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BEGIN DENIES SEEKING SEPARATE PEACE WITH EGYPT, SAYS ISRAEL WANTS COMPREHENSIVE PEACE WITH NEIGHBORS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 4. (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin denied today that Israel is seeking a separate peace with Egypt and declared that, on the contrary, it wants a comprehensive settlement with all of its neighbors. But he opposes an agreement with Egypt that depends on the "whim" of Israel's opponents like President Hafez Assad of Syria, Begin said in reply to questions on the ABC-TV "Issues and Answers" program.

He pointed out in that connection that the U.S. has not been able to persuade Syria or Jordan to join the peace process even though America provides Jordan with weapons. Because of this, factor "we must be very careful" about a treaty with Egypt, he said.

Begin was interviewed less than two hours before going to the White House to continue his discussions with President Carter which began shortly after his arrival in Washington Thursday. He said that "some progress" has been made in the current round of Israeli-American negotiations on the issues blocking a peace treaty.

At the same time, Carter told reporters after attending church that he and Begin failed to make progress last night, when they conferred formally for the third time since Begin arrived here last Thursday, on the impasse of the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations.

Begin Reports Some Progress

Begin, in his television interview, specified that the progress was on one of the articles in the American draft treaty that Israel approved last November but was not accepted by Egypt. This is Article IV which provides for a review of the treaty by both countries five years after it is signed. Begin made it clear, however, that he was adamantly opposed to Egypt's position on Article VI which would give the treaty with Israel priority over previous treaties Egypt has concluded with other Arab states affecting Israel.

No specific mention was made during the interview of the "linkage" issue tying an Israeli-Egyptian treaty to implementation of autonomy for the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But Begin indicated that Israel would keep Jewish settlements in those territories and that autonomy for the Palestinians would be such that a "so-called Palestinian state" would "never" arise. According to Begin, such a state would be a "mortal danger to us" and "also would be a Soviet base in the center of the Middle East and a danger to the whole free world."

Begin said, "We have already proved we are sincere in our wish for peace, a comprehensive treaty. Why do we have to prove love for peace? Let them get rid of their suspicions. This was apparently a reference to those who say Israel menaces its Arab neighbors.

Disagrees That It Is Now Or Never

Reminded that he said after the Camp David summit conference last September that a peace treaty could be signed in less than three months, Begin said he was a "born optimist" and that his

view now is that "we only have to continue our talks." He said "nations should not get nervous when negotiations reach a crisis. I believe we should overcome our difficulties." He said he did not agree that it is "now or never" for a peace agreement.

Begin also noted that President Anwar Sadat of Egypt will be coming to the U.S. next month to receive an honorary doctorate, suggesting possibly that it might be an opportunity for talks between him and President Carter on treaty matters.

At one point Begin was asked if he was "not haunted that one day there will be Arab unity" and a "well organized effort against Israel." He replied, "I've heard that for 30 years. I am not frightened. We shall not ask for a single American soldier. We shall sustain our independence. We have a wonderful young generation. We hate war, we want peace. We hate bloodshed. Ultimately we should find understanding."

Asked if he considered Carter to be an "honest broker," Begin said the President is "an honest man. He is my friend." Asked if he thought the President is "objective," Begin said: "There was a time when the American delegation took Egypt's side" but he did not elaborate.

When he was asked if his friendship with Carter continues in this "crisis," he replied, "We'll have another meeting today." He said that in their talks so far the President "listened attentively. I hope he understood" Israel's position, Begin said, adding, "We had very friendly talks in Washington."

White House officials sought to persuade the Israeli Premier not to appear on the ABC interview program because of the Carter Administration's view that the issues involving the Camp David accords should not be discussed publicly by the leaders lest they affect negotiations.

Hectic Round of Meetings

Begin and Carter met for two hours Thursday night and again Friday morning in a session that ran for 2 1/2 hours, an hour longer than scheduled. Apparently for that reason, a further meeting scheduled for Friday afternoon was cancelled. The White House issued a statement Friday saying that "the talks were conducted in an atmosphere of friendship and candor" and that they "included a detailed and comprehensive discussion of the unresolved issues in the implementation of the Camp David accords."

