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CRUCIAL MEETINGS BETWEEN CARTER, BEGIN UNDER SHADOW OF TENSIONS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 1 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin left for Washington today for crucial meetings with President Carter under the shadow of increasingly strained relations and mounting tensions between Israel and the U.S. and growing doubts here that his talks with the President will break the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations impasse.

In his departing statement, Begin took the occasion to differ openly with Carter's suggestion that the issues blocking a peace treaty were of a minor nature. The current crisis is not over mere "legalisms," the Premier said. The differences are between a "peace treaty and a non-peace treaty" he insisted, noting that one of the main points of contention, Article VI of the draft treaty, was "the heart of the treaty."

Begin also went to great lengths to emphasize that he was not going to Washington to succumb to "pressures." "If there are 'pressures,' he said, "I hope all Israeli citizens share with me the hope that I can stand up to those pressures." At another point he said, "I am leaving without an umbrella and I will return without an umbrella," a reference to charges by Likud hard-liners likening his trip to Washington to Neville Chamberlain's Munich excursion in 1938.

Mood Is Embittered

The mood was embittered before Begin left by reports that President Carter had warned Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan last week in Washington that unless the treaty deadlock is broken within 10 days the U.S. would "reassess" its Mideast policy. Dayan, who saw Begin off at the airport, denied that any such "ultimatum" had been voiced to him by Carter. (The report was also denied by the White House in Washington.) But Dayan did not say that similar "warnings" were not expressed during his five-day ministerial level talks at Camp David last week.

Dayan told reporters that he shared the feeling of "urgency" in concluding negotiations with Egypt, especially in light of the worsening situation in the Middle East, notably in Iran. He expressed hope that Begin's meeting with Carter would lead to a "clarification" of relations between Israel and the U.S. and subsequently to a successful conclusion of the peace negotiations.

Begin stressed before he left that he was going to meet Carter and "no other party." He rejected any suggestion that the talks should be conducted under the pressure of a deadline. "Peace is not signed within a matter of days. If need be it will take more time," he said.

Underlying the rancor that has developed between Jerusalem and Washington is the pervasive belief here that the U.S. has consistently supported the Egyptian position and new Egyptian demands. The resentment toward this perceived "tilt" by the U.S. is such that President Yitzhak Navon abandoned the neutral stance adopted by all past Presidents of Israel in political matters.

After a one-hour briefing from Begin, Navon

told reporters, "I hope the Premier will succeed in Washington in understanding the incomprehensible American position and find out just why the U.S. decided to endorse the new Egyptian hard-line in the negotiations." He said Carter should summon Sadat to Washington "to explain the implications of his new hard line."

Political analysts here believe Begin will adopt the same tone toward Carter. Some suggested that relations with the U.S. and personal relations between Begin and Carter are "on the verge of crisis." Most reported that Begin had asked Carter to postpone their meeting for one week but the President refused. They are due to have their first meeting tonight at the White House.

Begin Empowered To Make Spot Decisions

There were no indications that Begin was bringing any new proposals to Washington. It is understood, however, that he was empowered by the Cabinet to make his own decisions on the spot and, in fact, was given far greater room for maneuver than Dayan. If, contrary to expectations here, the Begin-Carter talks are successful, it is expected that Sadat would join them in Washington. Observers said this should be determined by Saturday night or Sunday morning. If the talks fail, it is understood here that Begin will remain in the U.S. to try to rally American Jews and others behind Israel and by implication, against the Carter Administration.

The Premier is accompanied on his trip by his personal aide, Yehiel Kadishai, Gen. Ephraim Poran, his military adjutant, Dan Pottir, communications advisor and Dr. Meir Revenson, legal advisor to the Foreign Ministry. They will be joined by Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Ephraim Evron, and the Ambassador to the United Nations, Yehuda Blum.

U.S. PRO-EGYPTIAN POSITION CLEARLY VISIBLE AS CARTER-BEGIN TALKS BEGIN

By Joseph Polakoff

• WASHINGTON, March 1 (JTA) -- Obvious tension between the Carter Administration and the Israeli government appeared unabated today as Premier Menachem Begin flew to Washington to meet with President Carter at the White House in a session hurriedly arranged by the President Tuesday after the failing Camp David accords.

