

JTA daily news bulletin

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Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. XLVI - 62nd Year

Tuesday, March 6, 1979

No. 45

DRAMATIC TURN IN PEACE TALKS: CARTER TO MEET WITH SADAT IN CAIRO AND WITH BEGIN IN JERUSALEM

Talks To Focus On The Peace Process/
Regional Security And Bilateral Issues

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, March 5 (JTA) — The stalemate Middle East peace process took a dramatic turn today with the White House announcement that President Carter will leave Washington Wednesday afternoon for meetings with President Anwar Sadat in Egypt and Premier Menachem Begin in Israel. The President will arrive in Egypt Thursday afternoon and will fly to Israel Saturday night. The White House said his talks in both countries "will focus on the peace process, regional security and bilateral issues."

Only a short while before, the White House announced to the media that Israel had "responded positively" to President Carter's suggestions to Begin for resolving the issues that block the conclusion of an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. The nature of the President's suggestions was not disclosed. He proposed them to Begin at their meeting yesterday afternoon which appeared, at the time, to be the wind-up of the talks they had been engaged in since Begin's arrival here last Thursday.

The President met with Begin again this morning for about 15 minutes. He also spoke twice to President Sadat by telephone, once before seeing Begin and again after they met. Begin, who held a press conference of his own at Blair House shortly after the White House announcement, welcomed Carter's visit to Israel, and said he would cut short his stay in the U.S. by one day. He will leave for Israel Wednesday afternoon instead of Thursday as originally planned. (See separate story for Begin's full statement.)

Cabinet Accepts Carter's Proposals

The stage was set for today's rapid developments by an extraordinary meeting of the Israeli Cabinet in Jerusalem this morning. After six hours of intensive debate it voted 9-3 to accept Begin's recommendations regarding Carter's latest proposals and authorized him to continue with the negotiations. Four ministers abstained.

The Cabinet met as a ministerial security committee and its proceedings were classified. But according to one report from Jerusalem, the President's new proposals introduced a completely different concept into the peace negotiations, thus setting aside major points of dispute between Israel and Egypt.

A White House source told reporters this morning, "I think we have to consider this (the Cabinet's action) a positive sign. But having said that, it is important to understand that real concern" over the Egyptian-Israeli peace process continues. The source emphasized that "difficult issues remain" and "the consequences of failure of the Camp David accords are no less grave now than a few days ago" when Begin arrived in Washington.

That point was made again after the announcement that Carter was going to the Middle

East. A White House spokesman said that "obviously one reason" for the President's trip is "the opportunity to discuss" the "ideas" that he proposed to Begin yesterday. The spokesman stressed that "difficult issues remain to be resolved." Asked why the President was travelling to the Middle East when Begin is already here, the spokesman said that a "personal visit" by Carter "offers the best hope for success."

No Guarantee Of Success

However, White House Press Secretary Jody Powell, asked if a peace treaty will be signed on this trip, warned: "There is no guarantee of success but it is our feeling that without a major effort such as this the prospects for failure are almost overwhelming." He said that there were no arrangements at this time for a three-way summit between Carter, Begin and Sadat. Powell also said he did not know when Carter would return, but emphasized there was no indication that Carter would engage in shuttle diplomacy between Cairo and Jerusalem. Israeli officials here also reported that no shuttle diplomacy was being planned by Carter.

Earlier, a White House source said the President's suggestions had not been discussed with Sadat when they spoke by telephone last night. The White House did not disclose what Carter and Sadat had discussed by phone this morning. A source said "As always in proposing suggestions to one side, we will take into consideration the concerns of the other."

The reports of the Israeli Cabinet action created some confusion here. A government spokesman in Jerusalem said the Cabinet had approved Begin's "recommendations," not Carter's suggestions. It was not known whether or how these differed or if Begin had simply recommended that the President's proposals be accepted.

The Cabinet remained divided. Transport Minister Haim Landau and Health Minister Eliezer Shostak of Likud and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer of the National Religious Party, voted against the recommendations. The four ministers who abstained were not immediately identified.

