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POLAKOFF TO ACCOMPANY CARTER

WASHINGTON, March 6 (JTA) -- Joseph Polakoff, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Washington Bureau Chief, will be accompanying President Carter on his trip to Cairo and Jerusalem and filing reports from both capitals. Carter is leaving for Egypt tomorrow and will arrive in Israel Saturday night where he will remain through Monday.

SENIOR ISRAELI OFFICIAL SAYS IT IS NOW UP TO SADAT, SEES A PEACE TREATY BEING SIGNED IN A SHORT TIME

By Murray Zuckoff

NEW YORK, March 6 (JTA) -- A senior Israeli official said today that if President Anwar Sadat of Egypt accepts the new American proposals which Israel accepted yesterday, there will be a peace treaty. "It is now all up to Sadat," the official told media editors at a working breakfast meeting at the Regency Hotel. Asked if he thought a peace treaty could be signed this week-end while President Carter will be visiting Egypt and Israel, the official said it was not realistic to expect it so soon, "but in a short period of time, yes."

The official, who refused to divulge the nature of the American compromise proposals which he said led to the breakthrough in the talks between Premier Menachem Begin of Israel and Carter last Sunday afternoon, stated that the new proposals "do not harm Egypt" and that they are of a nature which Sadat can accept and state publicly that they constitute a realistic compromise.

While the official did not cover any new ground about the weekend talks between Begin and Carter, he did focus on a new element in the Middle East which he said was of great concern to both Israel and the United States, namely, the need to assure the safety of Saudi Arabia from either internal upheavals or foreign invasion which would topple the present government and thereby possibly disrupt the flow of oil from that country to the free world.

Concern About Saudi Arabia's Safety

"Israel is prepared to do all it can to help Saudi Arabia shelve off a Communist takeover or an attack from outside forces," he said. He noted that this had been an element in the discussions between Carter and Begin and that Carter had viewed sympathetically a proposal put forth by Begin in connection with assuring Saudi Arabia's security. However, the official, who disclosed the proposal, urged that it be withheld from publication for at least 48 hours to give Carter a chance to discuss it with Sadat, since it would require the Egyptian leader's agreement.

The official said there is genuine concern in Israel that Saudi Arabia, which has virtually no army, may become the next Mideast country to suffer a political and economic dislocation of the type that has hit Iran. The safety of Saudi Arabia, he stressed, is a priority item at this time and its protection must be assured. Begin's proposal to Carter would, if accepted by Sadat and Carter, provide that kind of security.

(Begin remarked during his Sunday appearance on the ABC-TV "Issues and Answers" program that the two Israeli air bases in Sinai "can be used in the service of the free world." The Israelis have been hinting in various ways in recent weeks that the free world would be best served if the U.S. took over one or both of the bases after Israel withdraws from Sinai under the terms of a peace treaty with Egypt now being negotiated. One of the bases is at Etzion, near Eilat, some 10 minutes flying distance from Saudi Arabia.)

(Israel has not made any official proposals for such a transfer. But since the Sinai will be returned to Egyptian sovereignty under a peace treaty, Jerusalem has hinted that an understanding should be reached between the U.S. and Egypt on this matter.)

Trying To Convince Sadat

Regarding Carter's visit to Egypt and Israel, the official said the President is undertaking his present mission to convince Sadat to accept the new American proposals. "President Carter doesn't have to belabor Israel since we've agreed," he said. He reiterated that he hoped Sadat would accept the proposals which, he indicated, dealt with the issues of autonomy on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the issue of the priority of obligations clause in the Camp David agreements.

Asked if he was concerned that the negotiations between Israel and Egypt were taking so long, especially in view of the hope expressed by Begin last September when he and Sadat signed the Camp David accords that a peace treaty would be signed within two months, the official said that 14 months of negotiations is "not a short period of time but it is not an intolerable period of time." The Panama Canal treaty took three years, he observed.

He noted that there was nothing disastrous about taking time to reflect about a peace treaty that entails the issue of life or death for Israel and that of peace in the Middle East. Begin, he said, wanted the treaty signed two months after the Camp David accords were reached but that Egypt had changed its mind about a number of elements agreed to then and thereby created obstacles to a hoped-for speedy conclusion of the peace treaty.

