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ISRAEL AND EGYPT ARE FORMALLY AT PEACE; INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION OF PEACE TREATY EXCHANGED IN SINAI

By David Landau

UMM HASHIBA (SINAI), April 25 (JTA) -- Israel and Egypt are formally at peace. At a brief but dignified and moving ceremony at the U.S. monitoring facility here late this afternoon two senior officials exchanged the instruments of ratification which formally brings the treaty into effect. Within one month the two parties are committed to begin negotiations on the next stage of the peace process -- the Palestinian autonomy.

The exchange of instruments was delayed for almost three hours due to two last-minute hitches. A crowd of more than 300 -- 75 invited dignitaries and 75 correspondents from each side -- was kept waiting while Eliahu Ben-Elissar, Director General of Premier Menachem Begin's office, and the senior Egyptian diplomat, Saad Afra, and their legal aides, fought over the last disputed matters.

It was finally resolved that there will be another letter exchanged between the parties later this week that will allay the concerns of each side and assert that the documents duly ratified and exchanged are indeed precisely those agreed upon at Washington and signed by Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat on the White House lawn almost a month ago.

Speaking for Egypt at today's ceremony, Afra said the treaty would be "an important step in the search for a comprehensive peace in the area and for the attainment of the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its aspects." He said Egypt was confident the process begun by the peace treaty "will create the momentum essential for the achievement of the global peace we all aspire for."

Ben-Elissar said Israel saw the treaty as a first step "toward the comprehensive peace we are determined to pursue and, in God's good time, to conclude.... With this, the treaty of peace comes into effect. Let us thank God for the dawning of this day." In Hebrew, Arabic and English, he added: "The war is over. Long live the peace."

The Hitches That Delayed The Exchange

The last-minute hitches that delayed the exchange of instruments were:

Egypt was concerned to ensure that the ratification applied to all the components of the treaty package -- including the "joint letter" from Sadat and Begin to President Carter committing themselves to pursue the autonomy negotiations.

Israel was anxious about an Egyptian formulation in the Egyptian instrument of ratification which omitted the word "inhabitants" when referring to the West Bank autonomy. (Israel's position is that the autonomy will be granted to the inhabitants of the territories, not to the territories as such.) The additional letter will confirm that neither side could or would stray from the precise treaty language signed in Washington.

The ceremony, though low key in that only officials and not Ministers were involved, and despite the long delay, was nevertheless memor-

able. For the first time Israeli and Egyptian honor guards stood side by side and presented arms to--gether as the Egyptian and Israeli flags -- and the United States and United Nations flags -- were hoisted. Two military bands played the two anthems together, conducted once by the Egyptian bandmaster and once by the Israeli.

Good-Spirited Fraternizing

There was much good-spirited fraternizing between Egyptian and Israeli guests -- many of whom are parliamentarians, high army officers and Yom Kippur War veterans. The 24-man honor guards and 40-member bands also laughed and joked together, although, as the last-minute negotiations protracted into hours, the Egyptians began to get more reserved and the officers instructed their men to keep apart from the Israelis.

With the difficulties overcome, however, the spirit of friendship quickly was restored and the brief parade passed off smoothly and smilingly. Samuel Lewis, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, and Hermann Eilts, U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, represented the United States. Each of them, in his brief remarks, stressed the U.S. commitment to remain involved in the peace process, and Eilts dwelt on America's intention to help secure the political peace by encouraging economic development.

WEIZMAN IN CAIRO TO DISCUSS MILITARY ASPECTS OF PEACE TREATY

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 25 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ezer Weizman was greeted at Cairo airport at noon today by Egypt's Minister of War Kamal Hassan Ali. The two men will begin three days of talks on implementation of the military aspects of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. Weizman told reporters that he came to discuss not principles but details of Israel's phased withdrawal from Sinai.

Weizman, accompanied by his wife, began his visit as Israel and Egypt exchanged the documents of ratification formally putting their treaty into effect. The ceremony that ended the 31-year state of war between the two countries was held at Umm Hashiba, an American-manned listening post in Sinai today.