It was understood in Washington that the President did not offer suggestions concerning all of the five principal treaty elements in dispute between Israel and Egypt. The issues on which he made his suggestions were reportedly on linkage and priority of treaty obligations.

Jewish Leaders Hail Breakthrough

(In New York, Richard Maass, president of the American Jewish Committee, credited "this critical breakthrough" in the Mideast peace negotiations to "the calm statesmanship shown on the United States and Israeli side in this moment of crisis. President Carter's perseverance and Premier Begin's steadfastness found that mutual ground for U.S.-Israel understanding which, given the special U.S.-Israel relationship and common interest, is essential for progress and greater Middle East stability. Both men are to be congratulated. Let us hope that President Carter will be equally successful in his meeting with President Anwar Sadat in Cairo.")

(Howard M. Squadron, president of the American Jewish Congress, said: "President Carter's courageous decision to go to Cairo and Jerusalem is heartening evidence of the Administration's

readiness to pursue every avenue that promises peace in the Middle East. The way has not been easy and we wish our President well as he sets forth on his historic journey this week. He takes with him our blessing and our earnest hope that his bold and imaginative initiative will secure the peace to which we all aspire.")

BEGIN'S STATEMENT ON CARTER'S TRIP

WASHINGTON, March 5 (JTA) -- Following is the text of Begin's statement to the press at Blair House after the White House announcement of President Carter's trip to Egypt and Israel:

"I welcome the forthcoming visit of President Carter to Israel. This memorable visit will be of great importance to our people and to the mutual relations between the United States and Israel which is based on genuine friendship, as I learned again, during my latest visit to this country.

"I believe that the people of Israel will receive our friend, the President, not only with our traditional hospitality, but also with great warmth.

"I am cutting short my stay in the United States and will fly home Wednesday to be in Jerusalem and participate directly in making preparations for this momentous visit. The President will come to us directly from Egypt.

"I believe as a result of our latest talks, that the visit both to Cairo and to Jerusalem will further the cause of peace and bring closer a prospect of concluding the treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel."

Begin did not answer any questions from the reporters. When his press spokesman, Don Patir, was asked about the agreements made here, he replied that they would remain secret for the present.

ISRAELIS ARE CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC

By Mizhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 5 (JTA) -- Israeli leaders expressed guarded optimism today that the new proposals by President Carter and his surprise visit to the Middle East, announced by the White House at noon, will improve prospects for peace. But none would predict that a peace treaty with Egypt would be the immediate outcome.

Asked to comment on the President's visit, Acting Premier Yigael Yadin told a press conference that the chances of signing a treaty were better today than they were yesterday. With respect to Carter's suggestions, he said "I hope these recommendations will contribute positively to the process of the negotiations. I do not know if there will be an summit in Washington or not, or how the peace process will proceed."

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said the new proposals "presented a fresh opportunity to conclude a peace agreement." Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, a leading hawk, called them "a promising new development." Interior Minister Joseph Burg of the National Religious Party, appeared less certain. He said that while Carter's trip might further a peace agreement, the President may be coming here to demonstrate friendship for Israel but at the same time exert pressure.

Israeli authorities, meanwhile, began preparations for Carter's visit, his first to Israel since his election as President. The activity is hectic but apparently benefits from the experience gained from President Anwar Sadat's visit in November, 1977. Carter's reception is expected to be as momentous as that given Sadat. He will be the second American President to visit Israel

while in office. President Nixon visited Egypt and Israel in 1974.

AUSTRIA MAY BUY ISRAELI KFIRS IF MIDEAST PEACE IS CONCLUDED

VIENNA, March 5 (JTA) -- The conclusion of a peace between Israel and Egypt might remove Austria's reservations about buying Israel's Kfir jet fighters, government sources said today. Austria has been interested in purchasing 18-24 Kfirs since 1977 to bolster its air defenses but some critics feared that such a deal would hurt Austria's trade relations with the Arab world.

Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and Foreign Minister Willipold Pahr told a Cabinet meeting last week that a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt might wipe the objections off the slate.

The Kfir, after extensive tests, was considered the best choice among offers which also included the French Mirage F-1, Sweden's Viggen and the U.S. Northrop's F-5E. But Austria must modernize its ground control system before it can utilize new fighter planes.

