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Continues today the Peace Agreement between Israel and Egypt

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PROMINENT JEWISH BUSINESSMAN KILLED BY TERRORISTS IN EL SALVADOR

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA) -- Ernesto Liebes, Israel's Honorary Consul in the Central American Republic of El Salvador, was found dead today with two bullet wounds, in an abandoned car in the sparsely populated Monserrat section of the capital city, San Salvador. Liebes, 72, a prominent businessman, was kidnapped last Jan. 17 and had not been heard from since then.

The Armed Forces of National Resistance (FARN), an extreme left-wing terrorist organization, claimed credit for the kidnapping at the time. Yesterday, an anonymous telephone caller told the media in San Salvador that unless FARN's demands were met, Liebes, two British bankers and a Japanese businessman would be killed.

Five hours after that ultimatum, another telephone call directed police and the media to the spot where Liebes' body was found with a bullet wound under his chin, another in his chest and a blue sweater pulled over his head. The whereabouts of the two Britons and the Japanese who were kidnapped before Liebes was seized, are not known.

Information pieced together from queries at the State Department, the Israeli Embassy and the Embassy of El Salvador here, indicated that FARN has been responsible for several kidnappings in the past two years but the only other victim killed was a Japanese businessman who was found dead last May 17.

Liebes was a leading coffee exporter and head of a chain of hardware stores known as Goldtree, Liebes & Co. He had served as Honorary Consul of Israel since that country's founding in 1948 although Israel now has an embassy in San Salvador.

The first indications are that Liebes was not kidnapped because of his affiliation with Israel but because he was a man of considerable wealth. FARN had demanded a large ransom for his release -- \$10 million, according to one unconfirmed report. Its other demands included publication of anti-government manifestos and the release of political prisoners. Reports reaching here today said FARN considered that the families and employees of the victims had not complied with their demands.

THREE DOCUMENTS REMAIN TO BE SIGNED IN CONNECTION WITH PEACE TREATY; WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI IS THORNIEST

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that three documents remain to be completed in connection with the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty to be signed here Monday but the Department emphasized that it expected completion before then.

These documents are the military annex, which is part of the treaty itself in which the factor of the timing of Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai oil fields remains to be negotiated between Egypt and Israel; a "memorandum of agreement" between the United States and Israel dealing with the treaty itself; and a memorandum between Israel and the United States in which

the United States undertakes to guarantee Israel's oil supply for 15 years.

The "memorandum of agreement" is understood to involve the specific undertakings by the United States and Israel in the event the Israeli-Egyptian treaty is not carried out. Whether this memorandum will include a specific reference to the Palestine Liberation Organization was not confirmed by State Department spokesman Hodding Carter, who said he would not discuss the contents of that memorandum pending its completion. In the 1975 Sinai pact, the U.S. assured Israel it would not talk to the PLO until the PLO affirmed United States Security Council Resolution 242 and Israel's right to exist.

When spokesman Carter was asked several times whether this assurance would be included in the "memorandum of agreement," he declined to be specific, but he noted he had reiterated the U.S. position at his briefing yesterday on the treaty process. The matter of U.S. aid to Israel to help cover costs of Israel's Sinai withdrawal will be part of that memorandum.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, Carter said, would meet tonight at the State Department with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to work on the U.S.-Israeli memoranda. Egyptian and Israeli negotiators will meet while work on the annex. Carter said the United States would not publish the treaty "until the complete package is in hand." Dayan is due here early this evening from Israel.

(Prior to his departure from Israel, Dayan said that even if the bilateral issues between the U.S. and Israel are not finalized by Monday, the signing of the treaty need not be delayed. However, he added, any unresolved issues between Israel and Egypt, like the question of Israel's evacuation from the Sinai oil fields, must be settled before the signing takes place.)

BEGIN CONGRATULATES SADAT ON HIS PEACE MOVE AFTER KNESSET VOTES 95-18 TO APPROVE PEACE TREATY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA) -- The Knesset overwhelmingly approved the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty by a 95-18 majority, in a pre-dawn vote this morning that marked the end of the longest debate in its history. There were two abstentions and five MKs did not participate in the balloting. The debate over the treaty had lasted 28 hours, beginning Tuesday morning and ending at 4 a.m. local time today, during which 108 of the 120 members spoke from the rostrum. The transcript of the proceedings filled more than 1000 pages.

