

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. XLVI 62nd Year

Monday, April 2, 1979

No. 64

CABINET RATIFIES PEACE TREATY KNESSET DUE TO RATIFY THE PACT

By Gil Sedan, Yitzhak Shargit, Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, April 1 (JTA) — The Cabinet formally ratified the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty today and approved Premier Menachem Begin's two-day visit to Cairo beginning tomorrow. The weekly session ended on a festive note with the ministers toasting Israel, the Jewish people and peace. The treaty now goes to the Knesset for ratification, another formal procedure that will be duplicated by the Egyptian Parliament after which the pact will be in effect.

Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor announced the ratification. No ministers were opposed but it is not known if any abstained. Each minister was presented with a photocopy of the historic document as a memento of the occasion.

Naor confirmed that Eliahu Ben-Elissar, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, arrived in Cairo today to make the final arrangements for Begin's visit. He said Ben-Elissar confirmed that there was no substance to reports last night that the Egyptians would have preferred Begin to postpone his trip because of the deteriorating relations between Egypt and its fellow members of the Arab League who adamantly oppose the treaty with Israel.

Naor said Ben-Elissar informed him that the Egyptians want the visit to take place as scheduled and are cooperating fully with Israelis in preparing the ceremonial reception for Begin and his entourage tomorrow. He said that Israeli flags will be flying all over Cairo.

The Cabinet also heard reports from Begin on his last meetings with President Carter and President Anwar Sadat before leaving Washington and on the U.S.-Israeli memorandum of understanding signed last week in Washington by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich also briefed the ministers on various aspects of the treaty and its aftermath. The Cabinet decided to establish a special committee to supervise implementation of the treaty. It will be headed by Ben-Elissar and include representatives of all of the ministries.

Meanwhile, Ben-Elissar arrived in Cairo this morning, preceded by a press plane carrying some 150 journalists who will cover Begin's visit. Both flights were delayed by a wildcat strike of Ben Gurion Airport workers that stranded thousands of passengers. (See separate story.)

Begin's Tentative Schedule In Egypt

According to the present schedule, which is subject to change, Begin will be welcomed at Cairo West International Airport at 11:30 a.m. local time tomorrow. An Egyptian military band will play Israel's national anthem, Hatikva, for the first time. The Premier's motorcade will drive through Cairo for lunch at the Tahrir Palace Hotel.

During the afternoon, Begin and his party are expected to visit the Egyptian Museum, attend prayers at a local synagogue and then take an excursion to the pyramids at Giza outside Cairo. Begin will attend a dinner hosted by Sadat at the Abadin Palace tomorrow night. The Egyptians

have been careful not to bill it as a state dinner.

The first visit to Cairo by an Israeli Premier has been relegated to the back pages of Egyptian newspapers and local radio stations referring to it quoted Israeli sources. Contrary to previous expectations, Begin has not been invited to address the Egyptian Peoples Assembly (Parliament) even though Sadat addressed the Knesset when he visited Jerusalem in November, 1977. Begin will meet with Sadat for political talks and may hold a press conference before flying back to Jerusalem Tuesday afternoon.

No Cabinet members will accompany Begin on his trip. But he has invited about 50 guests, including American Jewish leaders, representatives of Israel's armed forces and of the pre-statehood underground fighters — Hagannah, Irgun and the Stern group; also representatives of Jewish immigrants from Egypt, parents of fallen Israeli soldiers, former Foreign Minister Abba Eban and his wife, Suzy, who was born in Egypt, and Jewish community leaders of Middle Eastern origin, headed by Nissim Gaon, leader of the World Sephardi Federation.

A Real Peace Treaty

Begin, discussing his relations with Sadat, told reporters yesterday, "We made progress not only by signing the peace treaty but in the personal relations between us as well." Meanwhile, Weizman, who returned from the U.S. last Friday, stressed that the treaty signed March 26 in Washington is a real peace treaty. "It is not a cease-fire agreement nor an interim agreement nor a separation of forces agreement. It is a peace treaty, and for what, we, the people of my generation have fought 30 years. This is peace. This is a new era and we shall have to get used to it," Weizman said.