Sources in Cairo said President Anwar Sadat would meet with the Israeli defense chief at Ismailia tomorrow. Weizman's meetings with Ali and other senior Egyptian officers are expected to define the relationships between the armies of both countries during the various stages of withdrawal and after the withdrawal is completed in three years. The first stage will begin next month when Israel returns El Arish, the administrative capital of Sinai, to Egyptian sovereignty and its forces are deployed on a new line running from just east of El Arish to Ras Mohammed on the Red Sea.

Ali told reporters at the airport that the recent events in Lebanon are not on the agenda of his talks with Weizman but the question might be raised. He also expressed regret over Israel's decision to establish two new settlements on the West Bank. Weizman declined to comment when asked about this but said Israel would do its best not to create political difficulties for Egypt. "Unfortunately, you (Egypt) are being attacked politically by your (Arab) neighbors, your brothers who don't look favorably at the peace treaty," Weizman said.

An apparent slip-of-the-tongue by Weizman created a brief sensation in Israel when the Defense Minister reportedly said it was time for the PLO to stop shooting and start talking, implying that Israel might abandon its policy of no contacts with the terrorist organization. Israeli correspondents with Weizman in Cairo explained later that he had meant Palestinian Arabs, not the PLO, and in fact corrected himself.

REACTIONS MIXED TO CARTER'S APPOINTMENT OF STRAUSS

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, April 25 (JTA) -- Reactions were decidedly mixed today on President Carter's appointment of Robert Strauss, one of his chief trouble-shooters, to be the U.S. Ambassador-at-large during the next round of the Middle East peace negotiations scheduled to begin next month.

The appointment was praised as "superb" and "great" by Jewish communal and political observers in Washington and in Texas as a big plus towards more progress in an Arab-Israeli settlement because of Strauss' persuasive skills as a mediator.

Others thought his virtually total lack of experience with Arabs and Israelis and his Jewish background would handicap him. These observers also thought the appointment was weighted more in the direction of domestic political considerations than for international progress.

President Carter, flanked by Strauss and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, announced the appointment to the media late yesterday at the White House. It came as a surprise because the talk here had been that former Pennsylvania Governor William Scranton, a pillar of the Republican Party; McGeorge Bundy, chief of the National Security Council under President John Kennedy; or Philip Habib, former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, were the nominees, with Scranton, as Vance's candidate, considered the front-runner. Scranton was reported to have declined the offer.

Strauss will replace Alfred Atherton, who is now slated to go to Cairo as Ambassador to Egypt replacing Hermann Eilts, who is retiring to take a professorship at Boston University.

Accepted Assignment With Hesitation

Strauss, 60, and currently U.S. special trade negotiator, will take over his new responsibility after he guides a multilateral trade package through Congress. Previously he was Carter's chief inflation fighter. Strauss told reporters that he accepted the "most complex and most difficult" assignment with "hesitation and reluctance" and that "I have got lots of learning to do." Carter said there "is nobody I know of who is better qualified to take on the complex and difficult negotiations."

Strauss, one of the few non-Georgians to enter Carter's inner circle of advisors at the White House, was not in Carter's corner in the 1976 election until after Carter had virtually garnered the nomination. After his appointment was announced, Strauss was asked if he thought his Jewishness would hinder him in his new task. "I have never considered my religious origin as an obstacle to this or anything else I've ever done," Strauss said.

Carter said that he cleared the appointment with Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and "their response was positive and enthusiastic." Strauss had met with Begin and Sadat last week when he headed

a U.S. delegation to the two countries to discuss U.S. trade and investment as a follow-up to their peace treaty.

A Texas native and a lawyer with offices in Dallas, Strauss rose within the Democratic Party ranks to be its national chairman. In Dallas he was president of Temple Emanu-El, the largest Reform congregation there. He has been vice-president of the Jewish Federation and cooperates with the American Jewish Committee and other Jewish groups in Dallas.

The President's appointment, a Democratic Party insider in Washington told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, was based on the grounds that he is a "brilliant negotiator" and "ingenuity" is called for in his role. Strauss "tries to solve problems, not highlight them," the insider, a Jew, told JTA.

Others in Washington told JTA that the President's appointment was motivated by three considerations. One is that the White House elements involved in the Middle East consider Strauss will not dispute their perceptions. A second factor is that Strauss will seek to minimize confrontation between Carter and the Israelis, and third, in terms of Carter's campaign, Strauss may succeed in achievements that would enhance Carter's standing with the Jewish community.

