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RESUMED TALKS ON THE HORIZON

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27 (JTA) -- There were hints today in Jerusalem and Cairo that the Israeli-Egyptian peace negotiations will resume soon. Premier Menachem Begin stressed last night that Israel is ready to continue the talks and is willing to negotiate on Egypt's demands concerning self-rule for the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, in Cairo today, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat said that while he has not received an invitation to new talks "things will be clear over the next two days." At the same time, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported from Washington that there was a possibility of a second meeting between Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil in either Washington or a European capital.

Sadat, speaking to reporters following a meeting of his ruling National Democratic Party's Parliamentary Committee, said the meeting between the three in Brussels last weekend was useful. "A new round of talks stand a good chance," he said.

Begin's comments were made in an address to members of the Soldiers Welfare Association. He said that Israel would be willing to discuss the autonomy issue and even the Egyptian demand for reviewing the peace treaty although this would have to be a general statement since Israel will never agree to setting the review date at five years as the Egyptians want.

Israel Was Ready To Sign By Dec. 17

But Begin said that Israel could not agree to a timetable for the implementation of the self-rule plan for the West Bank and Gaza because it did not depend on Israel alone. He noted that Israel has invited Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to join the peace talks but so far they have refused. "Can we force them to come?" he asked.

Begin again stressed that Israel was ready to sign the proposed peace treaty by President Carter's original deadline of Dec. 17. "We were ready to sign it much before that date," he declared. He said Israel was ready to continue the negotiations, but it refuses to sign an empty treaty that does not bring peace.

MENA's report from Washington said expectations for new talks between Vance, Dayan and Khalil were based on the deliberations of the Israeli Cabinet "which are making progress at present."

Dayan Under Fire On Compromise

Meanwhile, the Cabinet is expected to continue its search for ways to resume negotiations with Egypt when it meets for its regular weekly session next Sunday. No decisions were reached at yesterday's special meeting of the Cabinet, convened by Begin to hear Dayan's report of his talks with Vance in Brussels over the weekend.

Dayan reportedly came under fire from some of his colleagues for having said publicly on his return from Brussels that Israel and Egypt both should make compromises aimed at renewing the

peace talks. Absorption Minister David Levy, Minister-Without-Portfolio Moshe Nisim and several others contended that Dayan's remarks were tactically unwise and substantively unwarranted.

They claimed that Israel's position, rejecting Egypt's latest proposals, had gained a fairly good reception by the American public, was strongly endorsed by U.S. Jews and was accepted by public opinion at home. They complained that Dayan's statement would only raise doubts and second thoughts among commentators and supporters of the government.

Aides to the Foreign Minister said last night that he was confident that his recommendations would be accepted by the Cabinet despite the criticism by some ministers. They stressed he was not urging any major shift in the substance of Israel's position and none at all on the crucial Article VI of the treaty draft, the priority of obligations clause. All Dayan seeks, the aides said, is a more positive and forthcoming statement of Israel's position, coupled with a new expression of readiness to resume the talks with Egypt on the various issues in dispute.

ARMY EVACUATES GUSH EMUNIM FROM UNAUTHORIZED SITES ON WEST BANK

Government Planning To Multiply Settlements In Area And Expand Existing Settlements
By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Dec. 27 (JTA) -- Army units evacuated two groups of Gush Emunim settlers from unauthorized sites on the West Bank today without incident. But other developments indicated that the government is speeding up plans to multiply settlements in that territory and expand existing ones. At least two sites that were seized by the Gush without authorization during the past 18 months will be turned over to them shortly with official blessings.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori announced on the Army Radio today that preparatory work is proceeding to create the infrastructure for future settlements in the Samaria and Judea districts. In fact, he said, this work was never suspended, despite Israel's agreement to freeze settlement activity during the period of peace negotiations with Egypt.

It was learned from reliable sources, meanwhile, that the controversial settlement established by the Gush near the Kadum army camp in the heart of Samaria almost two years ago will be given civilian status. Originally declared illegal by the Labor-led government which was then in office, the Gush were allowed to remain on the land nominally part of the military compound. But the army will soon relocate its base leaving the original camp entirely to the Gush.