Begin is scheduled to appear before the House Foreign Affairs Committee at noon tomorrow and before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee at 4 p.m. The Israeli Embassy here could not say whether any further meetings between Begin and Carter were scheduled after their talks this afternoon. Begin is to go to New York tomorrow evening and will remain there until he leaves for Israel on Thursday.

Reactions In Jerusalem, Cairo

(In Jerusalem today, Acting Premier Yigael Yadin said on an Army Radio interview that Begin has finished clarifying Israel's position to Carter and is now awaiting American proposals for continuation of the peace talks. He said the next stage in the process would be determined by what the U.S. proposes. He described the atmosphere of the White House talks as "good" and said there was "understanding in the analysis of the situation." He

declined to elaborate, but his remarks seemed to confirm the feeling in Israel that no breakthrough was achieved in Begin's talks in Washington.)

(Dan Pattir, Begin's press officer who is with the Premier, insisted in an Israel Radio interview from Washington last night that the talks were by no means a failure and were not deadlocked. He also rejected the description of the present talks as "the last chance for the peace negotiations." He said the round of conversations was being used to the best advantage by the Israeli delegation and that there was no crisis in U.S.-Israeli relations. "This is quite a solid impression," Pattir said.)

(Reports from Cairo today said Sadat met with U.S. Ambassador Hermann Eilts to receive a message from Carter and was quoted as telling reporters, "We shall be making our decision tomorrow. I shall be in a position to tell you lots." Sadat said he would discuss Carter's message with Vice President Hosni Mubarak and Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil before seeing Eilts again tomorrow. The Egyptian newspaper Al-Gomhouriya said that according to informed sources in Washington, Carter's message to Sadat was that his talks with Begin had failed.)

'SHABAT SHALOM' FROM CARTER

WASHINGTON, March 4 (JTA) -- President Carter, who decided to walk back to the White House last Friday night after dining with Premier Menachem Begin of Israel at the Blair House across the street, declined to talk to reporters who were waiting outside. All he would say was, "Shabat Shalom." Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, joined Begin and his wife, Aliza, in an erev Shabat meal which included gefilte fish, chicken soup and roast beef, followed with the singing of Hebrew songs.

CARTER REAFFIRMS U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL

LOS ANGELES, March 4 (JTA) -- President Carter said in a videotaped message Friday night to a Democratic Party fund-raising dinner here that "We have now come within inches of reaching a final agreement between Egypt and Israel" and that "I am determined to carry on this effort." The remarks by the President, who could not attend the \$1000-a-plate dinner here because he was meeting in Washington with Premier Menachem Begin, were videotaped in Washington last Wednesday, the day before Begin arrived for talks with Carter.

The President said, in the speech, that he and Begin "are meeting now to discuss our goal of a lasting peace agreement. I need your prayers and support throughout the peace process. One constant remains -- America's unshakable commitment to the security of Israel will always be assured."

Vice-President Walter Mondale, who substituted for the President, defended the Carter domestic and foreign policy but Mondale's optimism failed to impress reporters who questioned him intensively about disgruntled California Democrats who staged a \$25-a-plate counter-dinner Thursday night and took out newspaper ads suggesting that Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.) replace Carter on the Democratic ticket in 1980.

Among the 500 leading Democrats at the counter-dinner were a number of Jewish community leaders. The Vice President also met privately with the United Teachers of Los Angeles and Jewish community leaders, continuing his efforts for the beleaguered President.

Mondale, in addressing the dinner Friday night, strongly denied that Carter was pressuring Israel to accept a Middle East peace on terms unfavorable to Israel. He said "I think it is fair to say that the President of the United States has tried harder and exercised more leadership to bring peace in the Middle East than any President since the creation of Israel."

The principal speaker at the counter-protest dinner was retired Maj. Gen. George F. Keegan, former Air Force intelligence chief and a frequent critic of the Administration's Middle East programs. Often interrupted by applause, Keegan said Carter's policy in the Middle East "is almost uniformly wrong, ill-considered and misinformed."

At one of the private meetings Mondale attended, some 25 Jewish leaders expressed strong concern to Mondale over what they called Administration pressure on Israel to reach a peace pact with Egypt. The counter-protest was organized by the same Los Angeles Jewish leaders who staged a similar event when Carter was here in October, 1977, to express their fears of what they considered insufficient U.S. support of Israel.