BEGIN DEFENDS DAYAN

JERUSALEM, April 25 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin delivered a spirited defense of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan at a meeting with the Likud Knesset faction in his office last night and called on the Foreign Minister -- presently on a tour of the Far East -- to remain in his government. "You have made great contributions to the peace. Stay on and make great contributions to Israel's security and welfare," Begin declared addressing the absent Dayan.

The Premier was clearly seeking to lay to rest rumors of a serious rift between himself and Dayan -- and was expressing confidence in the Foreign Minister whose resignation has been demanded by some members of Begin's own Herut faction. They were infuriated when Dayan recently likened the juridical status of the Golan Heights to that of Sinai, an implication, they believe, that Israel would one day have to withdraw from the Golan in order to achieve peace with Syria.

Although Dayan denied that he had such a scenario in mind, the Herut Executive, meeting Monday, voted to recommend his dismissal. Begin conceded that Dayan's choice of words was not "fortunate" but said that was not grounds for firing him. In negotiations with Syria, Israel would indeed demand that the international border be changed, Begin said.

He also expressed shock that Transport Minister Haim Landau recently revived the charges that Dayan was responsible for Israel's unpreparedness in the Yom Kippur War. Dayan was Defense Minister in the Labor government at the time. Begin said that because Landau was "one of my closest friends," people may have inferred that he spoke for the Prime Minister, but this was not the case. He said he never excluded Dayan from criticism but hinted that the blame for Israel's near catastrophe rested with the late Premier Golda Meir.

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- President Carter's Commission on the Holocaust announced Wednesday that it has approved "in principle" recommendations from its subcommittees that call for the establishment of a national "museum-memorial" to be located in Washington.

U.S. CRITICIZES ISRAEL FOR SETTING UP TWO NEW WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 25 (JTA) -- The United States yesterday scolded Israel's Cabinet decision of last Sunday to establish two new settlements on the West Bank but emphasized that the decision does not "fundamentally" affect U.S.-Israel relations. The Carter Administration also said it regrets that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have broken relations with Egypt because of Egypt's treaty with Israel, but it did not see any change as yet in Saudi Arabia's pledge to pay the U.S. for warplanes being sold to Egypt.

State Department spokesman Hoddging Carter said Israel's decision on the settlements is "regrettable" because it "tends to prejudice the outcome of negotiations" between Egypt and Israel, with the U.S. as a participant, which have not yet begun.

Asked whether he felt Israeli Premier Menachem Begin does not mean it when he speaks of the right of Jews to settle in Samaria and Judea, Carter replied that "the United States wants to assert most firmly it is for the negotiating process itself to determine the future of the area." He said that "what we are urging is simply actions which are consonant" with the process agreed to by "all sides" on how to proceed to determine the future of the region.

In discussing the issue, Carter said the U.S. will continue "to make clear to Israel our disagreement" regarding the settlements policy and to "urge a different approach." But, he added, "to the usual question, are we reconsidering our relationship in any fundamental way, the answer is always no." The new Egyptian-Israeli-American negotiations, Carter said, "are the first realistic efforts in 30 years to bring peace -- a peace which comes to grips with the Palestinian issue."

Begin Defends Decision

(In Jerusalem, Begin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee yesterday that unlike previous governments, his government's policy is to "fill the West Bank with Jews." Defending the Cabinet's decision to establish two new settlements at Elon Moreh and Shiloh, Begin said they were being set up for security reasons.

(He pledged that no Arab would be thrown off his land, but private lands that were not actually under cultivation would be seized by the government but would not, however, be expropriated. Legal experts noted the difference is that in expropriation the title passes to the government whereas in seizure the title remains vested in the owner but possession passes to the government.)

HOUSE ACTS AGAINST THE PLO

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 25 (JTA) -- The House of Representatives yesterday struck a double blow at the Palestine Liberation Organization. It amended previous legislation to bar "any alien who is a member, officer, official representative or spokesman" of the PLO from obtaining a visa to enter the United States and it reduced the U.S. contribution to the United Nations in the U.S. share of the costs of two PLO propaganda units.