Similarly, the Gush will soon be granted permanent settlement rights at Shilo, an area they seized without authorization last year. The Likud government allowed them to remain on the pretext that they were on an archaeological expedition, a ruse that proved embarrassing to the authorities and was emphatically denied by the Gush themselves.

The government insists that all settlement moves be carried out according to plan and with official authorization. In today's developments, two Gush groups took over land near Giv On north of Jerusalem without permission. One, consisting largely of Soviet Jewish emigres attracted to the Gush ideology, encamped at Tel Chadasha, an

ancient site mentioned in accounts of the Macabean wars. The squatters comprised 25 families equipped with tents, water tanks and barbed wire for fencing. The other group established itself at Nebi Samuel, a mountain slope northwest of Jerusalem.

West Bank Roads Blocked

Army units surrounded both places and after prolonged negotiations, the squatters were removed without offering resistance. The evacuation of Tel Chadasha was complicated by the presence of two observers from the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. The Gush refused to leave until the Americans were ordered away.

The upsurge of Gush activity today led the army to seal off roads on the West Bank. A group of children from the Gush settlement at Kadum encountered a police road block while on a walking tour in northern Samaria. When the police refused to remove the barrier, the youngsters were ordered by their teachers to block the main highway. They were allowed to continue their trip after a senior army officer intervened with the police. But other Gush groups continued to block roads on the West Bank today in protest against the police action.

Meanwhile, the government is expected to give authorization soon for several new settlements in the Samaria and Judea districts. These will include a settlement called Mathatyahu, to be populated by Orthodox Jews and another in the Lucipher area near Hebron. The latter site was previously settled but then abandoned because of internal difficulties. Three more settlements are to be established by the para-military Nahal in the Jordan Valley.

KNESSETER GHAINS HIMSELF TO THE SPEAKER'S STAND IN THE KNESSET

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27 (JTA) -- The Knesset Presidium will discuss next week an unprecedented act by a member of Knesset. Charlie Biton, the Knesset representative of the pro-Moscow Democratic Front for Peace and Equality (the coalition of Rakah and former Black Panther members) handcuffed himself to the Knesset rostrum microphones during a debate on Prisoners of Zion in the Soviet Union. Biton demanded that the Knesset drop this subject from the agenda and discuss the conditions of prisoners in Israel instead. His parliamentary secretary is in jail pending a murder trial.

Biton was granted time to speak on his request to strike off the agenda a motion calling on the Knesset to express solidarity with Soviet prisoner Ida Nudel. Instead of presenting a short statement, as is usually done in such instances, Biton began to read a long speech criticizing the support given to Soviet Jewish prisoners and denouncing Silva Zalmanson as a "terrorist" for having participated in the attempt to hijack a Soviet plane in 1970. He said the government was neglecting the "real prisoners of Zion, who sit in Ramla and Ramallah, BeerSheba and Nablus."

When the chairman of the session called Biton to order, the legislator pulled out large handcuffs from his pocket and chained himself to the microphone. The Knesset was thrown into an uproar with several Knesseters trying to unchain Biton. Unable to do so, a gardener was rushed to the chamber who used shears to cut the handcuffs.

Biton, 31, was one of the founders of the Israeli Black Panthers group in the early 1970s and became widely known when he led anti-

government demonstrations demanding social equality for Sephardic Jews. He served several short periods in Israeli prisons, during his youth, on burglary charges and later in connection with the Black Panther demonstrations. During his speech in the Knesset, Biton referred to what he termed the mistreatment he was subjected to while in prison.

MANN SEEKS MEETING WITH CARTER

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (JTA) -- Theodore Mann, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, has written to President Carter requesting a meeting with him so that his organization can express its concern over recent developments in the Middle East and offer whatever assistance it can to further the cause of peace. Mann claimed in his letter that "Israel has been wrongly blamed by the United States for the current impasse" in peace treaty negotiations with Egypt.