Ehrlich, who returned with Weizman, said the matter of economic cooperation between Israel and Egypt would be taken up only after the two countries exchange ambassadors 10 months hence.

TEAMS TO STUDY RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 1 (JTA) — The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism has set up a committee which will study the bilateral economic relations expected between Israel and Egypt. The committee appointed five working teams to study various aspects of the future economic relations between the two countries, and other aspects of peace.

Sinai: One team will work out regulations for compensation for those enterprises leaving Sinai, as well as alternative solutions for those projects.

Autonomy: Another team will study the possible effects of the autonomy on the Israeli economy and will list a series of Israeli claims on such issues as imports and exports, as well as customs.

Negev: A team will study the potential for industrial and tourist development of the Negev. Specific plans call for turning Beersheba into a tourist center.

Egypt: One of the teams will study the possible economic ties with Egypt. Among the issues to be studied are customs, border crossings, tourism and mutual plans regarding industry.

Gideon Patt, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, has already received a large number of applications from businessmen, especially in tourism, who are asking for permission to go to Egypt and initiate business ties with Egyptian entrepreneurs.

Koor, the giant Histadrut industrial concern, has already prepared a comprehensive study of the Egyptian economy. One of the surprising findings of the study was that there are only a limited number of products which may be of interest to Egyptian businessmen. Patti expressed concern recently that Israeli businessmen may feel that the Egyptian market is less demanding than other markets, and therefore, may lower the quality of their products.

JNF MEETS CHALLENGES OF PEACE ERA

JERUSALEM, April 1 (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund is planning an unprecedented work plan for this year to meet the challenge of peace, according to Moshe Rivlin, chairman of the JNF board of Directors. Most of the work planned for this year will be done in the Negev and in the Galilee.

The JNF is now getting ready for land reclamation and the construction of infrastructure for 20 settlements in the so-called "southern project" which will replace the settlements in the Kathaf salient. This work will be done in addition to the work already planned in the Arava, on the eastern border of the Negev.

The JNF will spend some \$100 million next fiscal year in an unprecedented range of activities. The budget is usually \$20-25 million. In the Galilee, the JNF is now engaged in building 28 lookout posts, in addition to work in new and old settlements. Millions of trees are being planted.

Rivlin called on JNF activists throughout the world to do their utmost to help the organization face the "tremendous challenge of making the desert bloom and reclaim the Galilee."

NORWAY STUDYING OIL SALE TO ISRAEL

COPENHAGEN, April 1 (JTA) -- Norwegian Foreign Minister Kaut Frydenlund has announced that his country is "seriously studying" Israel's request for Norway to sell it oil and will give a reply next month. Frydenlund, who is attending the Scandinavian Foreign Ministers' meeting in Copenhagen, said Norway's decision will be given to Vice President Walter Mondale who is due to visit Oslo later this month.

Israeli Premier Menachem Begin had asked Norway to supply Israel with some of its North Sea oil during his December visit to Oslo for the Nobel Peace Prize. Several influential public opinion sectors, including the Norwegian Labor Party and the daily "Arbeiderbladet," have called on the government to conclude an agreement with Israel and not give in to Arab threats.

FIRST ISRAELI-FLAG VESSEL THROUGH SUEZ CANAL DUE AROUND APRIL 10

TEL AVIV, April 1 (JTA) -- The container ship Ashdod, owned by the Zim Lines of Haifa, may be the first Israel-flag vessel to pass through the Suez Canal, it was learned today. The Zim Lines have applied to the Canal Authority for permission and are hopeful it will be granted by the time the ship reaches the southern entrance to the Canal on or about April 10. The Ashdod is presently loading cargo at Durban, South Africa. Her normal voyage plan to return to Israel via the Cape of Good Hope was tentatively amended by the Zim management after the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty was signed on March 26.

AIRPORT PARALYZED BY STRIKE

TEL AVIV, April 1 (JTA) -- A strike by

ground personnel paralyzed Ben Gurion Airport for four hours this morning, stranding more than a thousand passengers and delaying the departure of the Israeli advance party and press planes for Cairo where Premier Menachem Begin will fly tomorrow. The wildcat strike was called to protest a court order enjoining the workers committee not to call a strike in support of wage demands. Special permission was finally granted for the official planes to take off for Cairo. But 17 commercial aircraft due to depart this morning were grounded while hectic negotiations were conducted with the strikers.