Premier Menachem Begin, weary but jubilant over the results, offered his personal congratulations to President Anwar Sadat of Egypt "for his courage to decide to make the step toward peace despite the pack of wolves around him from Damascus and Baghdad." Addressing "the great Egyptian people," Begin said: "Let us open a new page and let it be a real turning point in our lives and in the life of the Egyptian people so that we achieve the common goal."

Carter Congratulates Knesset

President Carter, in a message of congratulations from the White House this morning, said:

"The Israeli Knesset spoke with a voice heard around the world today -- a voice for peace. We

welcome this historic decision. The overwhelming vote in favor of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt affirms the deep and long-felt desire of the people of Israel for peace with their neighbors. In taking this action, Israel's democracy has lived up to its promise, providing a free and open discussion of all the issues, and then deciding in favor of peace.

"The bonds of shared values and common purpose between the United States and Israel are strong and enduring. The achievement of peace between Israel and Egypt will strengthen even more our relations with these two partners in peace, and help move toward a stable, cooperative, and peaceful future for all the peoples of the Middle East."

The Lineup Of Votes

The lopsided majority in favor of the treaty was not unexpected. The only surprise in the voting came when Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, who has long opposed the negotiations with Egypt and voted against the treaty at Monday's Cabinet meeting, raised his hand in favor of the pact. He said he did so because he believes the government understands the seriousness of the trial Israel faces and stressed the need to strengthen the defense forces "if we have to send our sons to the front once more."

Seven members of Begin's Likud Party voted against the treaty: Gvula Cohen; Yigal Cohen Orgad; Yigal Cohen; Yigael Hurwitz; Moshe Shamir; Yosef Rom; and Moshe Arens, the chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

Four negative votes were cast by members of the National Religious Party, Begin's coalition partner: Sara Stern-Katan; Haim Druckman; Eliezer Avnity; and Ben-Zion Rubin. Of the other coalition factions, only Binyamin Halevi of the Democratic Movement and Kalman Kahane of the Poale Agudat Israel voted against the treaty. All five members of the pro-Moscow Rakah Communist Party voted against the treaty: Tawfik Zayyad, Tawfik Toubi, Hanna Weiss, Charlie Biton and Meir Wilner.

Yitzhak Shamir, Speaker of the Knesset and Eitan Livni, both of Likud, abstained. The non-participants included Shoshana Arbelli-Almosino, Amos Hadar and Shlomo Hillel, all members of the Labor Party. Likud MK Rahni Milo did not attend the session because of the death of his father yesterday. Also absent was Likud MK Shmuel Rechtman, who is serving a jail sentence for bribery.

Confidence In The Future

In his closing speech, Begin renewed his long-distance exchange with Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil, who had criticized his opening remarks Tuesday that Israel would never return to its 1967 borders, never accept a Palestinian state or a divided Jerusalem. "The Premier of Egypt cannot really believe that on the eve of the signing of the (peace) agreement he can speak one-sidedly of the need to return Jerusalem and establish a Palestinian state. One cannot hurt the deepest feelings of the Jewish people and expect us to keep silent," Begin said. He urged Khalil to observe a verbal armistice.

Defense Minister Ezer Weizman who played one of the key roles in the 16 months of tortuous negotiations with Egypt, said in his closing speech that he had no doubt that the Egyptian people want peace. He expressed confidence that even if President Sadat no longer governed

Egypt, the present leadership in that country would continue in his steps. He added that the military annexes to the treaty provide Israel with the necessary elements to ensure her security.

Former Premier Yitzhak Rabin and former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon made the closing statements for the Labor opposition. Both gave their blessings to the peace treaty although they said they would have preferred territorial compromise on the West Bank based on the "Allon plan." Rabin praised Begin for his personal achievements in bringing the treaty to a successful conclusion and said the agreement would stand on its own feet. But, he observed, events during the first year after the signing would determine the prospects for a lasting peace.