He sent the letter in the aftermath of the Dec. 19 meeting between representatives of the Presidents Conference and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Assistant Secretary Harold Saunders and Ambassador Alfred Ahernton. He told the President that since that meeting, he had sought, through White House aide Edward Sanders, "to meet with you to express the widespread concern in the Jewish community regarding events of the past ten days."

Mann said that because of the President's crowded schedule, such a meeting seems unlikely before the end of the year and therefore "the community leaders within the Conference of Presidents have asked me to communicate our concerns to you in the first instance by letter."

Mann stated that "on the basis of all the facts, several conclusions appear to us to be inescapable." In that connection, he observed that "Egypt, not Israel has sought to reopen and alter the draft treaty advanced by the United States on November 21.... The manner in which the blame was placed on Israel by our country was distressing," Mann wrote.

"No sovereign state with any sense of its own self-worth could be expected to accept such pressure--pressure which flies in the face of your own wise and significant assurances that our country would never require Israel to agree to conditions that she regards as harmful to her security...."

The Greatest Disappointment

According to Mann, "An analysis of the treaty alterations supported by the United States... clearly establishes that these changes diminish the quality, nature and scope of the peace for which Israel is prepared to make a total withdrawal from Sinai. To us, this is the greatest disappointment that after your own eloquent and oft-repeated definition of the kind of peace that must result from these negotiations, the United States should be publicly calling on Israel to accept so much less."

Mann further charged that "the treaty alterations demanded by Egypt and supported by the United States permit Egypt to retain the option to make war on Israel and make the implementation of the treaty conditional on agreement over the terms of autonomy for the Palestinian Arabs in the West Bank-Gaza territories...." Mann added: "We still hope for an opportunity to meet with you and offer any assistance we can in the effort to bring peace to the Middle East."

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) -- Jose Isaacson, the famous Jewish poet, was presented with a golden pen from the Argentine Pen Club upon ending his second term as president of the club.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE ARAB BOYCOTT IN BRITAIN

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Dec. 27 (JTA) -- In February, the House of Lords will debate the recommendations of a Lords committee that the British government and British industry should take a forthright stand against the Arab boycott. The Lords committee suggested that the Foreign Office should stop processing "negative certificates of origin" required by some Arab governments, and which have been banned in the United States. This, and other steps proposed by the committee, are under consideration by various government departments.

Whether they would have much effect, however, is far from clear. For even though anti-boycott circles claimed the House of Lords report as a major success, the boycott itself is a deeply ingrained fact of business life.

A glance through the files of the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce illustrates the psychological hold which the boycott has over businessmen in European countries. The Chamber of Commerce follows up the many cases reported to it. But usually their approaches fail, and often they are simply ignored. In other cases, there is only a suspicion that a company has refused to deal with Israel or a Jewish concern because of the boycott. Here are some of the cases on the Chamber's file:

Examples Of The Boycott

An Israeli sports shop in Jerusalem which supplies goods to the United Nations was interested in purchasing an assortment of games from a well-known British company. The games would have been distributed to UN forces in south Lebanon and other Middle East sectors.

On hearing that the agent was an Israeli company, the British firm said that it would have to consult its overseas department. The Israeli company had asked for the British firm's catalogue, but never received it. The Chamber has been in touch with the British company, which expressed shock at the incident. But since the order was for Christmas gifts, the damage had already been done.

Another case involves the growing practice of publishers to omit Israel from the maps of the Middle East. Bartholomew, the leading British map publishers, have brought out a world travel map of the Arabian peninsula in which the name "Palestine" appears between the Negev desert and the sea of Galilee. On being challenged about it, Bartholomew said that they were merely copying a map issued by the Oxford University Press. This has been confirmed, and inquiries have also been sent to the Oxford University Press.

Israel is also unnamed in a map in the summer 1978 issue of the Sheraton Hotel group's magazine, featuring its hotels in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

A more prestigious publication which ignores the existence of Israel is the world famous bi-monthly Guide to the Drug Industry, commonly known as "Mims," which is used by doctors and hospitals. The Middle East edition of "Mims" lists the agents of international drug companies in all countries from Malta to Ethiopia, but leaves out Israel.