When the strike was finally called off this afternoon, the flights took off in rapid succession leaving behind the luggage of many passengers. The latter were promised that their baggage would be forwarded on later flights. The Ben Gurion Airport shutdown was one of several labor disputes that have idled postal workers, telephone technicians and communications engineers in the past few days.

ISRAEL WINS EUROVISION SONG CONTEST

JERUSALEM, April 1 (JTA) -- As millions of television viewers from Iceland to Hong Kong watched last night, Israel won for the second consecutive year the Eurovision song contest. The winning song was "Hallelujah," sung by 26-year-old Gali Atari, who was accompanied by the Milk and Honey group.

The Israeli song, with 125 points, beat out the Spanish entry with 111 points and the French which received 106. This means that Israel has the right to host next year's Eurovision contest. However, it is not clear whether Israel will do so since this year's contest cost Israel Television about \$1 million, a heavy drain on the station's tight budget.

At a press conference at which all the participating groups from 19 countries danced together to the winning song, Atari called the program "Peace Eurovision." "Hallelujah" has been translated into Arabic and it is hoped that a children's choir will sing it when Israeli Premier Menachem Begin arrives in Cairo tomorrow.

Security at the Binyanei Haoma, where the contest was held, was very tight. Parking was not allowed at the building's parking lot and the audience had to walk a long distance from the lots that were used. The Eurovision award has presented by Yitzhak Livni, who at midnight last night, completed his five-year term as director general of the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

BERNSTEIN TO RETIRE AS CJF EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

NEW YORK, April 1 (JTA) -- Philip Bernstein, executive vice president of the Council of Jewish Federations, who has been associated with the CJF for the past 36 years, has announced he will retire Sept. 1. Joining the CJF staff in 1943 as director of field service, he became associate director in 1947 and chief executive in 1955.

Morton Mandel, CJF president, said the CJF had taken "many innovative steps" during Bernstein's tenure, adding that during the years he served as executive vice president, "he has overseen the great increase in services offered by the Council reflecting the more complex and involved Federation agendas." He praised Bernstein for "expert guidance and leadership" and said the CJF had "developed remarkably during that period."

Mandel said the CJF board has announced plans to establish a Philip Bernstein Training Center for Federation Personnel to recruit, train and place professional personnel to serve the Federation field. He said it will include career-long training opportunities for Federation professionals to improve.

their professional skills, Jewish knowledge and commitment, and managerial capacity.

As executive vice president, Bernstein has seen the CJF play a more active role in the work of the reconstituted Jewish Agency; establish the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council; and create the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, undertake an extensive evaluation of its work, and chart its future through a two-year review currently under consideration by the 190-member Federations for adoption.

Bernstein's professional leadership has been marked in his recent election as chairman of the Coalition of National Voluntary Organizations, membership on the advisory committee on public welfare to the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and leadership of the National Assembly of Voluntary Health and Social Welfare Organizations.

CONGRESS FOCUSES ON PEACE TREATY

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 1 (JTA) -- The focus of U.S. attention on the Middle East has shifted to Congress as America's costs and other involvement in the Israeli-Egyptian treaty became subjects of scrutiny and questioning. In both the House and Senate expressions of dismay arose over the hostility of Jordan and Syria over the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance seeking Congressional approval of the Administration's continued support for them, ran into trouble last Thursday.

The House, authorizing a security assistance program, kept the Administration's requested allocations for Jordan but warned that funds authorized for Jordan can be used "only if" President Carter "determines and certifies to the Congress that Jordan is acting in good faith to achieve further progress towards a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East and that the expenditure of such funds will serve the process of the peace in the Middle East."

The House sent a bill to the Senate that provides for Israel to have \$1 billion in military assistance and Jordan to get \$121.3 million made up of \$90 million in military sales credits, \$30 million in grant aid, and \$1.3 million in training funds.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee, acting on economic aid for the coming fiscal year, chopped funding for both Syria and Jordan. It reduced the requested \$60 million for Syria to \$45 million and allowed \$5.5 million in food for peace. The House deleted \$15 million for Syria's Akkar irrigation project. On the Administration-requested \$60 million in economic aid for Jordan, the House eliminated the Maqarin Dam fund because of Jordan's slowness on the project and set aside the projected allocation of \$38 million for it.

