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EGYPT AND ISRAEL TO DECLARE OPEN BORDERS NEXT MONTH; BEGIN AND SADAT TO MEET IN EL ARISH AND BOTH WILL AFTERWARDS FLY TO BEERSHEBA

CAIRO, April 3 (JTA) -- Israel and Egypt will exchange instruments of ratification early next week to put their peace treaty into effect in accordance with international law. Next month, they will declare their borders open and begin the further process of implementation, Premier Menachem Begin announced here today.

Begin addressed the news media after a meeting with President Anwar Sadat at the Kubbeh Palace where the two leaders agreed on the timetables for ratification and implementation. Begin embarked on his return flight to Israel this afternoon, ending a 28-hour stay in the Egyptian capital that he described as "most successful." (See separate story.)

The Premier, with Sadat at his side, told reporters that El Arish, the administrative capital of Sinai, will be returned to Egyptian sovereignty on May 26 and that he and Sadat would meet there on the following day. "I was invited by Sadat to visit him at El Arish on May 27 and from there we shall go by helicopter to Beersheba and then back to El Arish," Begin said. "We shall declare there the open borders and set a free flying course for Israeli and Egyptian airlines. Open air routes and open borders."

Sadat noted that he and Begin have agreed to maintain direct personal contact. "It is time for that," he said, adding that he was "more than satisfied" with the results of his talks with the Israeli leader.

Ghali Coming To Israel; Dayan Going To Egypt

The ratification process will be completed promptly, Begin said that next Sunday or Monday, Egypt's Acting Foreign Minister Boutros Ghali, will fly to Israel with a copy of the peace treaty ratified by Egypt. At about the same time, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will bring the Israeli-ratified copy to Cairo. About a month later, the joint Israeli-Egyptian political and military committees will begin to function. They will meet alternately at El Arish and Beersheba under the rotating chairmanship of the Israeli and Egyptian foreign and defense ministers.

"You see, we have achieved great progress in our meeting today with Sadat," Begin told the news media. "We have decided to give the nations an example that even after many years of hatred it is possible to shift to friendly relations, to good neighborly relations," he said. Sadat said that he and Begin wanted to telephone President Carter this morning to inform him of their agreement but the hour was too early by American time, so they decided to call him later.

Begin lunched at Tahara Palace before leaving for Israel. Cairo Airport presented a festive scene, much the same as when Begin arrived there yesterday. But the atmosphere was far more relaxed and there was less protocol and more human warmth evident at the farewell ceremonies.

Social Highlight Of Visit

The social highlight of Begin's visit was a gala dinner in his honor, hosted by Sadat at the Presidential Palace last night. Both leaders were

in a cheerful mood and carefully avoided controversial issues. Sadat called for "good neighborliness" and repeatedly declared, "No war again." Begin noted that Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in November, 1977 was "the turning point in the history of the Middle East" and he, too, repeated the slogan, "No more war." He pledged full cooperation between Israel and Egypt as an example to other nations of the "blessings of peace."

Begin said, "In my opinion, Egypt and Israel never had conflicting interests.... We have and can develop a community of interests.... The Middle East, the cradle of civilization, can be made a shining modern example of peaceful development," he said.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA SOME 50% OF JEWS IN HARRISBURG AREA LEFT HOMES SINCE ACCIDENT AT NUCLEAR PLANT SITE

By William Saphire

NEW YORK, April 3 (JTA) -- By a "wild guess," at least 50 percent of the 5000 Jews living in the Greater Harrisburg area left their homes since last Wednesday when an accident at the Three Miles Island nuclear power plant 12 miles away, spewed radioactive gases into the atmosphere.

According to Albert Hursh, executive director of the United Jewish Community of Greater Harrisburg, it is not possible to say precisely how many Jews fled. But "we feel an awful lot of them left," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today, in what has been a general exodus from the Pennsylvania state capital.

Hursh said the area's five synagogues and the parochial school in Harrisburg have been closed since last Wednesday. All community events were cancelled, including a United Jewish Appeal dinner that was to have been held last night. Hursh said that while he remained at the Jewish Community offices, only one other executive and 3-4 of the 25 full-time and part-time employees showed up for work since the accident.