CHURCH: NO BIG ARMS DEAL FOR EGYPT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 4 (JTA) -- The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee warned the Carter Administration last Friday that Congress will not approve any plan it might submit for supplying Egypt with major armaments to establish it as the military power of the Middle East as President Anwar Sadat would like it to be.

The warning by Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) to Administration officials was the second blow Friday at Sadat's hopes to dominate the Middle East. Premier Menachem Begin was understood to have been unyielding and firm on all points against Sadat's conditions for a treaty despite President Carter's endorsement of Sadat's terms.

"I think you should be forewarned that Congress, in my opinion, would never approve that kind of program," Church told Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Morris Draper, in a hearing on arms support for Middle Eastern countries. Church was referring to reports that Egypt wants the United States to replace much of its aging Soviet-supplied equipment.

Egypt, Secretary of Defense Harold Brown was reportedly informed by Sadat on Brown's recent visit to Cairo, wants 300 advanced F-16 warplanes, 500 tanks, 2000 armored personnel carriers, helicopters, howitzers and C-130 military transport planes. This equipment, Sadat reportedly informed Brown, would enable Egypt to replace Iran as a stabilizing force in the Middle East.

But Church described Egypt's request as "bizarre" and said "creating a military colossus in Egypt just won't pass muster here on the hill," meaning Congress. He also opposed aid programs proposed by the Administration for Jordan and Syria. He observed both countries were opposing the Camp David peace accords that set the current Israeli-Egyptian treaty negotiations.

Church said he was not convinced that the \$62 million allocated for Syria is in the U.S. national interest. The more than \$200 million proposed for Jordan, he said, was "rewarding (King) Hussein for recalcitrance."

Draper said no substantial arms sale to Egypt was being considered until an Egyptian-Israeli treaty was concluded. In defense of the Carter Administration's programs, Draper said Syria backed United Nations resolutions acknowledging Israel's right to exist while Hussein had encouraged West Bank Palestinians to join in the peace negotiations.

APPEAL REJECTED FOR RELEASE OF REMAINING EX-NAZIS IN DUTCH JAIL

AMSTERDAM, March 4 (JTA) -- Dutch Justice Minister Jacob de Ruiter has rejected an appeal for the release of the last three German war criminals still in prison in Holland. The appeal, which came in the form of an open letter several weeks ago from Isaac A. Diepenhorst, a Calvinist Senator and law professor who is chairman of the Interchurch Commission for Prisons. Diepenhorst argued that the continued imprisonment of the three men serves no useful purpose after 30 years.

While agreeing with this, de Ruiter said that the psychological factor of the feelings of Nazi victims in Holland must also be taken into account. The three are Franz Fischer, who was in charge of deportations from The Hague; Ferdinand van der Fuenten, who had the same post in Amsterdam; and Joseph Kobaella.

Meanwhile, de Ruiter told Parliament last week that the government has rejected a request from Israel that millionaire art collector Pieter Menten be extradited to face war crimes charges there. He said that under the 1957 European Treaty on Extradition, The Netherlands could not extradite Dutch citizens.

Isidore wants to try the 79-year-old Menten for alleged murders of Jews and others in the former Polish village of Podgoradze and Urycz in 1941. The Dutch Supreme Court is scheduled to hear an appeal by the public prosecutor of a ruling by a Hague court which said that Menten could not be tried on war crimes because he had been promised immunity in 1957 by the then Justice Minister.

FILM ABOUT JEWISH FAMILY IN NAZI GERMANY WINS AWARD IN BERLIN FESTIVAL

BONN, March 4 (JTA) -- David, a film about a rabbi's son in Nazi Germany, an adaptation from an autobiographical novel by Joel Koenig, yesterday won the "Golden Bear" Award for the best full-length film at the Berlin Film Festival. The second prize went to "Alexandria ... Why?" coproduced by Egypt and Algeria.

Joel Koenig is the pseudonym of a Jewish biochemist who had been on the staff of the Children's Hospital in Rotterdam, Holland, for the past 20 years. His novel, titled "David Escaped from the Net," was first published in 1960 and was recently rediscovered by Peter Lilienthal, a German-Jewish television executive who made contact with the author and produced the film version.