Concern Over Cost Of Peace

Rep. Clarence Long (D-Md.), the chairman of the House appropriations subcommittee, said that "the gut feeling" of Congressmen is "why should peace cost more than war" and why is the military cost increased "because there is peace?" Vance replied that "in the long run we will save money. In the short run, we have to pay for the long run goals."

Referring to the deepened U.S. involvement in Middle East security, Long said that he "wished we had a clear indication if we are going to send troops to the Middle East. Parents are not terribly reassured you will follow con-

stitutional processes." Vance replied, "We certainly have no intention of sending troops to the Middle East."

Apprehension over the Egyptian-Israeli treaty has been voiced by Sen. Jesse Helms (R.NC) in a Senate speech and again by Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.). "As a Senator who opposed the arms sales package to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel" a year ago, Proxmire said, "I feel compelled to oppose any new round of weapons accumulation in the Middle East -- even if tied to and justified by the peace treaty."

Saying that "impressive as the treaty is," major questions involving Syria and the rest of the Arab world are "already eroding the stability of the agreement," Helms added.

"The treaty may not be a step toward comprehensive agreement at all; it may be a step that makes comprehensive agreement unlikely. We may well have sacrificed whatever leverage we had on both the Arab states and Israel to reach such a comprehensive agreement," he declared.

Helms, a leader of the far right in the Senate, listed 12 "hard questions" for Congress, including the "direct and indirect costs" to the U.S. in aid to Egypt and Israel; the roles of the Soviet Union, Iran and Turkey against Israel; and whether the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will be "tempted to draw the oil noose tightly around the U.S. and, more importantly, Europe."

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

MONTREAL, April 1 (JTA) -- Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs Donald Jamieson has assured the Canadian Jewish Congress that the government would bring the concerns of "many thousands of Canadians about the statute of limitations to the attention of the German government at the earliest suitable occasion." Jamieson spoke in response to a letter from Rabbi Gunther Plaut, president of the CJC, urging Canada to join with the 21 member states of the Council of Europe in calling on West Germany not to permit the statute of limitations on war crimes prosecution to go into effect Jan. 1, 1980. The Bundestag (West German Parliament) is now debating this issue.

(Meanwhile, the Harvard Jewish Law Students Association announced that a petition containing the names of about 200 deans and faculty members of leading American law schools was delivered last Thursday to the West German consulates in Boston and New York urging repeal of the statute.)

(One of the signatories, Prof. Alan M. Dershowitz of Harvard Law School, said the petition "indicates that the broadly-based consensus of the American legal community supports the extension or repeal of the statute of limitations. Few civilized countries have a statute of limitations even for simple murder. For Germany to, in effect, create a statute of limitations for genocidal murder violates commonly accepted principles of justice.")

(In New York, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, and Jacques Torczyner, a member of the Executive of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, predicted that "the extension of the statute of limitations for capital crimes will be adopted by the Bundestag by a slim majority." Both men recently returned from a 10-day fact-finding visit to West Germany where they had meetings with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and with leaders of the Bundestag, the various political parties and leaders of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish communities.)

SPECIAL INTERVIEW SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH ALIYA

By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, April 1 (JTA) -- "We want to see Jews abroad as partners in youth aliya, not only in terms of money, but as involved individuals in its day-to-day problems." This observation was made by Yoseph Shapiro, head of the youth aliya department of the Jewish Agency to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in Jerusalem following his recent three-week trip to the United States and Canada.

The objective of Shapiro's mission to North America was two-fold: to strengthen ties with organizations abroad that are connected with youth aliya in Israel, generally the women's organizations such as Hadassah, Hadassah-WIZO, Mizrahi Women, Pioneer Women; and to clarify the objectives of a new educational program for diaspora high school students in Israel.

Shapiro contended that there is a great need to increase the awareness among diaspora Jews about youth aliya, and through it, to increase the awareness about Zionism and Judaism in general. He foresees youth aliya as becoming more of "a movement with which people can identify rather than just a department within the Jewish Agency." Youth aliya presently includes 170 youth villages or institutions connected with the department, and some 90 kibbutzim and 120 educational institutions which house children on youth aliya programs.