The Jewish school is to be reopened tomorrow as are Harrisburg public schools. But Hursh could not say how many students or teachers will be on hand. "The crisis is not over. We could be evacuated at any time," he said. He said plans now call for evacuating the 60 residents of the Jewish old aged home in Harrisburg tomorrow.

Although officials at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said today that the danger of an explosion and melt-down at the crippled plant is over, Hursh was not aware that any Jewish families have returned as of today. He said he would not venture to guess the extent of the economic losses suffered by Jewish businesses in the Harrisburg area but noted that business generally, especially in the retail field, suffered badly. He said community plans to render assistance to Jews, if necessary, will have to wait until the situation is more clear.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES TAMPERING WITH THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, April 3 (JTA) -- Jewish organizations are lining up in opposition to a proposed constitutional amendment eliminating the electoral college because they fear it would diminish the influence of Jews and other minorities on national

politics. This danger is also being cited by Black groups, many of which are also going on record as opposing the amendment providing for the direct election of the President and Vice President.

Most major Jewish organizations have taken an official stand against the legislation, an opposition that is expected to become more vocal once the amendment reaches the floor of the House and Senate. No Jewish organization is reportedly officially in favor of the amendment although at least one group that originally supported it now has decided to take no position at all.

The Black community is reportedly more divided, although the Black Leadership Forum, a coalition of 16 organizations, including the Urban League and the NAACP, voted Feb. 12 to retain the electoral system. Other ethnic minority groups in the United States may also join the opposition.

The Black-Jewish opposition to the amendment was demonstrated today when Howard Squadron, president of the American Jewish Congress and Vernon Jordan, president of the Urban League, testified against the bill at a hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on the Constitution headed by Birch Bayh (D. Ind.), who introduced the amendment.

Nature Of Bayh's Proposal

Bayh's bill provides that the candidate for President and his Vice Presidential running mate receiving the most votes across the country would be elected, eliminating the electoral college and their weighted influence. If no candidate receives more than 40 percent of the vote, a runoff between the top two states would decide the election. The amendment has to receive approval of two-thirds of both Houses of Congress and then must be ratified by 33 of the 50 states.

The new system would not go into effect until two years after final ratification, according to the Bayh proposal. This means that it could not be in operation before the 1984 elections, although it could take even longer.

Bayh originally proposed his amendment in 1970 at a time when there was some fear, because of the popularity demonstrated by Alabama Governor George Wallace in the 1968 campaign, that a third party could get enough votes in the electoral college to throw the election to the House of Representatives, something that happened only once in American history. Another fear is that there would be enough electors who might not vote for the candidate who received the highest margin in their state to force a House vote, something that has not been done by more than 10 persons. Also expressed is the fear that a candidate could win the popular vote and lose in the electoral college, which happened only once, in 1888.

In 1970 the Bayh Amendment breezed through the House but was bogged down in the Senate by a filibuster. However, this time President Carter has taken a stand in favor of the amendment.

Carter was elected in 1976 with 297 electoral votes to Ford's 244, the smallest margin since Woodrow Wilson in 1912. A switch of less than 10,000 votes in a state such as Ohio could have given the Presidency to Ford. At the same time, Carter's popular vote margin was also small. He received 49.9 percent of the vote compared to 47.9 percent by Ford.

While the proposed amendment appears to provide for a more democratic election, Jewish groups point out that it would damage the plur-

alistic system of American society and undermine the checks and balances system under which the American government has flourished since the adoption of the Constitution.

Views Of Jewish Leaders

Will Maslow, general counsel of the AJCongress, in a memorandum, pointed out that political influence of Blacks and Jews in Presidential elections derives from their large numbers in key states and that "they tend at least in Presidential elections to vote in a bloc." He argued that because of this, "the political parties are sensitive to the interests of Jews and Blacks both in their selection of candidates and in the adoption of party platforms. In a system of direct election, however, where a vote in one state is equal to a vote in another, that influence will be lost."