Last month, the government revealed plans to produce Kfirs at an assembly plant in Wiener Neustadt, a few miles south of Vienna, to reduce costs of production and maintenance. Israeli officials were annoyed that Austria disclosed the plans at an early stage because this might jeopardize the deal.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA JEWISH CHRONICLE PLANNING TO MOVE ITS HQ FROM CENTRAL LONDON

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, March 5 (JTA) -- The Jewish Chronicle is planning to leave its office building at 25 Fumival Street, because of rising costs and may establish its headquarters outside central London for the first time in its 138-year history. The move is being considered because rates on the four-story building, built for it in 1963, have reached a reported 40,000 Pounds Sterling a year.

The paper is also to close its printing department at the end of this month. Although the actual printing is done under contract by an outside firm, the initial production processes, such as copy setting, page make-up and proof reading, have been done by the Chronicle's own staff.

The National Graphical Association has urged the paper not to move from Fumival Street and says that it could save money by adopting a more modern typesetting process. But the paper's management is understood to feel that such savings would only be marginal. If the Chronicle moves out of central London, it is expected to seek premises near the main areas of Jewish population, probably north-west of the city.

HOLOCAUST COMMISSION URGED TO COMMEMORATE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

NEW YORK, March 5 (JTA) -- The President's Commission on the Holocaust, which has set the week of April 22-29 as "Days of Remembrance" for the victims of Nazism, has been urged to change the date to April 19 instead, the historic day when the Warsaw Ghetto uprising began in 1943.

William Stern, executive director of the Workmen's Circle, in a communication to author Elie Wiesel, chairman of the Commission, wrote that "Ever since April 19, 1943, when the first news of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising reached the free world, there has been a sizeable segment of the Jewish community at which we are a part, which has annually on that date, commemorated not only the courage of the heroes of the uprising, but the

tragedy of the Holocaust itself." Stern stressed the need to begin the commemorative ceremonies that are being planned on April 19 rather than April 22 "to keep within historic perspective and to avoid excluding April 19 observances from the pattern of such remembrance."

APPEAL REJECTED TO FREE EX-NAZI

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, March 5 (JTA) -- The military court of La Spezia has rejected an appeal for freedom by Walter Reder, a former Austrian SS commander serving a life sentence for the mass murder of the population of the town of Marzabotto in northern Italy during World War II. Reder, 70, is the last war criminal still incarcerated in an Italian prison. His former fellow inmate at the Gotha military prison, Herbert Kappler, died in Germany last year after his engineered escape from a military prison hospital in Rome.

Reder is held responsible for the deaths of 1834 people, mostly women and children. His appeal was supported by the prison judge who cited his advanced age. His lawyers say Reder is "seriously ill" and announced that he would appeal to the military supreme court.

But three conditions are necessary for his release and Reder fulfills only one -- he has served at least 24 years of his sentence. He has refused to comply with the second condition which is to confess remorse for his crimes. He insists he was only carrying out orders. The third condition, forgiveness by the families of the victims has already been refused.

A curious parallel was noted between the cases of Reder and Kappler, also of the SS, who was responsible for the Ardeatine caves massacre in which 365 Italians, a third of them Jewish, were shot in reprisal for a partisan attack on German soldiers in Rome. Many appeals were made for Kappler's release, on grounds of age and illness. The refusal by the relatives of the Jewish victims to grant pardon sparked a heated debate over the pros and cons of forgiveness. Reder's victims were mostly Catholics. When their relatives refused decisively to "forgive and forget" no debate ensued.

LUNS DENIES HAVING BEEN A NAZI

AMSTERDAM, March 5 (JTA) -- Joseph Luns, Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has vigorously denied allegations that he belonged to the Dutch Nazi Party (NSB) during his student days in the 1930s. Luns, who served as Foreign Minister of The Netherlands from 1956-1974, issued his denial from NATO headquarters in Brussels.

