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## U.S. INVITES ISRAEL, EGYPT TO NEW ROUND OF HIGH-LEVEL TALKS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- The State Department confirmed yesterday that the United States has invited Israel and Egypt to a new round of high-level talks in an effort to resume the peace treaty negotiations that have been deadlocked since November. The State Department's chief spokesman, Hodding Carter, said the invitation was for a meeting "in the near future." Presumably it was extended by President Carter to Premier Menachem Begin of Israel and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt to send their top level negotiators to Washington. (See P. 3.)

(Reports from Jerusalem today quoted authoritative sources as saying that the principals in the new round of talks will be Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Khalil of Egypt and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.)

The ministerial level talks, which some sources said could begin as early as next week, seemed to rule out any chance of a second Middle East summit conference between Begin, Sadat and Carter. Carter said last month that he would "not hesitate" to call a new summit meeting under the right circumstances.

But the White House stated later that Carter would not undertake such a venture unless both sides showed greater flexibility on the issues that have blocked a peace treaty to date. Presidential Press Secretary Jody Powell said that so far the requisite flexibility has not been demonstrated.

## Issues in The New Talks

It is believed that the new ministerial level talks will deal with all of the outstanding differences between Israel and Egypt and attempt to resolve them as a package. This would be a departure from the earlier U.S. strategy of trying to promote agreement on lesser issues before tackling the main obstacles to a peace treaty. Such an attempt by Carter's special envoy Alfred Atherton failed last month after Atherton spent 12 days shuttling between Jerusalem and Cairo in an effort to obtain agreement on relatively minor issues.

Meanwhile, the White House announced today that Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia will meet with Carter on March 13-14 on the Mideast situation and oil supply issues. Powell said the two leaders expected to deal with the peace talks between Egypt, and Israel and the turmoil in Iran, including the shutdown of Iranian oil production. According to Powell, the Carter-Fahd talks will be held in what he described the spirit of cooperation and mutual consultation that has marked the long-standing relationship between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.

## CYPRUS SENIOR OFFICIAL IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- "George" Pelagias, director general of the Cypriot Foreign Ministry, arrived in Israel last night as the guest of his Israeli counterpart, Yosef Cichanover. Although Pelagias is not considered a policy-maker, political observers in Jerusalem noted the importance of the visit, the first by a senior Cypriot official. The two countries have

full diplomatic relations, but the relations are cool. Cyprus does not have a resident mission here.

One of the issues expected to be raised by Pelagias is the case of imprisoned Cypriot journalist, Panayiotis Paskalis, who was jailed for five years on espionage charges last July. Paskalis had collected published material and had taken hundreds of photographs of the Israeli coastline. The Tel Aviv District Court found he had planned to give the material to Palestine Liberation Organization officials in Cyprus.

The Cypriot official will be here for two days and will pay a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. He will also be received by Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek.

## GUR: U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN SINAI COULD GUARANTEE PEACE ACCORD

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- Former Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur said yesterday that he believed an American military presence in Sinai could guarantee a future peace agreement with Egypt. Gur, newly elected to the Labor Party Bureau, said at a lecture here that he in fact made such a proposal to the then U.S. Secretary of Defense, James Schlesinger shortly after the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

Gur said he suggested that the U.S. transfer soldiers from Vietnam to Sinai to serve as a buffer force between the Egyptians and Israelis. At the time, the Nixon Administration was gradually withdrawing American forces from Vietnam. But Schlesinger rejected the idea. The American Defense Secretary said that after Vietnam, the involvement of U.S. troops in another country would not be feasible, Gur said. He added, however, that he still believed an American presence in Sinai would be helpful.

He criticized the Likud government for failure to consult with the army before it offered to return Sinai to Egypt. "Just as they did not study thoroughly the Sadat initiative, the government did not properly read the facts," Gur said.

## STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS ISRAEL HAS NO POLICY OF SYSTEMATIC TORTURE IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that it appeared "that instances of mistreatment" have occurred in the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip but that this was neither systematic nor the policy of the Israeli government. The Department's chief spokesman, Hodding Carter, discussed the matter in connection with a report today in the Washington Post of "systematic torture" in those territories. He said that "the State Department had no evidence of systematic torture." (See related story P. 3.)

The Post story appeared on the eve of the distribution of the State Department's report on 150 countries that receive U.S. military or economic assistance. The report has been submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and will be distributed tomorrow or Friday but portions of it have leaked to the media.

The report says that "There have been in-

stances" of the use of torture in the occupied areas but the Israeli government flatly denies it. Carter confirmed that the accusations that have been reported stem from "accounts given after the release by Arabs arrested for security offenses."

The report also says that "Arabs in the occupied territories, including some who were actually in custody and who have reported they have been subjected to mistreatment, continue to allege both publicly and privately that the mistreatment of detainees is a systematic practice. The accumulation of reports, some from credible sources, make it appear that instances of mistreatment have occurred."

The report charged that Israeli troops and border police have used excessive force in quelling demonstrations and restoring order. But, it added, "they did not reflect the policy of the Israeli government." Carter said the report submitted to Congress in no way should alter the U.S. relationship with Israel. "We see no reason to change our relationship with Israel," he said.

#### LEADERS OF POLAND'S JEWISH COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL FOR SIX-DAY CONVENTION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- Three leaders of the Jewish community in Poland arrived yesterday in Israel to participate in the Fourth Congress of the World Federation of Polish Jews which convened today in Tel Aviv. It is the first time since Poland severed diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967 that an official Polish delegation has come to Israel.

The three are Shimon Scharmeï, director of the Yiddish Theater of Warsaw, Moshe-Finkelstein, representative of the Jewish community in Vmslav, and Avraham Kwarka, deputy editor of the Yiddish weekly "Volkstimme." Finkelstein told reporters that there were still some 10,000-15,000 Jews in Poland, most of whom are over the age of 60. "There is no more anti-Semitism in Poland, because the Jews have become invisible," Finkelstein said.

Finkelstein was in Israel 15 years ago, but the other two have never been here. Scharmeï told reporters they did not face any difficulties when they asked to go to Israel. He said there were 35 actors in his group performing three times weekly.

Hundreds of delegates from 14 countries have arrived for the six-day congress. The participants are scheduled to discuss primarily the current negotiations with the Polish authorities for compensation for Jewish public property nationalized by Poland. This property is estimated at millions of dollars.

#### 10 NEW SETTLEMENTS TO BE BUILT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- Ten new settlements, four in the Negev and six in the Galilee, will be built during the New fiscal year, under the new budget of the World-Zionist Organization settlement department. The IL 1.4 billion budget was approved yesterday by the department executive.

The bulk of the budget will be divided among four main projects: stabilization of existing settlement, IL 330 million; daily care of existing settlements, IL 232 million; the establishment of 28 new outposts in the Galilee, IL 150 million; the infrastructure for the 10 new settlements, IL 108 million.

The budget for settlements across the Green

line has not yet been allocated due to differences between the Treasury and the settlement department.

#### BLUM SAYS ISRAEL'S LEGITIMACY IS BEING CHALLENGED IN THE UN

NEW YORK, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- The United Nations has been transformed into a battleground where Israel's very legitimacy is under challenge, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations was told by Israel's UN Ambassador, Yehuda Blum. In a report to the UN Task Force of the Presidents Conference, Blum said that paralleling the drive to "delegitimize Israel" was a powerful effort to grant legitimacy and respectability to the Palestine Liberation Organizations.

The PLO enjoys all the rights and privileges of UN membership except the responsibility of paying dues and the right to vote, which it does not need because it can count on some 90 to 100 automatic anti-Israel ballots in the General Assembly on any given issue, Blum said.

Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Presidents Conference, said the organization's UN Task Force would draw plans for mobilizing public support across the country to block efforts at the UN that would turn over UN Development Program funds directly to the PLO. Such a Presidents Conference effort would emphasize the principle that no UN funds should go to any organization whose purpose is to destroy a UN member state.

Blum, in his presentation, reported that the office of UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim had published a two-volume document on the "History and Origin of the Palestinian Question," which presented only the PLO position and "utterly ignored" the facts presented by Israel in rebuttal to the draft report. The report, published by the Special Unit on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, includes passages that repeat PLO propaganda word for word, Blum noted.

#### NEW TOWN PLANNED FOR GUSH ETZION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- A new urban center -- in effect a town -- is to be built at the Etzion bloc midway between Jerusalem and Hebron. A decision to this effect was taken at a ministerial consultation here today.

Israel Television reported tonight that the Defense Ministry would set about putting up the first few hundred housing units within weeks. The first group of residents intended for the new town, to be called "Efrat," will comprise immigrants from the United States, the TV said. The Peace Now movement immediately registered a sharp protest against the decision on the grounds that it would hinder the peace process.

Gush Etzion is a bloc of mainly religious settlements on the Jerusalem-Hebron road set up immediately after the Six-Day War. It is on the spot of a pre-1948 group of Jewish settlements that were overrun by the Arab Legion during the War of Independence.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Five members of the Israel Diamond Exchange are among the some 30 people being held by police in an investigation of the theft of diamonds at Ben Gurion Airport valued at about \$250 million. Most of the suspects are porters at the airport. Police believe that some diamond merchants are involved in the thefts. But Moshe Schinzer, president of the Ramat Gan-based Diamond Exchange, said he believes the charge that members of the exchange are involved "is a police fabrication."

**BEGIN GETS NEW CAMP DAVID INVITE**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis formally conveyed President Carter's invitation to Premier Menachem Begin tonight to hold ministerial-level talks at Camp David later this month. The Premier is expected to present an initial report on the renewed American initiative to the Cabinet tomorrow at a session originally called to deal with economic policy. There will be a full-scale political debate at the weekly Cabinet session Sunday.

The U.S. invitation has already triggered behind-the-scenes discord within the Cabinet regarding the ambit of authority to be given to the negotiating team under Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. Dayan indicated to Begin recently that he would demand broad powers to engage in real give-and-take negotiations.

But several ministers are expected to demand that Dayan be barred from making any concessions or operative proposals without the explicit approval of the Cabinet which would be kept apprised of the progress of the talks virtually on an hour-by-hour basis.

**ISRAEL DENIES TORTURE ALLEGATIONS**

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- The Israel Embassy categorically denied today allegations that inmates of Israeli prisons are systematically mistreated or tortured, as alleged in two cables sent by a dismissed employee of the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem. The allegations based on the cables were reported in the Washington Post today and alleged that "Israel violates the human rights of Palestinian prisoners in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank."

"The cables, the Post said, reported 'the possibility that the use of brutality in the interrogation of Arab political prisoners is a systematic practice, involving the use of trained personnel backed up by far-reaching administrative support and protected by standard methods of suppressing complaints and blocking their investigation.'"

The Israel Embassy statement countered this by declaring: "Israel respects human rights, does not engage in torture and cannot but therefore come to the conclusion that the dissemination of such allegations through the media stem from anti-Israeli political motivations."

A report on human rights prepared by the State Department in countries with which the United States has agreements on military supplies or foreign aid is to be made public, probably tomorrow, by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The department's report last year on conditions in the West Bank said that it had no evidence that Israel followed a "consistent practice or policies of using torture" against Arabs suspected of terrorism.

**Comprehensive Rebuttal By Israel**

The Israel Embassy, in its statement, declared that "these allegations, even though they have been published from time to time, are baseless and have been refuted over and over again." It pointed out that Israeli authorities accused of actual terrorist activities including murder, assault and bombings, are dealt with by due process of law and the International Red Cross is granted access to them within 14 days of their arrest.

