

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents Copyright, Republication only by previous arrangement

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

Vol. XLVI - 62nd Year

Friday, March 16, 1979

No. 53

PREPARING GROUNDWORK FOR PEACE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 15 (JTA) -- A delegation of Israeli officials headed by Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, left for the U.S. today to prepare the groundwork for signing an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty and a bilateral agreement between Israel and the U.S. for related military and economic assistance. Weizman, smiling broadly, told reporters, "This time it's finished," referring to the peace treaty which he said could be signed "within the next ten days."

He said he would be meeting in Washington with top U.S. officials and with his Egyptian counterpart, Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and senior Egyptian military officers to work out the details of Israel's phased withdrawal from Sinai. Weizman said he would also deal with Israel's request for military aid in the amount of \$2 billion annually for five years plus a \$4 billion grant to pay the costs of pulling out of Sinai and building new airfields and their infrastructure in the Negev. He said he would seek to advance the delivery date of the F-16 jet fighter-bombers approved for sale to Israel last year and other military items.

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan who originally intended to leave for Washington with Weizman today decided to remain in Israel for the Cabinet session on Sunday to debate the treaty package as a whole. Yesterday's Cabinet decision approving two key treaty proposals recommended by Premier Menachem Begin and agreed to by President Anwar Sadat, set in motion the events that are expected to culminate in a treaty signing by the end of next week. Today, the Egyptian Cabinet voted unanimously to approve the treaty after a four-hour session.

Weizman said that in addition to practical matters there is a philosophical side to peace. "It is important to know toward what we are heading," he said. "It is possible that within ten days we shall sign a peace agreement. We shall have to work then in ways we are not used to, under conditions of peace with the Arabs. There will be new things, for us and for the Arabs. It is important what atmosphere is created and I hope that on this visit I shall be able to do something to smooth the transition into the peace era," Weizman said.

Accompanying Weizman are Meir Rosenne, legal advisor to the Foreign Ministry; Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Ephraim Evroni, who is returning to Washington for political discussions on behalf of Dayan; Amram Sivan, Director General of the Finance Ministry, who will discuss economic matters with the Americans; Weizman's Defense Ministry aides Joseph Mayani, Gen. Abraham Tamir, Gen. Nathan Sharoni, and Lt. Col. Ilan Tehila, Weizman's secretary.

OVERWHELMING MAJORITY EXPECTED TO APPROVE PEACE ACCORD IN KNESSET

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 15 (JTA) -- The number of Knesseters expected to support the proposed peace treaty with Egypt will probably be larger than the 84 who supported the Camp David accord. This was the general opinion here today.

The Knesset will probably be called to vote on the accord next Tuesday. Each Knesseter will probably be given 10 minutes to speak. Assuming that almost all of the 120 Knesseters will use the opportunity, and taking into account the opening and concluding speeches, the session is already now expected to last more than 20 hours. It now appears that none of the Knesset factions will impose party discipline on its members and, therefore, each Knesseter will be free to vote according to his/her conscience.

The main cause for the expected large number of affirmative votes will probably be the approval of the treaty by National Religious Party and Likud Knesseters who abstained in the Camp David vote. Those Knesseters now say that on such a decisive issue one cannot abstain, and are therefore believed to be in favor of the accord.

The main opposition to the agreement in the Likud is from the La'am faction. Their partners on the other end of the political spectrum will be the Communists. Taking into account this political scene, it is expected that as many as 90 Knesseters will support the agreement, two-thirds of the House. The vote on the Camp David accord was 84-19.

TWO KILLED AND ONE INJURED DURING VIOLENCE ON WEST BANK

TEL AVIV, March 15 (JTA) -- Two West Bank residents were killed and a third was wounded when Israeli border police opened fire on demonstrators in Halhoul, a village near Hebron today. The victims were identified as Masri el Anani, 21, and a 17-year-old girl student, Rabaya Shalalda, who died of wounds at Hebron Hospital. Another student, Yusuf Saleh Badawi, sustained slight injuries.