The story covers the years 1932-43 in the life of the family of a fictional Rabbi Singe in Berlin. It focuses on one of the sons, David, who, with one sister, is hidden from the Nazis by compassionate Germans after the rest of the family is deported. In 1943 David and his sister manage to escape from Germany and survive.

PLIGHT OF JEWS IN ARAB COUNTRIES

WASHINGTON, March 4 (JTA) -- The Jews in Arab countries, whose situation has grown steadily worse with the continuing Middle East conflict and the political turmoil in a number of Mideast countries, was the focus of a discussion here several days ago at a special meeting between Charles Salmon, director of the State Department's Office of Human Rights, and representatives of several Jewish organizations.

Spokesmen for the World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries (WOJAC) the Jewish

Identity Center, and the Washington office of B'nai B'rith reportedly pointed out that the basic human rights of Jews in Arab countries have been largely overlooked, despite the fact that they are being subjected to terror because they are considered enemies by the revolutionary regimes. In addition, the Jewish spokesmen pointed out that the Carter Administration has tended not to include the problem of these Jews in its general concern for human rights. The continuing safety of these Jews is in danger because of the Administration's apathy or indifference to their plight, they noted.

According to one of the Jewish representatives present at the meeting, Salmon acknowledged that perhaps there has been too little focus on this issue and evidenced genuine concern. He indicated that he would bring this urgent matter to the attention of President Carter and top Administration officials and that his office would keep open a line of communication with the American Jewish community and its leadership on this issue.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN CARTER AND BEGIN CONCLUDE TALKS

WASHINGTON, March 4 (JTA) -- President Carter and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin concluded their four days of discussions this afternoon and parted apparently in good spirits. Both officials were smiling amicably as Begin left the White House. The two leaders and their aides met for one hour this afternoon after which Begin and Carter met privately for another 25 minutes. Altogether, the two men held 8 1/2 hours of official talks since Begin's arrival in Washington last Thursday afternoon. More than half that time they spoke privately with no aides present.

Later this afternoon, Carter called the leadership of the House and Senate to the White House for what was described by officials as an emergency meeting to inform them of the Administration's position in Carter's talks with Begin. The Israeli leader is due to appear before the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee tomorrow.

HATZOFEH TO CEASE PUBLICATION

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA) -- The official publication of the National Religious Party, Hatzofeh, will cease publication at the end of March. A decision to close the 40-year-old newspaper was taken by a special committee of the NRP which examined the financial problems of the daily. The paper has accumulated large deficits and the NRP has had to provide funds to pay the wages of the journalists and printers. From time to time Hatzofeh's employees would place front page advertisements telling its readers that they had not been paid for two months.

When the intention to shut down the newspaper became known, efforts were made to avoid this move, but the situation failed to improve and the staff was given official notification that the paper would cease to publish. The Tel Aviv Journalists Association met last Friday in an emergency session to discuss the situation of the 15 Hatzofeh journalists. The demise of the paper will leave the NRP without an official organ. The only two remaining newspapers reflecting the religious point of view are Shearim and Hamodia, the official organs of the two Agudah parties.

GENEVA (JTA) -- A heated debate is expected in Parliament over the government's approval of an invitation by Swiss Foreign Minister Pierre Auber to Farouk Kaddoumi, the "foreign minister" of the Palestine Liberation Organization, to make an official visit to Switzerland.

URGE DISTRIBUTION OF ASSISTANCE GRANTS TO POOR NEW YORKERS, INCLUDING NEW YORK JEWISH POOR

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, March 4 (JTA) -- The Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty urged the New York City Community Development Agency (CDA) to start immediate distribution of individual emergency energy assistance grants to poor New Yorkers, including New York Jews, against a March 15 deadline.

Menachem Shayovich, Coordinating Council president, and Jerome Becker, chairman of its board, said that a bureaucratic mixup had led to a failure by the CDA to distribute \$1 million in such federal funds to the city's poor for the 1977-78 winter. City officials said they were not given sufficient time to do so.

The Coordinating Council officials noted, however, that all but \$1 million of the \$10 million allocated to New York State by the federal Community Service Agency (CSA) had been distributed. The \$1 million had been slated for New York City. The CSA is a federal anti-poverty agency which replaced the old Office of Economic Opportunity.