This view was echoed by Nathan Perlmutter, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, who said he believes the retention of the electoral college is "central" to the democratic process in the United States. He explained that the electoral college ensures that the Presidential candidates will "listen to minorities." In this category, he listed not only Jews and Blacks but also labor, business, farmers, among the various groups that make up this country.

Bertram Gold, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, also said that his organization sees the removal of the electoral college system as a "diservice to all minority groups" as well as the nation as a whole.

Other dangers cited by those opposed to changing the system is that direct election would encourage the proliferation of single-issue candidates and the increase in small parties might prevent a major party candidate from achieving even the 40 percent of the vote required in the Bayh Amendment. There is also the fear that direct election will discourage the parties from their present inclination to seek candidates that will bring affections together and instead select more charismatic candidates holding extreme views.

Future Of The Amendment

None of the opponents of the amendment were able to predict how the Bayh Amendment would do in the current Congress. Much may depend on how strongly the Carter Administration supports it and whether a national consensus can be mounted either in favor or against the change.

Perhaps, a compromise on the Bayh Amendment will be worked out in which electors, for example, will be required to vote for the candidate who gathers the most popular votes in their state. This proposal was originally supported by Carter but after he became President he was persuaded to back the Bayh Amendment completely eliminating the electoral college.

So far, the issue of eliminating the electoral college has not received much public attention. This is a situation that is expected to change in the next few months.

5 OF THE 7 JEWISH SENATORS AMONG THE CO-SPONSORS OF THE BAYH MEASURE By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 3 (JTA) -- With five of the seven Jewish Senators among the 38 co-sponsors, Sen. Birch Bayh (D. Ind.) is moving toward another test of strength for his proposal to abolish the electoral college and have direct popular vote determine the election of the President and Vice President.

Sen. Jacob Javits (R. N.Y.), Howard Metzenbaum (D. Ohio), Abraham Ribicoff (D. Conn.), Carl Levin (D. Mich.) and Edward Zorinsky (D. Neb.) are among the co-sponsors. An aide to Bayh said that decisions have not been received from Sens. Richard Stone (D. Fla.) and Rudy Boschwitz (R. Minn.). Levin testified in favor of Bayh's seven-point resolution March 27 at the first of four hearings scheduled by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, of which Bayh is chairman. The third hearing was held today and the last of the series will be on April 9.

The Judiciary Committee is scheduled to report on the Bayh bill by April 10 and have it circulated to the Senate's membership by May 1 for floor debate scheduling should the committee, as expected, report favorably upon it. The committee twice in the past had issued a favorable report, but the full Senate has never voted upon it.

Bayh first began his campaign to abolish the electoral college in 1966 when he favored the so-called automatic plan which would forbid electors from voting for a candidate in the electoral college other than the one the state had given a majority vote. In 1968, Bayh came out for the elimination of the college entirely. Since then more than 200 witnesses had expressed views at hearings that Bayh has chaired.

Two Bills In the House

The House Judiciary Committee, meanwhile, is making time pending the Senate's decision this year. It has two bills similar to Bayh's awaiting consideration. One, by Rep. Robert McClory (R. Ill.), would have the runoff between the two pairs of Presidents and Vice Presidents having the highest number of votes if neither received at least 35 percent of the vote. Rep. George Danzelon (D. Cal.) would have a runoff at the 40 percent level, the same as in the Bayh bill.

Under the leadership of former Rep. Emanuel Celler (D. N.Y.), who headed the Judiciary Committee at that time, the House on Sept. 18, 1969, adopted Celler's electoral reform bill by a 339-70 vote.

Jewish members of the Senate and House, as the record indicates, largely favor reform of the election process to eliminate the possibility of a Presidential nominee winning office although he may not have a majority of the national vote or even less than a rival because of the electoral college system.

Conscious of many leaders in Jewish communal organizations recognition that elimination of the electoral college would cause the loss of a "swing" vote in large urban centers, an aide to Bayh pointed out that the Jewish vote in California was 73 percent in favor of Jimmy Carter but he lost the state. This, the aide noted, indicates that the Jewish vote in California was wasted.