The allegation was made by Prof. Louis de Jong, director of The Netherlands State Institute for War Documentation. He said that documents in the Institute's archives showed that a Joseph Luns was a member of the NSB from the spring of 1933 until the middle of 1936 when he resigned. Luns, now 67, said there was a misunderstanding, and planned to meet with de Jong. The NATO official, a Roman Catholic, entered the Dutch diplomatic service after completing his law studies. Sources here noted that in the early thirties many Dutch students, especially Catholics, were attracted to the NSB.

Last November, de Jong disclosed that a prominent member of The Netherlands Parliament Willem Aantjes, had been a member of the Nazi Party as a youth. Aantjes, who was chairman of the Christian Democratic Party's parliamentary

faction, was forced to retire from political life.

MIXED REACTION TO 'HOLOCAUST' FILM

VIENNA, March 5 (JTA) -- The first episode of the NBC-TV film series "Holocaust," screened on State-owned television last Thursday night, drew a mixed reaction from viewers. Officials reported that the record 1500 telephone calls received at the studios were divided about evenly for and against the showing. Newspaper polls showed a similar division.

Police threw a security cordon around the television studios during the broadcast to prevent threatened right-wing demonstrations but no incidents were reported. In Graz in the south of Austria, leaflets were distributed, presumably by right-wing organizations, calling the Holocaust "the biggest lie in history."

In contrast to West Germany, where the film made a tremendous impact when it was shown in January, many Austrians appeared querulous about the reminder of their Nazi past. Austria was occupied by the Nazis in 1938 when a vast majority of the populace approved of the Anschluss. A number of Austrian Nazis played leading roles in the extermination of Jews.

Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, addressing a Socialist Party convention in Linz last Thursday, said the series should prompt discussion of the roots of the horrors of Nazi rule in Europe. "We have to make sure that it will not happen again. We must talk sensibly with each other and not look silently," he said.

He was also quoted as saying that the Nazi ascent to power in the 1930s should be viewed in the perspective of the economic miseries of the people in Germany and Austria of the time. "Neither nationalism nor chauvinism, including Jewish chauvinism, will help solve the problem of anti-Semitism," said Kreisky, who is of Jewish origin.

U.S. URGED TO BRING LEBANON INTO AN ALLIANCE OF EGYPT AND ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, March 5 (JTA) -- The United States was urged by the largest American Lebanese organization to eliminate aid to Syria and bring Lebanon into "an alliance of Egypt and Israel firmly in the U.S. camp." Syria "has wrecked" the Camp David initiative, Robert Basil, president of the American-Lebanese League, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee several days ago which was considering the new foreign aid program.

The proposed \$60 million in aid to Syria, he testified, "is unjustifiable in light of its destructive role to U.S. and Lebanese national interests and goals." The \$32 million in proposed credits to Lebanon, he said, are "insufficient to rebuild a strong central army essential to restoring Lebanese sovereignty and control over its own territory."

Lebanon is "an occupied state," Basil said. At present, he said, 35,000 Syrian troops and 500,000 Palestinians, of which 50,000 are heavily armed, are "controlling huge areas of Lebanon."

The "real combatants" for the Middle East, he testified in a prepared statement, are the U.S. and the Soviet Union. "Consequently, it is necessary to begin with a nucleus of Arab-Israeli accommodation tied to the West, namely an alliance of Egypt and firmly in the U.S. camp. Lebanon is, by any measure, the first logical add-on to the Camp David beachhead, once established." Basil said that Syria's objective in its military operations is to "displace the Christian population from east Beirut, thus controlling the entire city."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

THE HOLOCAUST IN GERMAN EDUCATION

By Arno Herzberg

NEW YORK (JTA) -- It is always the same. Whenever we meet young Germans in Europe, after a while they ask in a curious tone: "How come you -- Americans -- speak such a flawless German?" The answer is always the same: "We were thrown out of Germany by the Germans." Then there is silence and after a while a shy, embarrassed almost whispering answer emerges: "We heard about it." But how much did they hear? How much do they know? How much has this knowledge affected their lives?

A young engineer is not afraid to confess: "We never learned in school about it; whenever it came to details of Nazi policies, the teachers managed to avoid the topic. Recent history, anyway, could come up only at the end of the semester; and at that point the teacher saw to it that there was no time left to treat this topic in any depth. We wanted to know about it; so we wanted to conduct our own history course about the Nazi-Time. The principal of the school prohibited it."