The officials of the Coordinating Council, which represents 46 Jewish agencies for the Jewish poor, said that about \$2.5 million of CSA funds not spent in New York State, was returned to the CSA, which decided to re-distribute those unspent funds in a manner in which the New York City CDA would get about \$250,000 of its original \$1 million grant for the 1977-78 winter. However, they added, the CDA has still not figured out even how to distribute the \$250,000 and that if even that "meager sum" is not distributed to New York City poor by March 15, it will automatically revert to the U.S. Treasury.

Burden On Low-Income Residents

Shayovich and Becker said that the emergency energy assistance grant program was authorized as a project for the CSA, to be distributed to poor residents for use in meeting higher fuel costs and for purchase of such items as blankets, warm clothing, electric heaters and to repair broken window panes. The Coordinating Council officials said that an elderly couple whose annual income is \$6240 or less, is eligible for a maximum grant of \$250 under the new program.

Noting that "the rising cost of fuel and harsh temperatures have placed a great burden on many low-income citizens in New York City," the officials said it was "incomprehensible" that the CDA had not spent "one cent of its federal emergency energy allocation" for 1978 and still has not developed "a system to deliver this year's allocation" to the poor and elderly affected by this severe winter. This was a reference to the \$250,000 apparently retrievable from the original \$1 million allocation to the CDA for 1978.

Becker said that the Coordinating Council had instructed the Council's affiliated 14 local Community Councils in New York City to be ready to distribute the \$250,000 -- which they said might total \$350,000 with other funds -- if the funds are made available by the March 15 deadline.

Speedy Action Urged

Rabbi David Cohen, Coordinating Council executive director, and Joseph Langer, Council director of operations, met in Washington Wednesday with Graciella Olivarez, CSA director,

to speed action on the distribution and related problems. Ms. Olivarez pledged to take appropriate action, they reported.

Cohen said he and Langer asked at the meeting why so small a sum as \$1 million had been reserved for New York City of the nationwide \$200 million grant, with \$10 million allocated to the poor population of New York State, and why whatever money was left was not being distributed, with the deadline so close.

Becker said the funds were not allocated by any ethnic yardstick and would be available -- if the deadline of March 15 is met by the CDA -- on a first-come first-served basis. This is one of the reasons for the Coordinating Council's alert to its 14 Community Council affiliates.

Will Press For Proper Distribution

Becker said a suit was brought against the CSA in Illinois Southern District Court and a consent decree was issued declaring that any funds left after the distribution deadline for the 1978 allocations must revert back to the local communities in 1979 for distribution over and above allocations for the 1979 winter.

The court ruled that the federal government had not given all local governments adequate time for distribution. Becker said the Coordinating Council still did not know what the allocation for the 1979 winter will be, but intends to press for city action to make sure the 1979 funds will be properly and promptly distributed.

Becker said he assumed the 1978 allocations would have a cutoff date and the Coordinating Council was acting to assure that notification would be made in time to assure effective distribution to the poor. He said the court decree had been written into the legislation for the 1979 winter grants.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Rail traffic between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv was brought to a standstill Sunday morning following a mine explosion at the western outskirts of the capital. The mine exploded underneath the engine of a train which was en route from Jerusalem to Beit Shemesh. There were no injuries and the train was not derailed. There was only slight damage to the railway. The Jerusalem-Tel Aviv railway has been the target of several sabotage attempts.

GENEVA (JTA) -- The governing body of the International Labor Organization will discuss the treatment of Soviet Jews. Its decision followed a complaint by the International Committee for Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) after Gideon Ben-Zvi, the Israeli delegate, proposed the ILO take action. The ICFTU specifically complained about the treatment of Iosif Begun, a Moscow refusenik, who has been exiled to Siberia.

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- The B'nai B'rith philatelic service will offer a special first day cover to carry the commemorative stamp honoring Albert Einstein. The 15-cent stamp will be issued this week in Princeton, New Jersey during events scheduled to mark the Centennial of Einstein's birth. Einstein spent the last 20 years of his life at the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton. David Firestone, director of the philatelic service, said that the cover will portray sculptor Robert Berks working from a small figure of Einstein. The figure was commissioned by the National Academy of Sciences which honored Einstein by naming him as its first foreign associate and later a full member.