early summer two Pregestimil cases were shipped by doctors from Los Angeles to the Soviet Union. One case arrived, the other was apparently confiscated. It appeared that the only potentially dependable life-line was the tourists, taking four to 18 cans at a time, hoping to get through Soviet customs without questioning and confiscation.

It is not always easy to find tourists willing to take the risk of being confronted with aiding a maligned and outcast minority (i.e., the refuseniks) in the Soviet Union. The criticality lay in the fact that we were not sure from month to month whether we could keep Jessica's supply of Pregestimil coming.

If the cry in this country had been concentrated on providing formula, we were afraid that this life-line (which could be cut easily by an "uncomprehending" Soviet customs official) would disappear. Also Dr. Feinbloom repeatedly stressed that Jessica needed a full diagnosis to insure that her treatment was indeed proper. We reported that Jessica was apparently doing well under the formula, but we also pointed out that she had never been diagnosed and that Soviet medicine was apparently unable to treat her.

Illness Embarrassed Soviets

Jessica's illness embarrassed the Soviets and highlighted the fact that the Russians were preventing the emigration of one who held no "state secrets" and who had a perfectly legitimate reason to want to leave the country. The arbitrariness of Soviet visa refusals was successfully exposed. The sheer human drama of a sick infant apparently kept alive by humanitarians captured the imagination of the media and also of the country.

Although we were in the center of the activities dealing with Jessica, we received relatively few phone calls from the media, and we were most careful to keep accurate those reports with which we were involved. However, we could not help but notice that media reports were being published and aired which were exaggerating the extent of Jessica's illness even after it had stabilized. We tried in several instances to correct erroneous reports after they had been made public.

Unfortunately, The New York Times failed to document its impressions of the health of Jessica Katz and did not contact Action for Soviet Jewry, Dr. Feinbloom, or its own Moscow correspondent before publishing three news articles and a scathing editorial in rapid succession. The Times has since published (12/12) an article which exonerates Action for Soviet Jewry and Dr. Richard Feinbloom. However, the Soviet Jewry movement has been seriously maligned on the front page of The New York Times and picked up by the Soviet press.

MONTREAL (JTA) -- Monroe Abbey, a Canadian Jewish leader, has been appointed to the Order of Canada, the highest distinction given by the government. The announcement of the award was made by Jule Leger, Governor-General of Canada. The award, which includes a scroll and a medal, will be presented to Abbey in ceremonies in Ottawa after New Year's Day. Abbey is honorary president of the Canadian Jewish Congress and honorary vice-president of the World Jewish Congress.

There will be no Bulletin dated January 1, due to New Year's Day, a postal holiday.