The aide noted further that the late Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D. Minn.), who strongly supported Jewish causes, backed the direct election system for many years. The Black leadership also is divided. Rep. Louis Stokes (D. Ohio), for example, testified March 30 in support of the Bayh bill, but Vernon Jordan, president of the Urban League, opposes it.

BEGIN DESCRIBES HIS VISIT TO CAIRO AS "MEMORABLE," "UNFORGETTABLE"

TEL AVIV, April 3 (JTA) -- A jubilant Premier Menachem Begin returned from Cairo this afternoon declaring that his 28 hours in the Egyptian

capital were "memorable...unforgettable." He told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport that in a 50-minute talk with President Anwar Sadat they accomplished much more than in the months of negotiations before the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

Begin refused to divulge any details of their meeting because "the government and the Knesset have to be informed first." But, he said, "President Sadat received us with the warmest hospitality possible.... We are going not only towards peace but towards cooperation for many, many years to come." The Premier will brief the Cabinet on his Cairo visit at a special session tomorrow morning and will afterwards make a political statement to the Knesset. The Knesset will then adjourn for the Passover holidays.

Begin was greeted at the airport by Cabinet ministers and senior officials, but there were no ceremonies, no army band nor guard of honor. He spoke of the crowds lining the streets of Cairo to cheer him. "There are 40 million Egyptians and I am sure I have more friends now in Egypt than in Israel," he joked before entering his limousine for the drive to Jerusalem.

PARKING VIOLATIONS OF ISRAELI MISSION OFFICIALS HAVE DECLINED

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 3 (JTA) -- Members of the Israeli Mission to the United Nations have received less than one-third of the tickets they received for parking violations before Ambassador Yehuda Blum assumed office late last August, according to Gillian Martin Sorensen, Commissioner of the New York City Commission for the UN and for the Consular Corps. In a letter addressed to the Israeli envoy, Sorensen wrote:

"The statistics clearly confirm that there has been a considerable improvement in compliance with our local parking regulations by members of your Mission since your arrival in New York. During the months March 1978 through August 1978, members of your Mission received 2125 tickets, or an average of 354 tickets per month. After your arrival in late August, the number of tickets received was reduced dramatically. In the six-month period September 1978 through February 1979, 678 tickets were issued to the Mission or an average of 113 per month."

Calling Blum's efforts to reduce violation of parking regulations among his staff a "success," Sorensen expressed the thanks of the City Commission and the residents of New York for the Ambassador's efforts. According to the letter, there are presently "twenty-four vehicles bearing DPL plates which are driven by members of the Israeli Mission."

JERUSALEM BOOK FAIR APRIL 19-25

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA) -- More than 1200 publishing houses from 51 countries will participate in the International Book Fair to take place in Jerusalem April 19-25. Countries such as Cyprus, Taiwan and Kenya will exhibit for the first time. Over 400 publishers will personally come to Jerusalem to represent their publishing companies. The Jerusalem International Book Fair is a joint project of the Jerusalem municipality, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism and the Israel Book Publishers Association. It is held every two years. The Binyanei Habama, the site of the fair, will be filled with an expected 50,000 volumes or four miles of books.

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 3 (JTA) -- With President Carter's proclamation yesterday setting the tone of America's commemoration for victims of the Holocaust, remembrances for the martyrs will be observed across the country for eight days this month at places of religious worship and by cities, states and Congress.

In his proclamation, issued on the 34th anniversary of the liberation of Dachau by American forces, Carter established April 28 and 29 as "Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust" in accordance with the resolution Congress passed last September. He also asked the American people to observe April 24 as "International Holocaust Day" -- Yom Hashoah. The President's Commission on the Holocaust, which he announced last Nov. 1, is coordinating the ceremonies for the remembrance and developing plans for a national memorial for the martyrs.

Nationwide Memorial Ceremonies

More than 20,000 people are expected to attend the services April 22 at Temple Emanu-El in New York City, according to Benjamin Meed, head of the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization, which has annually conducted the most extensive commemorations of the martyrs. The program will be the organization's eighth at the temple. According to Meed, five blocks in the temple's vicinity will be closed to traffic, bleachers will be erected near the temple and closed-circuit television will bring the memorial programs to tens of thousands more people.