Vague Explanations Offered

In refusing to do business with Israeli companies, European businesses offer vague explanations about the "difficulties" of the present sit-

uation." Here are two examples:

In reply to a Haifa hotel's interest in purchasing a new telephone switchboard, a subsidiary of the famous Swedish Ericsson Company (which has major contracts in the Arab world) wrote: "We are pleased to note your interest in our products. However, we have decided not to start any business activity in Israel for the time being and therefore refrain from sending more detailed information."

Astra Pharmaceuticals International, another Swedish company, replied as follows to a business inquiry from a Tel Aviv cosmetics laboratory: "We regret having to inform you that due to present circumstances we are unable to discuss the possibility of a cooperation. However, should there be any changes in the present conditions, we will be pleased to revert to you in this matter. Thank you for the interest shown our company."

Fall In British Exports To Israel

Cases such as these are often referred to the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce by its sister body in Israel in the hope that non-British companies can be approached through their British subsidiaries or parent companies.

Dealing with the boycott is only a secondary task of the Chamber whose main job is to promote trade between Britain and Israel in both directions. However, over the years, the two have become increasingly intertwined.

Harry Schwab, the Chamber's executive secretary, believes that fear of the boycott is a prime reason for the fall in British exports to Israel, both in value and in volume. In the first 11 months of 1978, British exports to Israel dropped six percent to 230 million Pounds Sterling. At the same time, Israeli sales to Britain shot up 16 percent to 177 million Pounds Sterling.

ALLON PROPOSES INTERIM AGREEMENT

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (JTA) -- Former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon told the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations that if the parties to the Camp David accords decide the time is not ripe to implement the Egyptian-Israeli agreement, "I would recommend an interim agreement with an Israeli withdrawal to the first phase of the proposed Sinai pullback -- to a line from El Arish to Ras Mohammed -- in return for termination of the state of war by Egypt."

The former Deputy Premier also said that the people of Israel stood "united as never before" in rejecting Carter Administration pressure to accept demands that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat proposes for changes in the proposed Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. "I deplore the Administration's actions and I know they have strengthened the resolve of the people of Israel to sign only a true peace," Allon said.

"The American statements of recent days have inflicted great damage to the cause of Middle East peace," Allon said. "They have encouraged the Egyptians to believe that by raising new demands they can get a better deal from Israel, but Israel will not submit to those demands and there will be no treaty as long as President Sadat persists in making them."

Allon also assailed the role of Saudi Arabia in joining the confrontation states opposed to the Camp David accords. "This is the Saudi response to the Carter Administration's policy of selling the most modern fighter-bombers in the American arsenal to the Saudi regime," he said. "I should have thought, that, particularly in view of the turmoil in Iran, the Saudis would be interested in promoting stability in the Middle East."

KGB HARASSES JEWISH ACTIVISTS

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (JTA) -- Soviet secret police squads conducted all-day searches late last week at the home of Victor and Irina Brailovskiy and those of three other Jewish activists, according to information received by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ). The Brailovskys, both doctors of science, first applied to emigrate in 1972 and were denied permission because Irina allegedly had access to secret information. Their 17-year-old son, Leonid, applied for an exit visa on his own at the beginning of this year and was also refused. Victor is an organizer of the Moscow Seminar of Jewish Scientists.

Also searched in Moscow was the apartment of Larissa Vilenskaya, one of 22 "refusenik" women who met with Deputy Minister of the Interior Boris Shumilin Nov. 15. Vilenskaya and Irina Brailovskiy are both members of the Moscow Women's Group.

In Leningrad, the KGB searched the apartment of Gregory and Aleksandr Genusov. Both brothers have had their emigration applications refused because they are considered to have had access to state secrets because they were in the army.

Jerry Goodman, executive director of the NCSJ, said this type of harassment often occurs just before major holidays and Americans, therefore, are unaware of the incidents. "Emigration has been on the rise and a number of people have been suggesting that the Soviets are finally shaping up. Of course, this regressive step reminds us that Soviet Jews are susceptible to many types of pressure," Goodman warned.

"We consider this particular incident a setback," Goodman added. "It occurred just as Secretary of State Cyrus Vance was meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and must be interpreted as a signal to the United States that the Soviets are not going to let foreign countries interfere with what they call 'internal affairs.'"