Only a few hours before the first Carter-Begin meeting since the Camp David agreements were signed last September, the White House sought to portray the Carter Administration as an honest intermediary between Israel and Egypt with peace between them as its goal. But reports persisted that the U.S. had warned Israel last week to agree to a pact with Egypt within 10 days or face serious reprisals.

Meanwhile, the Administration's pro-Egyptian position continued to be clearly visible. For the first time, too, the Administration pointed out that Egypt's "security" was involved along with Israel's and the national interests of the U.S. in the attainment of an Israeli-Egyptian agreement as part of a "comprehensive peace."

This was stated twice by Presidential Press Secretary Jody Powell at noon today in briefing reporters on the Begin-Carter meeting. Earlier today, National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, in a television interview, said the Administration's goal is a treaty between Egypt and Israel that will

include means for a wider agreement in the Middle East.

No time will be lost in opening the meeting between the two leaders tonight, some two hours after Begin arrives at Andrews Air Force Base at about 4:20 p.m. on his "official visit." Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will welcome him and escort him to Blair House from where Begin will go to the White House to meet with the President shortly afterwards.

No dinner is planned at this meeting, Powell said. He could not say how long the meeting would last or who would attend besides the principals. Begin and Carter will first meet without their aides. Powell said it was "premature" to say whether President Anwar Sadat of Egypt would come here next week to join Carter and Begin. Further Carter-Begin meetings will be held Friday. Powell had no information on their schedule beyond that.

Regional and bilateral matters and Israeli-Egyptian peace negotiations will be on the agenda. "Obviously," Powell said, "the security of Israel and the security of the national interests of the United States and, for the record, also of Egypt, do have a relationship for the security of the region." He repeated virtually the same sentence shortly afterwards when asked if Begin's criticism of Egypt's new terms for a treaty "go too far in jeopardizing regional security."

Will Seek Early Conclusion To Accord

Although the President commented three times on Tuesday on the Egyptian-Israeli situation and officials at the White House and State Department leaked information to selected reporters, Powell insisted today, "We're going to do our best to avoid any public statements or actions that would tend to make this process -- which everybody recognizes as difficult -- more difficult."

He emphasized "our concern" is for the "consequences" should the Camp David framework fail. He said the U.S. would "explore every opportunity" in the Begin-Carter meetings and "the subsequent discussions" to reach "an early conclusion" between Egypt and Israel "as a first step toward a comprehensive settlement."

Representatives of Washington's Jewish community prepared to welcome Begin at Andrews Air Force Base this afternoon and outside Blair House on Sunday in a demonstration of support. The Menorah group, mainly students, is planning to demonstrate against Carter's Middle East policy outside the White House. Begin, who intends to remain in the United States for a week after concluding his talks with Carter, will meet with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York next week, it was announced by Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Conference.

PERES SUPPORTS BEGIN'S DECISION NOT TO GIVE IN TO U.S. PRESSURE

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 1 (JTA) -- Israeli Labor Party leader Shimon Peres supported Premier Menachem Begin's decision "not to give in" to American pressures. He told a press conference today that "such pressures can only harm the negotiations" between Israel and Egypt. Peres said that he remains convinced that Israel and Egypt "continue to share the same deep desire for peace." He added "what needs clarification now is the relationship between Israel and the United States."

Peres, in Paris for a two-day stay on behalf of the French United Jewish Appeal, left today for Lisbon where he will attend a conference of Socialist Party leaders. He said: "I remain optimistic and believe that the chances for peace between Israel and Egypt are not bad. I also believe that the countries should sign a peace agreement as rapidly as possible and the current difficulties are not the first which have to be overcome. We must keep on trying."

Peres underlined the deep differences that continue to separate Labor and the current Likud government. He said: "We are not in favor of Begin's autonomy plan (for the West Bank and Gaza Strip) and continue to advocate our own plan for a territorial compromise solution which should, however, be negotiated with the Jordanians and not with Egypt. We continue to believe that in spite of his current refusal, King Hussein (of Jordan) might reconsider his decision and eventually join in the negotiations" (for a peace agreement).

During his brief stay in Paris, the Labor leader met with members of the French Jewish community and representatives of the French Socialist Party.