Possible Oil Deal With Egypt

On other issues related to an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, the official was asked what plans Israel had for obtaining oil once Sinai is returned to Egypt. The official noted that Israel had proposed to Egypt that after returning the Sinai oil wells Israel would buy oil from Egypt at fair market price. He said he thought Egypt would agree to this because Egypt does not need that oil for domestic consumption since it is now exporting oil.

The official also stressed that in the final analysis a peace treaty would secure not only Israel's future as the Jewish homeland but also as the only democracy in the Middle East. He noted that Israel stood alone as a democratic nation in that area and that in view of the political upheavals now going on and future possible upheavals, Israel should be strengthened. He did not rule out possible future treaties with the U.S. He noted that this was in the best interests of the United States and that Begin had made that point in his talks with Carter and Congressmen.

Finally, the official noted that Begin's talks

with Carter had been conducted in "a very friendly atmosphere." He said the talks had been frank and that both officials had talked to each other as freemen. The official said that Begin and Carter had a basic disagreement over whether or not there were significant differences between Egypt and Israel over the issues of linkage, autonomy and priority of obligations. Carter insisted the differences were insignificant and Begin had contended that the differences were significant.

Carter, the official said, understood Israel's position after his talks with Begin, "otherwise there would not have been the suggested new proposals which led to the breakthrough Sunday at 2 p.m."

CARTER INVITED TO ADDRESS KNESSET MONDAY, HIS FINAL DAY IN ISRAEL By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 6 (JTA) -- President Carter has been invited to address the Knesset on Monday, the final day of his visit to Israel that will begin this Saturday night, it was learned today. The Knesset Steering Committee announced that it would permit Premier Menachem Begin and Shimon Peres, chairman of the opposition Labor Alignment, to respond to the President's speech in English.

The electrifying news yesterday that the President will visit Egypt and Israel this week in a dramatic personal effort to achieve a peace treaty between those countries touched off hectic preparations for the momentous occasion. Carter's visit is officially a State visit. The President will be welcomed at Ben Gurion Airport by a guard of honor, a dress parade and a 21-gun salute. The last such ceremonies occurred in November, 1977 when President Anwar Sadat of Egypt landed at Ben Gurion Airport, also on a Saturday night.

As with Sadat's visit, massive security measures will be taken, beginning Friday afternoon, 24 hours before the President's arrival. Israeli airspace will be closed to all commercial traffic several hours before the President is due. Airlines have already been advised to adjust their schedules accordingly. All police leaves have been cancelled. Some 10,000 policemen are expected to take part in the nation-wide security operation during Carter's stay, under the personal charge of Police Chief Chaim Tabori.

Overall preparations embracing the police, army, post office, press information office and the Jerusalem municipality are being made under the supervision of a special inter-ministerial committee. It is headed by Eliahu Ben-Eliassar, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office.

The Lineup Of The Cabinet Vote

The announcement by the White House at noon Washington time yesterday that Carter will visit Egypt and Israel came only hours after the Cabinet had voted 9-3 to accept Begin's recommendations regarding new proposals made to him by Carter on Sunday. The nature of the proposals was not disclosed but a Cabinet majority apparently regarded them as an opening to resolve the issues that have blocked a peace treaty with Egypt.

Voting for Begin's recommendations were Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin; Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan; Defense Minister Ezer Weizman; Minister of Social Betterment Yisrael Katz; Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon; Religious Affairs Minister Aharon Abut-Hatzeira; Absorption Minister David Levy; Minister of Commerce and Industry Gideon Palt and Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich.

Opposed to the recommendations were Foreign Minister Haim Landau, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai. Health Minister Eliezer Shostak, who was reported erroneously yesterday to have voted against the recommendations, was one of four ministers who abstained. The others were Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir, Interior Minister Yosef Burg and Minister Without Portfolio Moshe Nissim.