The Military Government ordered an immediate investigation of the incident, described as the worst in the wave of violence that has swept the West Bank during the past week in protest against an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. Gen. Moshe Levi, commander of the central front, rushed to Halhoul where a curfew was imposed. Disorders also occurred today in East Jerusalem, Hebron, Bethlehem, Beth Shour and Jericho. In several instances border police used tear gas bombs to disperse demonstrators. Meanwhile, a dispute has arisen over the use of weapons by Gush Etzion settlers from Ofra to disperse Arabs who set up a roadblock outside the nearby Arab town of Ramallah Monday. The army declared that the use of arms by civilian settlers was illegal and demanded that the Gush give up their weapons. The Gush refused. Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, who heads the ministerial settlement committee, visited Ofra today accompanied by Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Zipori to discuss the situation. The army insists that the Gush refrain from firing on demonstrators in Arab towns.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS UNDER WAY TO BOLSTER EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI ACCORD

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 15 (JTA) -- Congressional leaders, appreciative of the suddenly achieved breakthrough for peace in the Middle East and mindful of heightened animosities from foes of Egypt and Israel, met today to seek to wreck it, began today to face

the legislative measures required to bolster the Egyptian-Israeli treaty negotiated by the United States.

President Carter, whose historic shuttle diplomacy for six days to Cairo, Jerusalem and back to Cairo achieved success, divulged some of the factors to House and Senate leaders at the White House last night. Carter's Special Ambassador to the Middle East, Alfred Atherton, went behind closed doors today before the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance was scheduled to appear before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this afternoon. He is expected to detail the U.S. commitments to Egypt and Israel in supplementary support of their treaty, including security accords as well as financial assistance.

Carter estimated to the Congressional leaders he would ask Congress to appropriate between \$4.5 billion for disbursement over the next three years to Egypt and Israel in addition to the \$1 billion in economic aid legislated for this year to Egypt and \$1.8 billion for Israel in economic and military assistance.

Terms Financing A Reel Bargain

Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker (R., Tenn.) disclosed the estimated dollar figure after he left the White House meeting but he gave no indication of how it would be divided. "If this is a fair estimate of the cost, it's a real bargain," Baker said. House Majority Leader Jim Wright (D. Texas) said Congress would "look kindly" on the additional assistance to Egypt and Israel "to provide the glue" to keep the treaty intact.

Sen. George McGovern (D. S.D.), a Senate Foreign Relations Committee member, said "If a settlement is achieved in the Middle East, it is going to cost this country some money in terms of economic and military assistance to both Israel and Egypt, but those costs are far overshadowed by possible costs of another conflict in the Middle East, including the cutting off of oil supplies that are so crucial to the industrial West."

In New York, Sen. Jacob Javits (R. N.Y.), who arrived there after attending the White House meeting, told some 500 persons attending a gathering of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith that the peace treaty will result in a burden on the American taxpayer, but emphasized that the necessary cost "will be supported by Congress because of the stakes involved." He indicated that the deal struck by Carter in getting Israel and Egypt to agree to the treaty involves "heavy commitments by the United States which are not of an onerous character -- meaning military -- but of a financial and moral character."

Javits noted that the U.S. role will be as "the guarantor of how the parties will deal with each other" to assure that Israel and Egypt "do not suffer untoward consequences" for other Arab nations opposed to the treaty. The Senator made his remarks at the ADL's presentation of its National Distinguished Public Service Award to Leo Jaffe, board chairman of Columbia Pictures Industries.

Some Uncertainties And Concerns

Meanwhile, one of the uncertainties was over Baker's cost figure report including the U.S. share for the cost of moving Israel's two air bases from Sijai to the Negav for which Israel is

reportedly asking the U.S. to provide \$3.2 billion. One estimate was that Egypt would get some \$2 billion in military assistance, almost the same as Israel is getting this year.

Concern was manifested here about the attitude Saudi Arabia might adopt towards Egypt. Relations between Sadat and the oil sheikhs who contribute about a billion dollars a year to Egypt and possibly more are in a delicate stage, U.S. sources have indicated. Should Saudi Arabia, which has endorsed the Arab-Communist opposition to the Camp David frameworks extend its coolness toward Egypt by cutting off or reducing aid, then the U.S. would be put in a position of at least making up the losses to Cairo.