CANADA TO PROTECT ISRAEL'S INTERESTS IN IRAN WITH IRAN'S CONCURRENCE

By Michael Solomon

OTTAWA, March 1 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Don Jamieson announced today that the Canadian government has accepted Israel's request to protect its interests in Iran following the severance of diplomatic relations between those countries on Feb. 16. He said Canada has obtained Iran's concurrence in accordance with international practice. A communique released by the Department of External Affairs here stated:

"When one country believes that, for its own reasons, it can no longer continue in diplomatic relations with another state, accepted international procedure is for the country affected to seek an impartial third party to protect its interests. As a matter of good policy, the government of Canada might be helpful to countries involved in situations of this sort. Canada protects Israel's interests in Cuba since the breaking of diplomatic relations in 1973."

The Department of External Affairs will receive from the Israeli government a list of specific items of interest which will be transmitted to the Canadian Embassy in Teheran for future dealings between the Embassy and the new Iranian government concerning the protection of Israel's nationals, its property and financial interests in Iran.

WEEK'S PROGRAM AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

PARIS, March 1 (JTA) -- The city of Vincennes, some 10 miles from Paris, is about to live through one solid week devoted to the fight against racism and anti-Semitism. The city's 40,000 inhabitants led by Mayor Jean Clouet will be able to watch special film showings on the subject, visit an exhibition organized by the League Against Anti-Semitism (LICA) and attend a panel discussion with the participation of Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld.

This special week will end March 9 and is being tried out as a sort of test experiment to be repeated elsewhere should it turn out to be a success. It is organized with the active help of the B'nai B'rith and LICA.

ARENS TO CONSIDER USE OF SHIN BET TO PREVENT LEAKS

By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, March 1 (JTA) -- The head of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Moshe Arens, intends to consider using the Israeli

intelligence agency, the Shin Bet, as a means of circumventing potential leaks to the media on top secret issues pertaining to the committee.

Calling the leaks "a disease which taints the entire Israeli political system," Arens told the Knesset plenum yesterday that it must be halted immediately. Arens was replying to a motion for the agenda by MK Amos Hadari, who urged the utilization of the security services in order to discover the identity of those responsible for the leaks.

Arens pointed to the recent refusal by the Army Chief of Staff and certain Cabinet members to reveal information to the committee, adding that this in turn prevented optimum decision-making on issues of security and defense.

As a result, four subcommittees have been established in order to conduct free discussion in the smallest forum possible. Noting that only four or five committee members were responsible for the leaks, he said that all appeals to them by him, the Premier, the Defense Minister and Foreign Minister had been in vain.

NEW \$7 MILLION RAMAZ UPPER SCHOOL

NEW YORK, March 1 (JTA) -- An 11-foot shofar was trumpeted at outdoor ceremonies today to herald the start of construction by the Ramaz School of a new \$7 million Upper School that will provide comprehensive facilities for 460 students in grades 7-12. The co-educational Ramaz School, which opened its doors in 1936 with five children, and whose enrollment this year is 801, is affiliated with Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun.

Nearly 1000 persons -- including students, parents, faculty and state, local and community officials -- attended the ceremonies, held at the site of the new building, to rise on the south side of East 78th Street between Park and Madison Avenues in Manhattan. The shofar traditionally is used to usher in the Jewish New Year. Today, it served to herald a "new era" for the Ramaz School.

The new seven-story building with two additional levels below ground, will be known as the Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein Upper School of Ramaz in the Morris and Ida Newman Education Center. Lookstein was the founder of Ramaz. Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, Ramaz principal, said that construction of the Upper School, part of a major development program, represents a "demonstration of our faith in the strength and the vitality of New York City, and a further reflection of its leadership as an educational and cultural center."

It was announced that the New York State Assembly had passed a resolution, sponsored by Assemblyman Mark Alan Siegel of Manhattan, that hailed the development of the new facility:

Facilities Of New School

The building will contain a regulation high school gymnasium, with complete exercise facilities; laboratories for the physical and biological sciences; a computer-science laboratory, language, media and music classrooms; a spacious library with provision for 30,000 volumes; art studios, student lounges, a Chapel -- Study Hall seating 120 persons; a modern meat and dairy kitchen, and lunchroom facilities. The building also will house a full-scale 550-seat convertible auditorium and stage, religious study facilities, and 18 classrooms. Completion is expected by September, 1980.