LACK OF U. S. VETO IN UN ANGERS ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA) -- The lack of readiness by the United States to use its veto power on an anti-Israel proposal in the United Nations Security Council has aroused anger among Israeli government officials who contend that its timing -- on the eve of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's arrival in Washington -- was ill-timed. The proposal, which is scheduled for a vote in the Security Council late today, calls for an investigation into charges that Israel persecutes residents in the West Bank and confiscates their property.

After receiving word from the Israeli delegation to the UN that the U.S. did not intend to veto the proposal, senior Israeli officials spent the better part of this morning and last night in consultation with American officials here. Premier Menachem Begin met with American Ambassador Samuel Lewis and they spoke by telephone with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in Washington in an attempt to underscore the seriousness of the proposal and its implications for the peace process.

MERRILL HASSENFELD DEAD AT 61

PROVIDENCE, R.I., March 22 (JTA) -- Merrill L. Hassenfeld, a leading member in American Jewish organizations and one of the persons instrumental in restructuring the Jewish Agency died here yesterday of a heart attack at the age of 61. Funeral services will be held tomorrow at Temple Emanu-El, of which he was a Board member and member of the executive committee.

Hassenfeld, a native of Providence, was an honorary chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and a life trustee of the UJA. He was a director of the Committee for the Economic Growth of Israel and served on the executive committee of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. He was a former president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and was a member of the Rhode Island Area Committee of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. He was one of the founders of the Jewish Community Center.

In addition, Hassenfeld was a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Jewish Federations, a founder of Brandeis University and a Fellow of the university since 1963; a supporter of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and a member of the Board of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency since 1970. In his business activities, he was vice chairman and chief executive officer of the Pawtucket (R.I.) based Hasbro Industries, Inc.

Mervin S. Holland, president of the Federation, said: "I was shocked to learn of the sudden passing of Mr. Hassenfeld. Merrill was a close personal friend and was not only generous as a contributor to charitable causes but was always available with advice and guidance."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

THE PLIGHT OF JACOB TIMERMAN

By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA) -- Jacob Timerman, the renowned Jewish editor and publisher of the Argentine liberal daily "La Opinion," who has been held in official detention for the past 22 months without formal charges, is in improved health, in strong spirits, and in possession of a stronger belief in democracy than ever before.

This picture emerged from exclusive interviews conducted by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency this week with Timerman's son, Hector, now living in Israel, and with Rabbi Marshall Meyer, rector of the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires, and one of the three men permitted to visit Timerman during his year of house arrest.

"My father is and always will be a fighter," said the younger Timerman, who speaks with him weekly by telephone. "His ideas always come first, and only then his family and himself. This is what has made him strong."

"The past two years have made him more of a Jew, more of a man, and has strengthened his convictions in the necessity of a pluralistic democracy," Meyer told the JTA during a recent visit to Israel. "While the pressures of time and the fact that his family is now in Israel (since the end of last year) cause him great pain and anxiety," the 56-year-old publisher feels that the worst of his ordeal is over and prays daily for his release and imminent immigration to Israel, Meyer said.

Arrest Prompted By Article

Prayers, however, have until now been insufficient to secure his release, as have pleas made on his behalf by President Carter, the Vatican, Alexander Solzhenitzyn, and other noted public figures. First taken into custody on April 15, 1977, by 20 men wearing civilian clothing but bearing machineguns, "on suspicion of inculcating leftist ideologies through his news paper," Timerman was transferred from one prison to another for a year, disappearing from sight altogether two or three times.

Timerman's son contends the original arrest was made on the basis of an article printed by the publisher in the beginning of 1977, in which he accused the chief of the armed forces in the province of Buenos Aires, Gen. Carlos Suarez Mason, and the military governor of Buenos Aires Province, Gen. Iberico Saint Jean, of being anti-Semites and right-wingers.

In the article, the publisher called on Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla to release the two from their duties in the armed forces. The younger Timerman observed that Suarez Mason was directly responsible for his father's arrest and that Saint Jean, Suarez Mason's superior, is "the most dangerous man in Argentina."