According to information received here from Cairo today, Sadat said he was going to Washington next week, "invited or not." Interviewed after the Egyptian Cabinet had approved the treaty as expected, Sadat said the "first ceremony of the (peace treaty) signing shall be in Washington because we owe a lot to President Carter."

Asked if he envisioned difficulties to the signing, he replied, "No, let us hope there will be no difficulties. We have achieved peace and it is Jimmy Carter who made it all possible."

Egyptian officials were reported in Cairo as saying that Sadat would bring a long list of Egypt's economic and military needs and that he wants the U.S., West Germany and Japan to organize and support a vast economic program to elevate Egypt's poor economic state and that the cost for the program would be \$10 billion over five years.

While in Cairo last week, Americans were informed that in addition to economic aid of such proportions, Sadat also was looking for \$10-20 billion in military assistance that would include 315 warplanes and 600 tanks.

Campaign Against Sadat

Meanwhile, Arab elements particularly hostile to Sadat began campaigning and demonstrating, some of it in violent form. In Washington, Palestinian Arab partisans scheduled a demonstration at the Egyptian Embassy and also at Dupont Circle less than a mile from the White House. To counteract the campaign, Egypt was said to have started its own drive to assure the Arab world it is not signing a separate peace with Israel but that the treaty with Israel represents a first step toward a comprehensive peace that would establish for the Palestinians their "legitimate rights."

Analysts who have long been critical of Israel are indicating that the question at this stage is whether the Egyptian-Israeli treaty would provide the cornerstone for a broader settlement or make the comprehensive settlement Carter is seeking more difficult to achieve.

The Soviet Union condemned the Egyptian-Israeli treaty as worsening the Middle East situation. In supporting the drive against the treaty and emphasizing its attack particularly against Sadat, the official Soviet news agency, Tass, declared that Sadat was forced to take backward steps to meet Israeli demands. A Washington datelined Tass dispatch said Sadat had capitulated fully to the agreement. The Communist Party newspaper, Pravda, charged that the U.S. had committed with Israel.

Jewish Leaders Praise Peace Move

Meanwhile, statements of praise for Carter, Begin and Sadat in their efforts to achieve peace and hopes that a lasting peace will be achieved in the Middle East were expressed by American Jewish leaders.

Among them were Bartram Gold, executive

vice president, American Jewish Committee; Jack Spitzer, president, B'nai B'rith; Charlotte Jacobson, chairman, World Zionist Organization-American Section; Theodore Mann, chairman, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Maxwell Greenberg, national chairman, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Also, Bernice Tannenbaum, president, Hadasah; Howard Squadron, president, American Jewish Congress; Ivan Novick, president, Zionist Organization of America; Esther Landu, president, National Council of Jewish Women; Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Prof. Allen Patlack, president, Labor Zionist Alliance; and Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president, American Zionist Federation.

JEWISH LEADERS DISCUSS VISIT WITH POPE

By Mitchell Rabin

NEW YORK, March 15 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders who participated last Monday in the historic audience with Pope John Paul II in the Vatican underscored today the Pope's official commitment to the dialogue between Catholics and Jews throughout the world as a significant outcome of the meeting.

"He reaffirmed his commitment to the Guidelines for Religious Relations between Catholics and Jews and to the process of fruitful dialogue between partners," said Rabbi Ronald B. Sobel, chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC) at a press conference sponsored by the Synagogue Council of America.

The Pope's remarks were made at a private meeting with IJCIC, which comprises five organizations: the Synagogue Council of America, American Jewish Committee, World Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and the Israel Interreligious Council.

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, director of the Interreligious Affairs Department of the AJC Committee, said that other major aspects of the meeting, apart from the Pope's "personal commitment to the Guidelines," were the Pope's affirmation of the "deep linkage between Judaism and Christianity," the fact that the Pope repudiates anti-Semitism and his statement declaring that he will do "everything in my power for the peace of that land (Israel) which is as holy for us as it is for us."

Tannenbaum also pointed out that after the official statement, the Pope engaged in private conversation with the Jewish leaders, during which he told them that he would like to go to visit Israel "very soon." It is significant to note, Tannenbaum said, that the Pope refers to Israel as "concrete political reality" whereas his predecessors referred to it as the Holy Land.