The school's primary school building at 22 East 82nd Street, which presently accommodates 218 children from nursery through the third grade,

is no longer adequate to meet the students' educational needs, school officials said.

Consequently, the nursery through third grade students will be moved into the Middle School at 125 East 85th Street, which presently has 150 students in grades 4-6. The Lower School at that location will represent the merger of the primary and middle schools. The 85th Street building will undergo an extensive renovation, so as to provide the educational and recreational facilities that are essential to serve the expanded school population.

Ramaz offers its students a dual education. Judaic studies are taught in Hebrew, with emphasis on the classical texts of Judaism -- the Bible, the Talmud and their Commentaries. At the same time, the school offers a program of general studies, embracing all the basic disciplines of Western civilization in preparation for further study at leading universities in the U.S. and in Israel.

LEVICH EXPECTED TO BE OFFERED EINSTEIN CHAIR AT CITY COLLEGE

NEW YORK, March 1 (JTA) -- Benjamin Levich, the world-renowned Soviet Jewish scientist and activist leader who emigrated to Israel late last year, will continue to make his home in Israel and his main academic base at Tel Aviv University. It was disclosed today, Levich, who arrived here on a visit earlier this week, is expected to be offered the Einstein Chair, a distinguished professorship at City College by the New York State Board of Regents. But he has imposed two conditions which the Board is expected to accept:

He will teach at City College only during the spring semester, spending the rest of the academic year at Tel Aviv University, where he has been named to a chair in physicochemical mechanics and where a research team is being established for him and members of his Tel Aviv University research team will be permitted to help him teach his classes at City College.

Levich is regarded as a prize catch in the competitive world of American academia. He is being courted actively by Columbia University here and other institutions. But Levich told friends he will remain in Israel except for relatively brief and short-term periods when at City College or another American college or university.

SIX AUTHORS TO RECEIVE PRIZE

MEXICO CITY, March 1 (JTA) -- Six authors residing in Israel, the U.S., France and Argentina have been named recipients of the 1978 Fernando Jeno Literary Prize by the cultural commission of the Central Jewish Committee of Mexico. The annual award was established in 1976 by the family of the late Fernando Jeno who was president of the Committee.

The prizes of \$500 each will be presented to LHM Berger of France; Dr. Berl Primer of New York; Simcha Sneh, of Buenos Aires; and Mordechai Shinar, Dr. Nathan Lerner and Binyamin Tamuz, all of Tel Aviv. They were selected by a panel headed by Sergio Nudelstejer, secretary general of the Central Committee, and Chaim Latzelski, secretary. The six prize winners will be honored at a literary reception here on March 13.

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- Former Sen. James Abourezk (D-SD), the chief apologist for the Palestine Liberation Organization in his single term in the Senate which ended in January, is now the legal representative here of the emissary of the Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Shariat Rouhani, who is spokesman for Khomeini's interim committee to oversee the activities of the Iranian diplomatic corps in the U.S.

ISSUES IN FOCUS

CHRISTIANS SHARING IN ISRAEL'S LIFE

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, March 1 (JTA) -- "A unique view of a segment of Israeli life will be shown on 'Bill Moyers' Journal,' on Public Broadcasting Service television stations across the country Monday night. It is 'The People of Nes Ammim,' about a kibbutz comprising some 120 Christians in the Galilee near Nahariya.

In an absorbing and sometimes moving hour, the documentary, produced by Mark and Elizabeth Fink Benjamin, demonstrates that the Christian kibbutzniks came to Israel for the same reasons many Jews did -- the Holocaust. They were not survivors, of course, and most were small children or not even born during World War II. Yet, as committed Christians, they feel deeply that they must do something since the crimes against Jews were committed by people who called themselves Christians.

A desire to demonstrate solidarity with the Jewish people was the reason given in the documentary by Rev. Simon Schoon, a Dutch minister who now heads Nes Ammim (Message to the Nations), why he and other Christians have been coming to the kibbutz since it was founded in 1961. Schoon said he and fellow Christians, mostly West Europeans but some Americans, were "sharing" in the life of Israel including its "difficulties," since the area in which the kibbutz is located is subject to Palestinian terrorist attacks.