Clamor In The Knesset

The Knesset was engaged in a sluggish debate over various by-laws when news of the President's impending visit suddenly brought the chamber to life. There was an immediate clamor for Yadin, who is Acting Premier, to make a political statement on the government's behalf. Yadin insisted that he was unable to brief the Knesset and that information on details of the Cabinet's action inasmuch as it sat as a ministerial security committee, the proceedings of which are classified.

He was about to mount the podium to deliver some remarks but Burg dissuaded him on grounds that the Labor opposition would seize the occasion to conduct a full-scale political debate. There were shouts of protest, at which point Deputy Speaker Benjamin Halevy adjourned the session and MKs rushed to radio and television sets to get the latest news.

President Yitzhak Navon was on a three-day tour of Tel Aviv slum neighborhoods when he was informed of Carter's visit. His immediate reaction was that the American attitude, which he had castigated only a day before as pro-Egyptian, must have changed. He said, "Baruch Habba, welcome to President Carter."

Preparing For The Crush

The preparations for the visit were given the temporary code name "Operation Eagle," the same assigned to President Nixon's visit to Israel in June, 1974. It was changed today to "Operation Naek," an acronym for Nassi Artzor Habrit--President of the United States.

Meanwhile, the Jerusalem municipality is trying to decide whether Carter should be quartered at the King David Hotel, the venerable hostelry that has played host to most heads of state visiting Israel or the more modern Hilton Hotel. Mayor Teddy Kollek favors the Hilton which is on the outskirts of the city. He fears massive traffic jams if Carter and his party stay at the King David which is close to the center of the capital.

KNESSET UNIT IN WORK STOPPAGE By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 6 (JTA) -- The Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee angrily suspended all work today to protest the government's failure to keep it abreast of the latest events. Specifically, committee members of both coalition and opposition factions were infuriated when Acting Premier Yigael Yadin refused to brief them on President Carter's latest peace treaty proposals that the Cabinet approved by majority vote yesterday on the recommendation of Premier Menachem Begin.

Yadin appeared before the committee but only to explain why he could not disclose details of the Cabinet's action. He contended that to do so at this time could jeopardize negotiations and promised that Begin would report to the committee directly after a special Cabinet meeting scheduled for Friday.

Committee members did not take kindly to Yadin's reminder that the Cabinet vote did not

require their approval and that in any event they could not change it. By a vote of 16-3, it decided to suspend all activities for the day and accused the government of failure to report to the Knesset. The roughly worded statement described the government's behavior as a "disgrace to the Knesset."

The unprecedented action by the Knesset's most prestigious committee was motivated, observers said, by two factors: the anger of opposition members over being "left out of the game" and strong reservations by hard-liners about President Carter's new initiative. Although the Cabinet cloaked the President's latest proposals in secrecy, one committee member, Yehuda Ben-Meir, chairman of the National Religious Party Knesset faction, claimed that the proposals had been leaked. He said anyone could read them in the morning newspapers.

SUCCESS OF CARTER'S MISSION SEEN AS DEPENDING ON WHAT SADAT DECIDES

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 6 (JTA) -- The success of President Carter's bold initiative to achieve an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty by going to Cairo and Jerusalem is seen by informed opinion here today as depending entirely on Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and his government and such assurance from them is not yet certain.

In Cairo, Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil, who has been ~~contending~~ that Egypt's position has not changed since the Camp David summit in September, said that position is unchanged but he believes a peace treaty now appears to be imminent.

He did not explain how the Israelis, who have refused to accept the Egyptian views on crucial issues, now have accepted a formula agreeable to Egypt but which the Israelis report to be quite different from the proposals they had rejected as late as Saturday night.

Ambivalent Feelings Expressed

While a distinctly upbeat feeling that a possible breakthrough is near was noted in some quarters, the Carter Administration itself and members of the House and Senate close to the Middle East situation took a much more cautious view, noting that difficult decisions still lay ahead.

By accepting the President's proposals made Sunday afternoon on the two major elements of dispute in the treaty process, Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and his government are being credited as having done their utmost to reach the goal of peace by Congressional sources. The Administration sees it as "positive" but does not speak of a breakthrough.