"The president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Alexander Hay, in a statement dated Feb. 1, 1978, expressed his 'satis-

faction' that the ICRC has the right of visiting people residing in the occupied territories imprisoned for one reason or another, after 14 days of their arrest and even after a week in some cases. . . . These people are under interrogation and it is exceptional for Red Cross delegates to be granted access to detainees during this period. We have requested and received permission for these interviews to be held without witnesses."

This was a clear reference to the practice by Israeli officials to allow ICRC interviewers to talk with Arab prisoners without the presence of any Israelis.

"It should be emphasized," the Israel Embassy statement continued, "that the International Red Cross Committee has not only the right to talk to prisoners during their interrogation without witnesses but that the ICRC delegates are permitted to be accompanied by a physician member of the ICRC team, who may physically examine the prisoners."

**Basis For The Allegations**

The allegations in the Washington Post were based on two cables prepared by Alexandra U. Johnson, 32, a junior foreign service officer, who last week was dismissed from the U.S. foreign service. She had been "selected out" from the service by a special panel that reviewed her six-year career record. Previously she was passed over for promotion.

According to the Post, Miss Johnson was assigned to East Jerusalem to interview visa applicants for admission to the United States. That was her first assignment abroad. During her Arabic language training in Beirut, she lived there with her mother and grandmother in a Christian area. She was said to have refused an official order to live in a hotel near the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. While in East Jerusalem -- the U.S. maintains two consulates in Jerusalem -- she was "briefly engaged to one of the Palestinians cited in one of her cables," the Post said. This "relationship was known to some of her colleagues," the Post said.

The allegations appear to be in a pattern designed to denigrate Israel's reputation in an attempt to offset the terrorism of the Palestine Liberation Organization and besmirch Israel's credibility in public opinion, informed observers here said. Similar charges were voiced three months ago by a small group of members of the National Lawyers Guild. This group admitted their trip to Israel was financed in part by a source they refused to identify and that the PLO had invited the group to the area and was host to them in Beirut. The Guild report was subsequently repudiated by a member of the group which made the visit.

The Post story by staff writers, T.R. Reid and Edward Gady, started on page one under a four column headline: "U.S. Reports Indicate Israeli Abuse of Palestinians" and carried over with an eight-column banner headline over the remainder of the report which occupied most of an inside page. The Israel Embassy denial was carried at the bottom of the inside page.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A degree-granting program to train Sephardi rabbis for work in congregations abroad is being set up by the Bar Ilan University in cooperation with the Sephardi yeshiva and Sephardi committee in Jerusalem.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The Al Tidom Association has begun "Operation Passover," its annual program of sending packages of Pesach provisions to Jews in the Soviet Union and other East European countries.

## **GERMANY URGED TO CONTINUE PROSECUTION OF WAR CRIMINALS AS A WARNING TO ALL NEO-NAZIS**

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- A delegation of 19 American Jewish leaders and representatives of the Catholic Church, the National Council of Churches (NCC) and civil rights groups yesterday asked West German Ambassador Berndt von Staden to urge his government to continue the prosecution of Nazi war criminals as "a moral obligation and a warning to neo-Nazis all over the world."

The meeting between the delegation and von Staden was under the auspices of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. The delegation, led by Theodore Mann, chairman of NJCRAC and the Conference of Presidents, declared that "the mere passage of time is not enough to wipe the slate clean for those war criminals still not brought to justice." The meeting was in conjunction with the worldwide move asking the Bonn government not to allow the law which permits it to try war criminals to expire Dec. 31.

Following the half-hour meeting with von Staden, two members of the delegation said that the issue transcends Jews and Christians and involves all humanity. Mann told reporters that a procedural fact should not be permitted to allow a single Nazi war criminal to remain free. "This is a moral issue of the first magnitude," he said. "That is the feeling, I believe, of all America."