Through youth aliya, we can bring the Zionist message to sectors of the population that are not connected with Zionism," added Benjamin Amiram, director of the department for foreign programs of youth aliya, who accompanied Shapiro on his trip to North America. Both envision diaspora Jewry's involvement with the organization as being of a financial nature and as initiating projects within Israel.

Supporting Youth Aliya On Two Levels

In light of the Jewish Agency's recent decision to increase the organization's budget from \$42 million to \$59 million for the coming fiscal year, Shapiro said he hopes that organizations abroad will increase their financial aid in the same percentage. He noted that he found a great readiness among supporters of youth aliya to both intensify their financial and active involvement with the organization.

During his travels to Los Angeles, New York, Toronto, Montreal, Chicago and Washington, Shapiro spoke with leaders of the United Jewish Appeal, proposing to them that they also increase their involvement with youth aliya by adopting a different youth village in Israel and maintaining a direct link with it.

However, the most revolutionary idea proposed by Shapiro is the establishment of high school educational programs in Israel for teenagers from abroad. He sees this idea as "an educational quarter for the diaspora," noting that because of youth aliya's many existing educational institutions, little financial investment would be needed at the onset to integrate children from abroad into existing educational programs.

During his trip to North America, Shapiro also spoke with leaders of the different Jewish Federations, boards of Jewish education and with Jews involved in the public school system. The general reaction to such a plan was overwhelmingly favorable, he said. The youth aliya

department has already received accreditation for many of its planned one-year programs, which would take place in accordance with the curriculum of the country of origin, and two 10th grade classes are already being planned for the coming school year.

One is for religious students in Kfar Batya, and the other is for secular students in Kfar Hayarak, Shapiro said. While the participation in such programs would mostly be financed by the parents of the students and world Jewry, Shapiro added that the Ministry of Education is also willing to lend its assistance, even if the children do not come as new immigrants.

Absorption Of Children From Iran

Shapiro said that one of the biggest challenges of the last few months has been the absorption of some 650 children from Iran. Noting that there have been attempts from North America to attract the children to that continent, he says that he has invested special efforts at convincing the religious organizations in particular that quality religious education does exist in Israel. He met with representatives of Agudat Israel and its Council of Torah Sages to that effect. In addition, he has appointed the assistant head rabbi of the Israel Defense Forces, Ephraim Isemel, to the post of special assistant on issues of religion within youth aliya.

Some 50 percent of the Iranian children have been integrated into religious institutions, while the other half has been integrated into secular institutions, Shapiro added that there were no special problems in absorbing the children, noting that their general knowledge was well above that of the average Israeli, a factor which considerably aided in their integration.

LONDON (JTA) -- The wife of a Manchester Jewish businessman Sunday denied a report that her husband, Davoud Alliance, was sheltering Shapour Bakhtiar, the former Iranian Prime Minister, who disappeared after the Islamic revolution in Teheran. She told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the report on Teheran Radio, that Bakhtiar was staying at their home, in Cheshire, Cheshire seemed to be an April Fool's Day hoax. Alliance is chairman of the Vantona Textile Corporation and a generous supporter of the Joint Israel Appeal.

COPENHAGEN (JTA) -- Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal said here that the whereabouts of Josef Mengele is well-known but "we have refrained from taking action so as not to risk the safety of the Jews of Paraguay." Wiesenthal, who was here on a lecture tour, said he received letters from Paraguay Jews warning they would be exposed to revenge and retaliation should anything happen to Mengele who is reported to be residing in that country.

BONN (JTA) -- The prosecutor in the trial of three former members of the SS has asked for prison terms for the three defendants. They have been charged with participating in the murder of 7000 Jewish men, women and children in 1942 near Minsk. The trial in Bochum began last autumn.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A call to Egyptians and other Arabs to cooperate with Israel in evolving regional health plans and projects has been issued by Prof. Kalman Mann, director-general of the Hadassah Medical Organization, on the Arabic-language station of Israel Radio. "The bridge of health is an ideal one to enable people to cross from war to peace," Mann said.