Whether Sadat will be as forthcoming as Israel is the key question here as Carter prepares to leave tomorrow for his fateful three-day visit to Cairo from where he will go to Jerusalem Saturday night. His schedule raises another major question: which is whether the President foresees negotiations with Begin after his talks with Sadat, who, some believe, may express dissatisfaction with the new U.S. proposal.

He may continue to pressure Carter for extraction of additional concessions from Israel as a price for the treaty, realizing Carter's need for success because of the American political scene. This Egyptian tactic looms starkly in the scenario visualized by Mideast observers of the political drama on which the President has staked

the prestige of the American Presidency and his personal place in history.

On the other hand, Carter is being praised on all sides for his personal courage in taking such a great risk in the complex Middle East conflict that has gone 30 years without solution.

Preparing The Ground For Talks With Sadat

To prepare the ground for his discussions with Sadat, Carter sent National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and Special Ambassador Alfred Atherton to Cairo yesterday where they will present the details of the American proposals to the Egyptian leadership. Their explanation will be made against a background of the convulsive events of the Islamic revolt in Iran, the reduced production and upward pricing of oil and the impact on the United States and its allies.

The general hope is that Sadat will agree to the American insights and the new American draft proposals and that subsequently Carter's visit to Jerusalem will be principally to discuss the treaty signing which some forecast may actually take place next week in the Sinai.

The precise language of the proposals Israel has accepted is not being disclosed. When Begin appeared before the House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committees yesterday, he stressed that the proposals were embargoed until after Sadat receives and studies them. However, it is known that they concern the issue of priority of an Egyptian-Israeli treaty over the agreements Egypt has with Arab League members and the linkage of the treaty with a timetable for autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza.

A Possible 'Trade-Off' Hinted

A principal source who was involved in separate discussions both with Carter and Begin this week, said, "It could be when he was asked whether a reported 'trade-off' was what Israel finally accepted. According to a widespread media report, this would put the treaty in the top priority, which Israel wants, while setting a target date for autonomy which Egypt wants."

Sadat, the source noted, has suggested he would agree on autonomy first for the Gaza Strip, which Egypt lost in the 1967 war but which Sadat feels he can deliver into becoming an autonomous area. West Bank autonomy would come later.

During his four days of talks with Carter, "wording became very important to Begin," a Senatorial source said. "To him, legalisms and semantics form the basic principles of the agreement." The Jewish Telegraphic Agency also was informed that when Begin accepted the President's proposals, "it was the most encouraging news since the original Camp David announcements."

LUNS CHANGES STORY ON NAZI PAST

AMSTERDAM, March 6 (JTA) -- Joseph Luns, Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) conceded that he had been enrolled in the Dutch Nazi Party (NSB) when he was a student in the early 1930s. He retracted his earlier denial after he was shown the NSB membership roster in the archives of The Netherlands State Institute for War Documents on which his name appears.

But it remained unclear whether Luns, who served as Netherlands Foreign Minister from 1959-1971, joined the NSB himself or was enrolled by someone else without his knowledge. The roster shows that he was a member from 1933 until early in 1936. That affiliation was brought to public attention by Prof. Louis de Jong, director of the Institute.

2400 U.S. SCIENTISTS WARN USSR

WASHINGTON, March 6 (JTA) -- More than 2400 American scientists, including 13 Nobel Laureates, have announced that they will severely restrict their cooperation with the Soviet Union as their response to the imprisonment of Yuri Orlov and Anatoly Shcharansky to long terms for monitoring Soviet adherence to international agreements on human rights. The group is calling itself SOS. Scientists for Orlov and Shcharansky.

"No step of this magnitude and character has ever been undertaken by American scientists," the group said in a statement accompanying the names of the pledging scientists. The ad hoc group includes 113 members of the National Academy of Sciences, 18 past or present directors of major scientific laboratories, and past or present president of 20 major scientific organizations.

Signers included 40 percent of the physics and mathematics departments at the University of California in Berkeley, and 25 percent of the faculty at the California Institute of Technology. The group includes scientists, engineers and computer specialists. Orlov and Shcharansky are colleagues in their fields. The majority of the 2400 scientists said, according to the announcement, that they would "withhold all personal cooperation with the Soviet Union until Orlov and Shcharansky are released."