'Viciously And Violently Tortured'

During his imprisonment, Timerman was "viciously and violently tortured," to a greater degree in the provincial prisons than in the municipal ones, Hector Timerman said. In the provinces, torture centered on his Jewish background and avowed Zionism. He was grilled as to Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's supposed "take-over" of Argentina; Carter's reputed subordination to American Jewry; and the proposed location and timing of the next meeting of the

"Argentine Elders of Zion." The younger Timerman noted that "they firmly believed my father was the ambassador of the Elders of Zion in Argentina."

In October, 1977, the military tribunal declared that they had no charges with which to hold Timerman, and in July of the following year, the Supreme Court decided that his original arrest in April 1977 was illegal, the first time it has done so in Argentine history.

In the meantime, in April 1978, Timerman was transferred from prison to his home and kept under house arrest, a movement his son attributes to two former members of the military junta, Admiral Emilio Massera and Brig. Osti, "in order to save face in the eyes of the world." Presently, almost one year later, Timerman still remains in detention.

Stripped Of Civil Rights

Stripped of his civil rights, Timerman is allowed to meet only with his brother, Meyer and a general practitioner, write letters (except to his family) and is forced to endure the overbearing presence of eight policemen guarding him throughout the day.

The publisher spends most of his time reading, thinking and listening to music. Blind in one eye from birth, with failing eyesight in his other eye, he has been allowed to see an ophthalmologist only once in two years. His paper is now run by the military and its circulation has dropped by about 75 percent.

The government's failure to release Timerman for the wedding of one of his three sons in Israel early last January, has increased public suspicion that right-wing elements are preventing Videla from taking action on his own. Noting that Timerman will be released "in due time," Videla has largely proved unresponsive to the protests and pleas for Timerman's release that have been brought to his attention.

Fears Rise Of Anti-Semitism

The Timerman case has in general intensified suspicions and fears that anti-Semitism is on the ascent in Argentina. "There is an insidious type of anti-Semitism that goes unharmed in the lower echelons of the army," Meyer said. "I am not worried about an official program of anti-Semitism, which does not exist. What concerns me is the lack of force of people in the higher echelons to stop anti-Semitic activities in the lower."

Representatives of the 350,000-member Jewish community in Argentina, South America's largest, have meanwhile been told by government officials to keep quiet about the case so as to secure his release, according to Meyer.

Timerman's son contends that the lack of reaction on the part of Argentine Jewry constitutes one of the biggest disappointments for his father, and that even today "he is more afraid for the Jews in Argentina than for himself." While lauding activities on his behalf on the part of the American Jewish Committee, the American and Israeli governments and others, "he is very bitter about the fact that Argentine Jewry has done nothing. In his eyes, the only solution for the Jews is democracy. He has worked all his life for Argentine Jewry, and he feels now they have failed him."

Hector Timerman stressed several times during the interview that neither as a journalist nor as a businessman nor as a Jew was his father guilty of any wrongdoing.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

PEACE AND ISRAEL'S SOCIAL PROBLEMS

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA) — Mayor Shlomo Lahat of Tel Aviv stressed that the Middle East peace which he believes will be realized soon will increase the urgency for Israel to solve its social problems. "The social problems will come up very quickly and we will have to deal with them," he said in an interview yesterday with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Lahat is in New York to promote Project Renewal, the \$1.2 billion program to improve the lives of some 45,000 Israeli families in slum neighborhoods throughout the country and will visit several other U.S. cities before returning to Israel April 6. The New York Jewish community, through the United Jewish Appeal-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies Joint Campaign, has adopted Hatikvah, the slum inhabited by 20,000 persons in the southeastern part of Tel Aviv.

Hatikvah, which means "hope," is one of Israel's worst slums, with poor housing conditions, a high crime rate, many drug users and other problems, Lahat pointed out. He said the residents of the area, mostly immigrants and children of immigrants from Arab countries, are "bitter" especially against the establishment which they believe has neglected them. "These people must be integrated into Israeli society," he said.