Prof. Shemaryahu Talmon, president of the Israel Council of Interreligious Consultations, suggested that the Pope's remarks that he would like to visit Israel should be seen in the context in which it was said: a private, non-official conversation. He added, however, that he expects him to visit Israel. Rabbi Balfour Brickner, director of Interreligious Affairs of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said he believes the Pope's statement will "intensify" and "make more open" the relations between Jewish and Catholic communities in this country. All participants at today's press conference expressed

their satisfaction with the meeting and its implications for future Jewish-Catholic relations.

Pope's Reference To 'Religious Community' Questioned

A few said, however, that the Pope failed to understand "what religion means to Jews" because he referred in his statement to the "religious Jewish community" and not to the "Jewish people."

"This has implication on the way the church refers to the State of Israel," Brickner said, adding that the tendency of Christians is to refer to Jews as a religious community while "the Jewish situation is a unique blend of religion and nationality," and Jews remain Jews "even if they stop believing," which is not the case with Christians.

Prof. Michael Wyschogrod, senior consultant for the Interreligious Affairs Department of the Synagogue Council of America, said that in his view the most important part of the Pope's statement was his declaration that "Our two religious communities are connected and closely related at the very level of their respective religious identities."

The Jewish leaders at today's press conference agreed that the fact the meeting took place is important in itself because, as Tannenbaum said, "it was very important to us to get first-hand impressions of the man." Philip M. Klutznick, who led the delegation to the Pope, was not present at today's press conference. He was represented by Dr. Israel Singer of the World Jewish Congress.

SUPREME COURT RULES WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS ARE LEGAL

By Gil Sédan

JERUSALEM, March 15 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court ruled today that Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories are legal if their existence is necessary to the security of the State as long as a state of war exists. The unanimous ruling by the panel of five justices put an end to legal challenges to Israel's settlement policy and was seen as opening the way to the proliferation of settlements in the occupied areas.

The court rendered its decision on an appeal by Arab residents of Bet-El and Tubas on the West Bank against the seizure of their lands by the army for eventual settlement. They contended that this did not serve any military purpose and was in conflict with international law. But the court accepted the government's contention that the lands seized were strategically sensitive and therefore important to security. It also claimed that the seizures were in accordance with Article 52 of the Geneva Convention which permits the seizure of land for military purposes.

A representative of the International Red Cross who attended the hearings said he would report to his headquarters in Geneva. Settlers in the Jordan Valley were relieved by the decision. They had feared that if the Arabs' appeal succeeded, Arab landowners in the Jordan Valley would be in a position to challenge the legitimacy of their own settlements.

Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, who heads the Ministerial Settlement Committee and is a strong advocate of massive Israeli settlement in the occupied territories, told settlers in Bet-El that the court ruling cleared the way for more settlements on hitherto disputed land.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin was restricted to his home Thursday. His physician said he was suffering from a cold. Begin got a chill standing outside the King David Hotel in a sharp wind and without an overcoat during President Carter's visit.

MOVE TO REDUCE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO UN FOR TWO PLO UNITS THERE

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, March 15 (JTA) — The House Foreign Affairs Committee passed an amendment Tuesday offered by Rep. Lester L. Wolff (D-NY) which reduces the U.S. contribution to the United Nations for the American share of costs of the two Palestine Liberation Organization propaganda units there. The Wolff Amendment cuts the U.S. contribution by 25 percent of the costs of the Special Unit on Palestinian Rights and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

"UN recognition of the PLO has legitimized that group as a political entity in the eyes of many. This has given them a status which has done much to frustrate United States policy in seeking peace in the Middle East," Wolff said. Citing recent events in Iran, Wolff decried the PLO's consistent role in turning the Arab nations from the peace process.

"I would not advocate cutting funds for the UN just because I do not like a program or disagree with a political persuasion," he said. "But having a group which regularly takes credit for terrorist violence against civilians represented in a body whose aim is the peaceful resolution of conflicts is outrageous," Wolff said. He pointed out that there is precedent for withholding funds, as when the United States refused to pay for certain UNESCO programs several years ago, but paid UNESCO in full when the situation improved.