Also on April 22 in Philadelphia a memorial service will be held at the Monument to the Six Million Jewish Martyrs. More than 5000 people are expected at the service. Solomon Fisher, chairperson of the sponsoring Memorial Committee and president of the Jewish Community Relations Council, said that the City Council approved a resolution to rename the site of the service to "Avenue of Remembrance" from April 20 to 22.

Special sessions are planned for April 23 at state legislatures and proclamations are to be issued by governors and mayors of numerous states and cities, the President's Commission said. At noon April 24 the House and Senate will gather at the Capitol rotunda for a ceremony of commemoration. Elie Wiesel, chairman of the Commission, will chair the event. A children's choir will sing music of the Holocaust in Hebrew, Yiddish and English.

The ceremonies will conclude April 29 at Washington Cathedral beginning at 11 a.m. Sen. John Danforth (R. Mo.) will be the guest minister. The Commission, which includes five Senators and five Representatives, will meet again during the ceremonial week to further plans for a permanent memorial to the Holocaust victims. At its previous meeting, the Commission tended towards a museum in Washington with educational facilities to perpetuate understanding of the Holocaust.

PLIGHT OF SYRIAN JEWRY

WASHINGTON, April 3 (JTA) -- A young Syrian Jewish woman, testifying under an assumed name, told a Congressional committee yesterday that between 75 and 80 percent of the 4000 Jews remaining in Syria would emigrate to Israel if they had the opportunity. Most of the remaining Jews, she testified, would be those in their sev-

enties and older who feel they are too old to start a new life in another country.

The witness, who gave the name of Simcha Many, told the House Middle East Committee led by Rep. Lee Hamilton (D. Ind.) that she fled from Damascus in March, 1978 by walking during the night and hiding during the day in a neighboring country, which she did not identify. She then crossed the border into Israel where she is now employed as a secretary in Tel Aviv. In making her escape, she said she did not even tell her parents of her plans to avoid possibility of detection.

She said she was using an assumed name to protect members of her family remaining in Syria. Each time a member of her family escaped from Syria, she said, her father was seized by police, taken to jail where he was abused and tortured before being released without formal charges or trial. This happened five times when two uncles and three brothers and sisters fled in about eight years, she said. The most important suggestion she could give the committee, she said, is that the Jewish people should be permitted to leave Syria because there is no future for them in that country.

Morris Draper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East, testified of "notable improvement in the general situation of the Jewish community" in Syria in the past two years, although Jews have experienced ups and downs in treatment. Freedom of emigration, however, remains closed to them, Draper said.

EGYPTIAN JEWISH WOMAN MAY BE FIRST POST-TREATY IMMIGRANT TO ISRAEL

By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA) -- A 70-year-old Egyptian Jewish woman will probably be the first Egyptian immigrant to Israel following the peace treaty, due to efforts on her behalf by Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, and various governmental aides.

The woman, Leah Mandelbaum, comes from a renowned family in Alexandria. She remained in Egypt despite the fact that most of her family now lives in Jerusalem because of a promise she made to her brother before his death that she would rebury him in the Holy Land. Once Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's peace initiative began, Rabbi Simcha Kook of Rehovot wrote to the elderly woman, telling her she could leave her brother's body behind. She, however, refused.

The situation attracted the attention of Dulzin, who promised one of Mandelbaum's relatives, Dr. Moshe Mandelbaum, a member of the Jerusalem Municipal Council, that he would take up the issue with the Egyptians during his visit to Cairo yesterday where he accompanied Premier Menachem Begin, and that he would bring her to Jerusalem.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The first Egyptian tourist agent arrived in Israel last week in an attempt to examine the possibilities of engaging in mutual Israeli-Egyptian tourism ventures. Mustafa Niazzi arrived in Israel on his Egyptian passport the day before the signing of the peace agreement. Niazzi, vice president of the Rotary Club in Cairo, spent part of his time in Nazareth with distant relatives, in addition to looking over the Israeli tourism market. He conceded that Egypt is not presently prepared for mass tourism, or for a steady stream of tourists like that expected after the borders are opened between Israel and Egypt.