### **A Moral Issue For Humanity**

Dr. William Weiler, executive director of the Office of Christian-Jewish Relations of the NCC, told reporters "It is not a Jewish and not a Christian issue. It is a moral issue that confronts all people of good will." He said he hoped the time limit "will be abolished and the West German government prosecutes with all vigor all Nazis."

The delegation asked the West German government to extend the statute of limitations "in memory of the 11 million innocent people murdered including the six million Jews, but also in the name of current and future generations of Germans who will at least be able to say that their country did all it could to atone for the tragic years of the Hitler regime."

The delegation also requested that the West German Justice Ministry accelerate its efforts of investigation, apprehension and trial of war criminals. "Many of the cases," it said, "have dragged on for years. Mann told von Staden that the manifestations of neo-Nazism in West Germany and elsewhere "make it all the more imperative" to extend the time limit "lest these forces be encouraged to try again."

He noted the number of West Germans who, contrary to claims that they wish to forget the Nazi years, viewed the NBC-TV "Holocaust" series which was broadcast last month in West Germany. "Many of them," Mann said, "were young people who learned for the first time the nature and enormity of the Nazi crimes and asked why they had not been told about them in their schools."

### **Background Of Statute Of Limitations**

Von Staden pointed out to the delegation that the statute of limitations, in the West Ger-

man criminal code since 1851, has a 20-year time limit for murder and other capital crimes. This time limit was extended by 10 years in 1969 and is due to expire at the end of this year unless there is a new act by the German Parliament.

(According to a recent background paper by the American Jewish Committee, the original West German law for prosecution of Nazi war criminals envisaged a halt to such prosecution in 1965, 20 years after the end of World War II. Worldwide protests by Jews and non-Jews then resulted in a Bonn decision to start the 20-year count not from 1945 but from 1949, when the Federal Republic was established, making 1969 the new cut-off date.)

(In 1968, the background paper noted, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity. The wording, however, was unacceptable to West Germany and to most European and American countries. In 1969, further world pressure resulted in an additional 10-year extension of the statute of limitations, making the deadline Dec. 31, 1979.)

Among those in the delegation were three survivors of the Nazi death camps: Ernest Michels, executive vice president of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, who was imprisoned in Auschwitz and Buchenwald; John Fox, vice president of the Philadelphia Jewish Community Relations Council, who survived Buchenwald and Dachau; and Abraham Foxman, associate director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, who was saved from the Nazis in Poland by a Catholic nursemaid who claimed he was her baby, after his parents were taken to concentration camps.

### **EINSTEIN ANNIVERSARY TO BE MARKED**

GENEVA, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- The 100th birthday anniversary of Albert Einstein will be celebrated at a special commemorative congress in Berne next month under the auspices of the President of Switzerland with the participation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Berne municipality and university and the Swiss Committee for Albert Einstein. Some 800 persons are expected to attend, including a number of Nobel laureates. The theme will be "Peace and Liberty."

Einstein, whose special and general theories of relativity revolutionized the scientific concept of the universe and spurred modern physics, was a German Jew by birth. He became a citizen of Switzerland at the age of 22 and lived in this country for 17 years. He fled Germany for the United States in 1934 and became an American citizen but retained Swiss nationality as well until his death in 1955.

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) -- A military delegation from Iraq is negotiating in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil, the purchase of \$500 million worth of Brazilian-manufactured military equipment. Payment for the equipment, which reportedly includes armored vehicles and warplanes, would be made in the form of oil supplies. Iraq is the second major supplier of oil, after Saudi Arabia, of the 70 percent of oil Brazil has to import. Zaid Haider, Iraq's Ambassador to Brazil, told reporters last week that in 1980 Iraq is to become the main oil supplier to Brazil. He pledged that "even in the most critical situation" Iraq will continue to supply Brazil with oil.