The Brailovskys had scientific books and articles confiscated, along with mathematical notes and formulas and a permit to use the Lenin Library. Prof. Grigory Frieman, who was visiting at the time, was detained, but it is unclear whether charges were filed against him. The fourth search was conducted at the home of a Mrs. Rapoport, who is believed to be an English teacher. The secret police took historic research materials dealing with the Middle Ages and a number of philosophy books, the NCSJ reported.

DIFFICULTIES FACED BY JEWISH REFUSNIKS IN ISOLATED USSR AREAS

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (JTA) -- Jewish refuseniks in isolated areas of the USSR "are still facing many difficulties," according to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ).

Dr. Isosif Begun, a 46-year-old Moscow electrical engineer, sentenced to exile in Siberia for the second time in as many years, is now in the village of Susuman, where temperatures are -50°F. He has been placed in a small room, 40 feet square, with three other Russians who drink and play cards, making it virtually impossible to observe the Sabbath or engage in any intellectual activity. There is neither enough nor good quality food available. Mail from Israel and Western supporters does not reach him.

In Ilyinka, a small Jewish farming village in the Voronezh region some 500 miles from Moscow, commissar Victor Tarasov continues what the SSSJ called "a reign of terror" over its inhabitants. 130 Jewish families, 90 percent of whom

are still intensely devout and who seek to emigrate to Israel. Dvora Matveeva told SSSJniks this week by phone that both Tarasov and the local emigration office refuse to pass on to them the affidavits sent to them by relatives in Israel which are a prerequisite for exit applications. "We just want to leave!" she shouted.

The call is only the third successful connection in over 25 attempts; Soviet phone operators have even occasionally maintained "there is no such place." The plight of the Ilyinkaites, who evidently descend from local peasants who converted en masse to Judaism over a century ago, was first publicized by Moscow activist Vladimir Slepak, now exiled to Siberia and Anatoly Schcharansky.

In Tashkent, 42-year-old widow Svetlana Levina, a physician, is barred from joining her son Ilya in Israel, ostensibly because her mother, who lives in another city, does not assent to her emigration. Levina wrote her son that "despite all my appeals and your suffering, the worries of our families, the answer of the emigration office's director was 'I've told you already: no, no and again no!'" Levina's widow's pension has now been cut off for half a year and she and her second son Anton are in dire financial straits, the SSSJ reported.

DULZIN CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT -- JEWISH AGENCY AND SOVIET OLIM FOR ONGOING PROBLEM OF DROPOUTS
By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Dec. 27 (JTA) -- Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, castigated both the government of Israel and the Jewish Agency for neglecting in recent years the problem of Soviet Jewish emigrants who drop out in Vienna. He said both institutions share the responsibility for what he termed a national tragedy. At the same time, he also blamed the Soviet immigrants in Israel for responsibility in this situation.

Addressing hundreds of former Prisoners of Conscience who gathered here for their third annual meeting, Dulzin declared: "You are to be blamed just as we are. The thousands of letters that you and other olim have sent back to the Soviet Union with endless complaints have contributed a lot to the dropout phenomenon. Those who have settled here and have been absorbed do not write complaints. But there are others who have no patience, and these write about problems, about difficulties, about disorder. True, they exist, but almost all cases have been solved. It is a fact that 140,000 Russian Jews live in Israel and earn their livelihood."

Dulzin said that the government, because of political problems, has had no time to deal with aliya, absorption and the dropout problem. In addition, he said, the various political parties have been unable to arrive at a consensus about what measures should be taken to deal with these problems. "As a free people we shall not prevent those wishing to go elsewhere (other than to Israel) from doing so," he declared. "But we will not help them to do so."

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The majority of Soviet immigrants in Israel left the USSR because of Zionist motives or because they have been exposed to anti-Semitism, a current study at the Hebrew University shows. Some 34 percent of the interviewees said they left the USSR for Zionist reasons, another 25 percent said they left because of anti-Semitism, and another 13 percent because of their opposition to the Communist regime. Five percent said they left for religious reasons.