Hatikvah And South Bronx Compared

The 51-year-old Tel Aviv Mayor, who is very enthusiastic about the prospects for Project Renewal, has also been studying American urban renewal problems while in New York City. After a breakfast Tuesday at Gracie Mansion with Mayor Edward Koch, Lahat toured the South Bronx and then Jewish institutions undergoing revival on Manhattan's Lower East Side. His guide was Richard Ravitch, a prominent builder and president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

Lahat said he found the South Bronx a "devastated area," more like the empty areas between Tel Aviv and Jaffa which were destroyed by the fighting in the Israeli War of Independence than Hatikvah. He said the South Bronx was a place with no people.

In Hatikvah, he said, the imperative aim was to improve the conditions of the people not just buildings. He said he did not want new buildings with the 20,000 people gone from the area. He hoped that when Project Renewal was completed in 10-12 years it would still have 15,000-17,000 of the original residents living no longer in isolation but integrated into Israeli society.

Lahat said he was most impressed in the South Bronx with the "sweat-equity" program where young people learn the various construction trades as they repair their own neighborhood buildings. He plans to send a representative from Tel Aviv to study this program for use in his city.

Lahat said he believes Israel has a lot to learn from U.S. urban renewal programs, accomplishments as well as mistakes. It also needs to learn improved construction methods. "We don't build fast enough," he said. "We don't build good enough." Ravitch heads a planning committee which, under the auspices of the Federation, is providing experts in social service and housing construction for Project Renewal in Hatikvah.

Role Of U.S. Jews

The Tel Aviv Mayor expressed the fear that just as the realization of peace will put the spotlight on Israel's social problems, American Jews will now feel it is no longer urgent to help Israel. But he said diaspora Jewry has a responsibility for Israel.

"Israel is not a State of Israelis, it is a State of Jews," he declared. "We are a country of 3 1/2 million citizens and 14 million taxpayers." He said Jews in the U.S. and elsewhere must take a share in solving Israel's social problems. The Israeli government will provide half of the cost of Project Renewal and world Jewry the other 50 percent.

Lahat pointed out that Project Renewal is actually a return to the central theme of the Zionist movement, the creation of a "better society." He said what Israel can teach the U.S. on urban renewal is the "guilt" Israelis have that the conditions of a major segment of the society has not been improved and they have not been integrated fully into Israeli society.

A Plug For Tel Aviv

Lahat, a retired Major General, has been Mayor of Tel Aviv since February 1974. Last year, when for the first time Israeli voters elected a Mayor directly, he was elected with a higher percent of the vote than the rest of his Likud ticket, a fact that impressed Koch who has announced he plans to seek two more terms as Mayor.

Born in Germany and brought to Israel at the age of six, Lahat, who earned a law degree during his years of army service, is considered an effective spokesman for Tel Aviv where he has lived since 1958. "Tel Aviv is the heart of the country," he exclaimed. While tourists and some Israelis denigrate the city, as many Americans do New York City, Lahat stressed that Tel Aviv is the cultural and economic center of Israel. He noted that while Jerusalem is a product of many cultures, "Tel Aviv is a creation of the Zionist movement."

ROBERT SHOSTECK DEAD AT 69

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA) — Funeral services were held Tuesday in Church Falls, Va. for Robert Shosteck who died last Sunday at the age of 69. At the time of his death he was beginning a career as a television personality after working as a forest ranger, naturalist, historian, professor, vocational guidance expert, museum director and author. Prior to his heart attack he was working on a book about the unusual careers of 75 people.

Shosteck, a native of Trenton, N.J., who resided in Bethesda, Md., spent most of his adult life with B'nai B'rith International in Washington. He joined the Jewish service organization in 1941 as director of research of its vocational service bureau and 26 years later became curator of the B'nai B'rith Klutznick Exhibit Halls (now museum). He retired in 1975.

Before joining B'nai B'rith, he had been a forest ranger in the State of Washington and during World War II was a research specialist at the national roster of specialized and scientific personnel office of the War Manpower Commission. From B'nai B'rith, he went to the National Park Service and the Maryland National Parks and Planning Commission as a consultant and guide on nature trails and historical sites in the metropolitan area. He was also a lecturer at area colleges. He was a founder and past president of the Washington Jewish Historical Society.