A Sign Of Friendship

"We are not becoming Israelis since we are not Jews nor Arabs," he said. "We live here as a sign of friendship." The kibbutz, which grows roses and avocados for the European market, operates on the Israeli six-day work week. The Nes Ammim members, all apparently deeply religious, observe Saturday as their Sabbath. The kibbutz members were shown singing hymns in English but Schoon also recites some prayers in Hebrew, such as the Jewish blessing for wine.

The affect of the Holocaust permeates this documentary. Nes Ammim, either by accident or design, is located only two kilometers from Lohame Hageta, a kibbutz founded by Holocaust survivors. The kibbutz members, many of whom come only for a year or so, are taken to the Holocaust museum at the Lohame Hageta kibbutz where the events of the Nazi horrors are depicted. Both the Jews and Christians interviewed in this documentary agonize over how the Holocaust could have occurred but none have any answers.

But it was not only the Holocaust which brought Christians to Nes Ammim, according to Schoon and Christine Pilon, widow of Nes Ammim's founder Johan Pilon. It was the centuries of Christian persecution of Jews that included the Crusades, the Inquisition and the everyday anti-Semitism which culminated in the Holocaust. "I think all of us are affected by our teaching," Mrs. Pilon notes. "Saying the Jews are Christ killers makes a terrific impact on a child. And I think maybe certain ideas are formed as a consequence."

Hostility From Jews And Christians

The documentary points out that Nes Ammim faced hostility from both Jews and Christians at the beginning. Schoon said Jews suspected them of being missionaries and some Christians attacked them because they were not. They are missionar-

ies, Schoon said, but to Christians not Jews. He said through the visitors who come to see the kibbutz and the pamphlets issued by it, Nes Ammim tries to be an "influence on Christians."

Schoon described how the Orthodox rabbi in Nahariya wrote against the kibbutz during its first six years but then visited it and became a friend when he was convinced it was not seeking to convert Jews. The rabbi is shown on a visit to the kibbutz and he tells Moyers that Jews cannot forget or forgive those who caused the Holocaust. But he said he can live with the people of Nes Ammim in mutual respect because neither seeks to convert the other.

In an interesting aside, the rabbi is seen showing surprise when Schoon tells him his grandfather died in a concentration camp. He wasn't Jewish? The rabbi asks. He was a member of the Dutch resistance, Schoon explains.

At a preview screening for Christian and Jewish leaders yesterday, Moyers said he had not done a story on Nes Ammim with the idea of presenting a message; the message came as a result of what was found at Nes Ammim. He revealed he decided to film Nes Ammim after his wife returned from Israel where she had visited the kibbutz and said that was a story he must do.

'Harbors A Very Large Idea'

Moyers concluded the documentary by noting that the people at Nes Ammim have little influence and "no constituency except their conscience. Nes Ammim is a very small place, but it harbors a very large idea. The people here have seen a great evil done in the name of their God, the evil of anti-Semitism. The world isn't free of it yet."

"Jews know their best defense is in strong arms and shrewd politics, not in sentiments of good will," but Nes Ammim hopes... because it speaks the truth -- it isn't so much guilt that has brought these people here, as resolve that it must not happen again.

It is fitting that this program is being shown during Lent. Schoon is shown at one point telling his fellow kibbutzniks that Golda Meir spoke of her first memories as being that of the Christians in East Europe coming on Easter to attack Jews. He said he wants Jews to see the arrival of Christians as one of friends.

The story of Nes Ammim is one that it is hoped will be seen by churches and synagogues across the country, according to Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of the interreligious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee. He said the program will be available for churches and synagogues and Jewish and Christian educational institutions. It will be accompanied by a study kit prepared under the auspices of Tanenbaum, Dr. Eugene Fisher of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Rev. William Weiler, of the National Council of Churches.

NAVON WELCOMES MACCABIAH GAMES

TEL AVIV, March 1 (JTA) -- President Yitzhak Navon, following the tradition of all his predecessors, has accepted the invitation to be the sponsor of the Eleventh Maccabiah, the all-Jewish world sports event, to take place July, 1978. A delegation of the Maccabi World Movement and the International Maccabiah Games Committee representatives met with Navon and informed him of the preparations throughout the world of youngsters and adults for their participation in the Games. Navon stressed the importance of this national sports event.