Some of the signers said they do not foreclose their participation in existing exchange programs but would not attend international conferences in the Soviet Union, will oppose the enlargement of U.S.-Soviet exchanges and will campaign against the transfer of sophisticated technology to the Soviet Union. Nobel Laureate Christian Anfinsen of the National Institutes of Health pointed out that "the Orlov and Shcharansky cases were the final straws that broke the camel's back."

SYRIAN JEWS DAY PROCLAIMED

ALBANY, N.Y., March 6 (JTA) -- Gov. Hugh Carey issued today a proclamation declaring March 10 as "Remembrance of Syrian Jews Day" in New York State and urged New Yorkers "to join with the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York and its member agencies in speaking out on behalf of the Jews of Syria, in the hope that they will be granted their full human and civil rights, including free emigration."

In his proclamation, the Governor noted that the 4500 members of the Syrian Jewish community are deprived of their human rights, are not allowed to emigrate from Syria and that their freedom is restricted. Carey said:

"Syrian Jews have been arbitrarily imprisoned and tortured for desiring to leave to be reunited with their families. Twenty-five thousand American Jewish citizens of Syrian origin have requested that their relatives be permitted to be reunited with their families."

Continuing, the Governor's proclamation declared: "It is incumbent upon all those who value and love freedom to recognize the plight of those oppressed Jews of Syria who are subjected to persecution, harassment and discrimination and denied their basic human rights."

TORTURE CHARGE REFUTED

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 6 (JTA) -- Rep. Les

Aspin (D-Wis.), who has won national recognition for his watchfulness on the activities of the U.S. armed services, has told Congress that the charges that Israel "systematically tortures" prisoners is false.

"There are simply no solid facts supporting these assertions," Aspin said in the House of Representatives after a probe of the allegations and an assessment of reports and cables at the State Department and inquiries at the United Nations and other sources.

"Having completed a thorough investigation of the matter," Aspin said, "I can only conclude that no such accusation could reasonably be made." He noted that "Certainly, some cases of mistreatment have occurred, just as they occur everywhere in the world, and these instances are regrettable and inexcusable. The key question, however, is whether they reflect the policy of the Israeli government. There is simply no convincing evidence that this is the case."

The Red Cross, he said in his statement, "has visited about 1000 Arab prisoners and has reported mistreatment in only a very few instances" -- so few that it could in no way be termed "systematic."

Aspin's findings in his independent investigation contradict allegations by a U.S. Consulate officer in East Jerusalem, Alexandra Johnson, who was terminated from the U.S. Foreign Service, and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which is dominated by representatives of Communist and Arab nations, which have no relations with Israel.

The State Department had protested orally and in a letter to the Washington Post against its accusation that the Department "suggests" that "systematic torture" is an Israeli practice. The U.S. representative to the UN Commission on Human Rights, Edward Mezvinsky, protested the charges in the Commission discussion and voted against its resolution attacking Israel.

EHRlich PRESENTS NEW BUDGET

JERUSALEM, March 6 (JTA) -- Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich presented an IL 304 billion budget for the fiscal year 1979-80 for Knesset approval yesterday. The new budget is about 45 percent higher than this year's, which was IL 208 billion.

It anticipates a 38 percent rise in the cost of living during 1979. Food and public transportation subsidies will rise by 75-100 percent. Communications fees will go up 44 percent after April. The Cabinet Sunday reversed an earlier decision to increase the price of electricity, following an appeal by Commerce and Industry Minister Gideon Patt. Patt argued that the rise jeopardized manufacturers' efforts to increase exports.

Following another appeal by Absorption Minister David Levy, the Cabinet reversed a decision to raise the price of frozen meat by 25 percent and decided to control the price of meat, limiting the rise to seven percent.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Spring will bring to Jerusalem some of the finest artists, such as the "La Mama Theater" of New York, the British Royal Shakespeare Company, pop singer Elton John, French singer Charles Aznavour and the Royal Danish Ballet. The festival will begin April 12, continue through May, with 80 performances of 36 different productions. Festival director Avital Massigsohn told a press conference that in addition to the regular performances, there will be some 80 street performances citywide.