These steps were taken as the House approved the authorization money bill for the State

Department for the coming fiscal year. The bill was sent to the Senate for enactment.

No debate was held on the amendment by Rep. Lester Wolff (D.NY) that cut the U.S. contribution of the costs of the UN Special Unit on Palestinian Rights and the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

The Wolff proposal had been adopted March 13 by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. While the U.S. fund amounts to about \$150,000 the implication is that Congress will not abide by the UN moves to propogandize the PLO.

"I would not advocate cutting funds for the UN just because I do not like a program or disagree with a political persuasion," Wolff said. But having such a group "which regularly takes credit for terrorist violence against civilians represented in a body whose aim is the peaceful resolution of conflict is outrageous."

Reps. Stephen Solarz (D.NY) and Edward Derwinski (R.Ill.) sponsored the bipartisan amendment barring PLO representatives from getting U.S. visas. The House adopted the measure by voice vote. The authorization bill as a whole was adopted 256-146.

The Solarz-Derwinski measure followed the approval by Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance of a waiver for Shafik Al-Hout, chief of the PLO's Beirut office late last month. His visa was for three weeks and his intentions were reported as being to address groups at universities and Chicago. The State Department repeatedly said he was not a terrorist and that he opposed terrorism but it refused to provide any data on when he voiced opposition to terror or what he had said about it.

McGovern Amendment Criticized

Addressing the House yesterday, Solarz said the amendment by Sen. George McGovern (D.SD) that enabled waivers for members of proscribed organizations "was very well intentioned" but "in practice it has resulted in a situation where a number of people have been admitted here who most of us do not believe should have been admitted to our country."

Derwinski said that the McGovern language has "in effect created a legal loophole which has facilitated visits to the U.S. by members of the PLO." The amendment, Derwinski said, puts an "end to procedures under which agents of totalitarian states can come to the U.S. in the guise of trade unionists" and closes "a loophole under which PLO agents can come into the U.S." The McGovern amendment was adopted by Congress in an effort to bring the U.S. into compliance with the provisions of the Helsinki agreement.

TERRORISTS RETALIATE AGAINST ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, April 25 (JTA) -- School children in northern Galilee had their lessons in bomb shelters today, broadcast over Israel's educational television channel. Katyusha rockets exploded outside as terrorists in south Lebanon retaliated for the pounding of their strongholds by Israeli land, sea and air forces during the last two days. There were no reports of casualties or serious damage.

The rocket bombardment in Galilee followed a night-long exchange of artillery fire between the terrorists and the Christian militia in south Lebanon. An army spokesman said today that Israel would continue to hit the terrorists whenever and wherever necessary and by the most appropriate means. Foreign sources reported that Israeli naval units scored direct hits on terrorist advance headquarters and bases on the Lebanese coast and that Israeli fragmen sank a vessel loaded with arms for the terrorists in Sidon harbor. There was no confirmation from official Israeli sources.

AN EYEWITNESS REPORT ABOUT SHCHARANSKY IN CHISTIPOL PRISON

NEW YORK, April 25 (JTA) -- Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky suffers intensive headaches in the Chistipol Prison but his spirits are "higher than the sky," according to just-released fellow inmate Hittai Butman, in information obtained from Moscow by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) and Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ). This is the first eyewitness report on Shcharansky, who has been barred from receiving visitors and is allowed only a trickle of censored mail with his parents.

Shcharansky was sentenced to 13 years last summer, and Butman, along with five other 1970 Leningrad Trial defendants, were suddenly released last week 14 months before their 10-year terms were to have ended. Butman and Shcharansky were both moved last fall from the Vladimir to the Chistipol Prison, evidently because the Soviets feared embarrassing questions from the increasing number of tourists visiting the historic city of Vladimir before the 1980 Olympics, the SSSJ and UCSJ noted.

The two groups reported Butman as saying that Shcharansky and other Chistipol inmates produce potato sacks in their cells. Shcharansky deliberately works slowly because of his excruciating headaches and because even an experienced worker as Butman could not produce more than three sacks a day of the eight-bag quota.

Since Chistipol prisoners are kept isolated in their cells, ingenious methods of communications were devised. Messages hidden in tobacco wads or wool balls were attached to strings and swung from cell to cell. Others were placed in soap bars and hidden in the communal bathrooms. Some were attached to magnets taken from closets and fastened to table legs or other metallic items. Toilets were emptied of water when guards were not looking and messages were shouted through the pipes.