"To withhold even this relatively small amount will show how serious we are about our objections to having terrorists at the UN," Wolff said. "The value of this amendment is to register our strong protest. We voted against the formation of both committees. We vote against the reports of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People every year, and Ambassador (Andrew) Young has spoken against their partisan and unconstructive role in the UN. After this Nation takes all those steps, the only thing left to do is to stop footing the bill."

After noting that the Soviets have refused to pay for peace-keeping expenses in the past, and have paid some of their contribution in non-convertible rubles, Wolff said that withholding this small amount is "no tragedy."

His amendment, Wolff noted, "will send a message to the UN that we will not put up with terrorists at the UN who intend to undermine basic human decency, or fund programs that are antithetical to the tenets of the UN Charter."

RECORD MIGRATION ACTIVITY SEEN BY HIAS THIS YEAR

NEW YORK, March 15 (JTA) — A record 27,500 Jewish refugees will require and receive migration and resettlement aid from HIAS in 1979, it was reported yesterday at the 95th annual meeting of the organization. Carl Glick, president, noted that this projected volume of activity, involving mainly Soviet Jews, will be double last year's and greater by far than in any year during the past quarter of a century.

Edwin Shapiro, a New York businessman, was elected president of HIAS at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors that followed. Glick, who served in that capacity for six years, was named honorary president.

Gaynor Jacobson, executive vice-president, told the HIAS members that to meet the chal-

lenge posed by the substantially increased movement from the Soviet Union, it will be necessary for the American Jewish community to participate far beyond its 1978 involvement in the reception and resettlement of Jewish immigrants. Some 160 organized Jewish communities are currently cooperating in the resettlement program, Jacobson reported. Close to one-half of all Jewish arrivals in this country choose to stay in the Greater New York area, where they receive necessary resettlement aid from the New York Association for New Americans.

Also at the annual meeting, the Rev. Zvi Hirsch Masliansky Award was presented to the HIAS Council of Organizations on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. The Ann S. Perluck Memorial Awards were presented to Igor Brenner of Chicago and Alexander D. Gelman of New York City.

SHCHARANSKY'S RELEASE SOUGHT

NEW YORK, March 15 (JTA) — In an attempt to secure the release of Anatoly Shcharansky and other political and Jewish activists imprisoned in the Soviet Union, John C. Sawhill, president of New York University, yesterday extended an open invitation to the Soviet government to allow Shcharansky to participate in the university commencement program in June.

"I am sending a formal letter to the Soviet government," Sawhill said, "asking for permission to have him in New York City for this event. And I call on the United States Congress and President Carter to use all available means at their disposal to support New York University in this endeavor."

Further, in an attempt to mobilize a broad base of university support to secure Shcharansky's release, Sawhill called "on university presidents throughout this country, throughout the free world, and throughout the Soviet Union to extend a similar invitation for their commencement programs."

Sawhill spoke at a press conference at the St. Regis Hotel announcing the formation of the New York Committee of Conscience. The newly formed committee serves to increase awareness of the problem of Soviet Jewish prisoners. Sawhill serves as co-chairman of the committee, along with New York Attorney General Robert Abrams.

Abrams described some of the legal briefs and other interventions that will be taken on behalf of the prisoners, such as a request for amnesty. In addition, he called on the Soviet Union to adhere to its own legal code and release those prisoners who have served more than two-thirds of their terms.

As a reaction to the conviction of Shcharansky last July, Sawhill requested that the faculty of New York University postpone any further scholastic or applied research programs with the Soviets, and called on faculties elsewhere to take similar steps until the Soviets released Shcharansky.

The press conference coincided with the second anniversary of Shcharansky's imprisonment. The conference was also held to kick off Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry, April 29, which will be dedicated this year to the 25 known Soviet Prisoners of Conscience. Solidarity Sunday will begin at the St. Regis Hotel and march to Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza opposite the United Nations.

VIENNA (JTA) — A leading official of the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions (OEGB) said this week that the American NBC-TV series "Holocaust" has convinced the majority of Austrians that horrors of a Nazi rule must not occur again. Alfred Stroer, a union secretary, made this statement during a banquet on the Austrian resistance to the invasion of the country by Nazi troops on March 13, 1938.