This was in the middle 1950s. It was the time when teachers who were active under the Nazi regime dominated German schools. They did not want to be confronted with their misdeeds or laughed out of the classroom for their adoration for the Fuehrer. It was embarrassing to them; They all had a bad conscience.

Now, many years have gone by. Is there any change in the attitude of both teachers and students? Do they know the full story? Do they want to know the full history of the Hitler years?

Far Removed From Past Events

There is ample talk about a generation that is far removed from the events of the past. Some say the new generation does not even want to understand how their elders behaved in those times. There are complaints that nobody can explain to them the absence of any organized resistance to Hitler. These complaints were especially loud and clear when, a few months ago, Germany remembered the attempt on Hitler's life by a group of German officers on July 20, 1944.

A study of teaching directives and history books found that the rudiments of an organized resistance to Hitler were hardly mentioned or superficially treated in 49 books examined. A perusal of several history books used in the 10th grade in high schools shows that the same judgment could be applied to the description and analysis of the persecution of Jews in the Third Reich.

There is, in some books, a description and even a picture of concentration camps and the horror of extermination. But there are always excuses. Speaking of the organization of concentration camps, one book flatly states: "Administrative personnel and supervisors, technicians and physicians were supplied by the SS. Very seldom were they diabolic torturers; most of them were simple family men, correct and dutiful citizens in their private lives who imagined their dirty work was a service to the Vaterland."

Every opportunity is taken to explain that they were simply overwhelmed by Nazi propaganda. It is significant that some of the authors

hesitate to state the number of Jews killed. One book says it clearly: "...the total number of those murdered can only be roughly estimated at four million out of the entire European countries." Another book speaks of five or six million killed.

History Of Jews Neglected

No attempt is made to go into the history of the Jews in Germany. Their participation and role in German culture is not mentioned. Judging from some of the history books the prosecution of the Jews began in 1935 with the race laws of Nuremberg. Not one word is mentioned that, immediately after Hitler came to power, Jews were removed as officials in government as judges and lawyers unless they had been active combatants in World War I.

The student who reads these history books can hardly be aware of the systematic education of the German people to hate the Jews, to regard them as fit to be exterminated. On the other hand, the revolt in the Warsaw Ghetto is called a turning point in the history of the Jewish people.

For the first time since one of our times, Jews fought again against their fate which they had accepted so willingly in the past. Still, a teacher, if he wants to, can supplement the material given in those books by asking questions and raising problems, by pointing to the human side and ignoring the detached and abstract narrative. Unfortunately, there are still teachers in the classrooms who were part of the Nazi machine, who were members of the Hitler-Jugend (Nazi youth movement) that gave them a thorough education in hating Jews.

They certainly will not be willing to transmit the true history of that time; they themselves were too much involved in it. All the other, younger teachers, born after the war, might have a much better chance to penetrate the fog that has settled on German minds. They might be helped by the showing of the NBC-TV film "Holocaust" on German TV last January. Reports seem to indicate that the film, whatever its shortcomings, may have induced many not to evade the past. But how long will this newly found interest last?

In an atmosphere of material well-being, not many people are willing to deal with frightful events. They are simply too involved in their own affairs. They do not want to hear anything that might burden them. In this respect, German teachers or German students are no different from their counterparts in other countries.

Germans, young and old, always ask why they should beat their breasts in repentance and excel in guilt feelings. Those born after the war add: we were not even living at that time. But Jews, over the centuries, were held responsible for the death of the founder of the Christian religion. Yet, they were not living at that time and those living had hardly a part in the crucifixion. There is something like an historical guilt. Sometimes it is manufactured with disastrous consequences.

In the case of the German, guilt and blame were not invented and the minimum one can ask for is that the perpetrators of those crimes are being punished. A discussion of whether the statute of limitations for Nazi crimes should be extended should not be a matter of debate, but a matter of civility.

The bottom line is whether the social, political and economic atmosphere that prevails in Germany will allow students and teachers to rise above the influences they encounter. After all, the classroom generally reflects the desires and attitudes of society at large.