Each of these methods were discovered by prison authorities, but others are now being used. Two months ago, Shcharansky was sentenced to 15 days' isolation for passing messages. Butman said Shcharansky retains his normally optimistic spirits, and this outlook will better his chances for survival.

SOME 25,000 SOVIET JEWS NOW IN ITALY DUE IN THE U.S. BY SEPT. 30

ROME, April 25 (JTA) -- A massive airlift of 25,000 Soviet Jews from Italy to the United States began yesterday with 613 in three jetliners making the journey between the two countries. By June 9, 10,000 East European refugees, the vast majority of them Soviet Jews, will make the journey, with the balance of 15,000 by Sept. 30.

The floodgates were opened by the U.S. Attorney General exercising his parole authority April 9, repeating previous promises by President Johnson and President Ford to allow exceptional quotas of Cuban and Vietnamese refugees to enter the United States. In the record airlift yesterday, 391 Soviet Jews arrived at Kennedy International Airport in New York on a Pan American airliner, 121 on TWA, and 101 on Alitalia.

The Soviet Jews, who live in three main areas in Rome and nearby Ladispoli and Ostia, have had to wait between three and five months (not four years as incorrectly reported yesterday) to be processed in difficult conditions. The Israel Embassy here has ignored them on the grounds

that they do not want to go to Israel and some have even left that country after originally arriving there from the Soviet Union.

Gaynor Jacobson, executive vice president of HIAS, who was here to see the Soviet Jews off, said that the Russians let 44,335 Jews leave the Soviet Union last month, "an annual flow of 50,000," so we have to find means of increasing the flow to the United States. He hoped this would be achieved by passing current legislation proposed by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.) and Rep. Peter Rodino (D. N.J.) to ease immigration laws. Jacobson said half the Jews arriving in Italy had close relatives in the United States. "Forty percent of them will stay in the New York area and the others will be spread through 100 locations in the rest of America," Jacobson said.

Twenty of the Jews due to fly to New York yesterday missed their plane because their bus was detained by a traffic accident. They were forlorn, Jacobson said. "But we managed to get them on one of the other flights anyway for our record day," (By Lisa Palmieri-Billig)

KOCH PROCLAIMS APRIL 30-MAY 5 JEWISH HERITAGE WEEK IN NYC

NEW YORK, April 25 (JTA) -- A proclamation designating April 30-May 5 as Jewish Heritage Week in New York City was issued by Mayor Edward I. Koch in ceremonies today at the New York City Council chambers. The city-wide program, which focusses on Jewish traditions, culture and contributions to the American society, is sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council and the New York City Board of Education.

Robert Abrams, New York State Attorney General, chairman of the Jewish Heritage Week Advisory Council, who presided at the City Hall program, said more than one million students and adults are expected to participate in school assemblies, classroom program, exhibitions, displays and community events. Richard Ravitch, JCRC president, who greeted the participants in the ceremony, commented that "for many students," Jewish Heritage Week is the only opportunity to get positive information about the Jewish community.

Abrams, who helped arrange the first Jewish Heritage Week in 1977, said that this year, in addition to hundreds of public schools, many private and parochial schools will also undertake Jewish Heritage Week celebrations.

In addition to school assemblies, in-class instruction and exhibits, there will be visits to sites of Jewish interest, performances by Jewish artists and lectures by various experts. Many television and radio programs, held in conjunction with the New York Board of Rabbis and the American Jewish Committee, will be part of the celebration. The American Jewish Congress artists program, funded by a Comprehensive Education and Employment Act (CETA) grant, will give performances and workshops in music and poetry.

The Jewish Labor Committee and the United Federation of Teachers sponsored a teacher training seminar attended by hundreds of public school teachers in preparation for Heritage Week. A city-wide art competition is being conducted under supervision of Aileen Golden, art coordinator of school district 15. The works will be displayed throughout the city and winning entries will be on exhibit at the Jewish Museum from April 30 to May 20. Abrams said that the JCRC has been receiving requests for more than six months from principals, teachers and students for materials for use in the Heritage Week program.