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CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON NEW GUSH SETTLEMENT NEAR NABLUS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 7 (JTA) -- The new controversial Gush Emunim settlement at Alon Moreh was established this morning on land expropriated from Arab owners near Nablus, the largest Arab town on the West Bank. The move, in compliance with Sunday's majority Cabinet decision, was made in a coordinated operation between the Israeli army and the World Zionist Organization's settlement department.

Early today, Military Government authorities delivered seizure orders to the Arab landowners. Shortly afterwards, three large bulldozers began moving earth for an access road on the rocky terrain about a mile east of Nablus. A private helicopter flew in smaller tractors and other equipment to prepare the site for tents and campers that will serve as the temporary homes of the new settlers. The army provided the tents.

About 300 jubilant Gush were on hand along with Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, chairman of the Ministerial Settlement Committee, who was in charge of the operation. Sharon is a leading advocate of massive Jewish colonization of the occupied Arab territories.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE WAFFLING ON EMBASSY MOVE

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, June 7 (JTA) -- The new Canadian government, under mounting pressure from the business community and the Arab League, appeared today to equivocate on the pledge by Prime Minister Joe Clark to move Canada's Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. In a Canadian Broadcasting Co. radio interview this morning, Flora MacDonald, Minister of External Affairs, stated that "moving the Canadian Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem remains the goal of our efforts as it has been promised by Prime Minister Joe Clark during the election campaign," but "it is not, however, a question which can be settled the day after elections."

MacDonald added, "Our policy will take into account the interests and viewpoints of the United States and the Arab countries." The viewpoint of the U.S. as expressed by the State Department yesterday, was that any emulation of Canada's decision "would pre-judge the case for us."

(In Jerusalem, meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry expected to have no difficulty in finding a place for the Canadian Embassy despite the city's chronic housing shortage. With 52 persons, the Canadian Embassy is the fifth largest in Israel and is presently housed in a five-story building on Tel Aviv's seafront. Yosef Chiechanover, the Foreign Ministry's director general, plans to meet with Canadian Ambassador Edward Lee at the end of the month to discuss the proposed transfer.)

The External Affairs Minister's remarks followed a request for an interview with Clark by the representative of the Arab League in Ottawa and the ambassadors of 18 Arab League member countries. The Ambassador of Morocco was delegated to express their "profound protest"

against the contemplated move. At the same time, the Ambassador of Iraq, Faiq Mukhlis, stated at a press conference that his country would "break off diplomatic relations with Canada should the embassy be moved to Jerusalem." The Ambassador of Jordan, Waleed Tash, warned that such a move would be "very serious" and would affect Canada's relations with the Arab world "on all levels."

The organized business community of Canada took a grave view of the matter. Sam Hughes, president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce which represents 125,000 businessmen, said today, "If the Arab threats become a reality, then the business community will lose an opportunity it is now enjoying in dealing with the Middle East." A spokesman for the Canadian Manufacturers Association said "The proper course is not to needlessly step into controversial waters without having tested them first." Fear was expressed in other business quarters that Canada could lose 55,700 jobs and \$1.6 billion worth of oil imports if the Arab countries took reprisals and cut off trade with Canada.

According to Statistics Canada, an independent government body, 63 jobs are created for every \$1 million of exports. Canada exported \$885 million in merchandise to 17 Middle East countries last year, including Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Canada also would stand to lose \$1.6 billion worth of imported goods of which 98 percent is petroleum, if Arab countries turned off the oil taps. Canada presently imports 500,000 barrels of oil a day from the Middle East.

Clark Expertise Questioned

Liberal MP Louis Duclos, who was Parliamentary Secretary to the former Minister of External Affairs Don Jamieson, today blasted Clark's promise to move the Canadian Embassy to Jerusalem as an "illustration of the proper lack of knowledge of international affairs in Mr. Clark's party," the Progressive Conservatives. Duclos said that when Clark announced the plan during the election campaign, "I thought it was just political opportunism to win a few more votes in the Toronto area. Now I realize he didn't know what he was doing. Under the present circumstances there is no justification for taking such an irresponsible step. Canada is going to be in a terrible situation in the face of the Arab oil embargo. A responsible leader has to make decisions in accordance with the needs of the country and not just a tiny group. The status of Jerusalem is the most important issue in the Middle East and the Middle East is the most important issue in the world," Duclos said.

But Rabbi Gunther Plaut, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, today praised Clark's promised move. "I am sure the Jews of Canada will greatly welcome this and others will too. I commend Mr. Clark very strongly." He added that countries have been "pussy-footing" far too long. "If (Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat can go to Jerusalem, so can other governments," Plaut said.

POPE PRAYS AT AUSCHWITZ

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 7 (JTA) -- Pope John Paul II prayed today for the four million people, most of them Jews, who died at the Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps. The Pope, accompanied by nearly half a million people, celebrated a solemn mass at an open air altar between the railway lines which once brought Jews from all over Europe to

the gas chambers of the twin death camps.

The Polish-born Pontiff seemed deeply moved as he walked along the remaining camp huts, the barbed wire, the watch towers and the remnants of the gas chambers. He said "This is a place built on hatred in the name of a crazed ideology. It is the site of a terrible slaughter that brought death to four million people of different nations."

The Pope, who was accompanied by camp survivors wearing the former striped uniforms of inmates, said: "It is my duty to recall the past in the name of people who suffer all over the world and to prevent similar horrors from taking place again." He spoke in moving tones about the Jews who were slaughtered in the camps. "They, they were the main victims. Innocent people killed for no reason except their religion." Then the Pope knelt in the middle of the railway tracks and with bowed head and hands crossed in prayer, said: "Here, I kneel in prayer before the inscriptions recalling the Auschwitz victims in such languages as Polish, English, Bulgarian, Rumanian, Czech, Danish, French, Greek, Hebrew, Yiddish, Spanish, Flemish, Serbo-Croat, German, Norwegian, Russian, Rumanian and Italian."

At Birkenau, about a mile away from Auschwitz, the Pope donned his vestments in the black house where SS officers once watched their victims being chosen for the gas chambers. Here, also he seemed deeply moved as he blessed the dead in the nightmarish atmosphere of watch towers, bunkers, barbed wire and gallows. A delegation of Polish Jews attended the ceremonies at Auschwitz.

GEULA COHEN FACTION LEAVES HERUT AS BEGIN IS RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN By Yitzhak Shargil

FEL AVIV, June 7 (JTA) -- The 14th national convention of Herut ended early this morning several hours after re-electing Premier Menachem Begin party chairman by an almost unanimous vote and sustaining the defection of Geula Cohen and a tiny band of die-hard followers opposed to the peace treaty with Egypt.

Although there was considerable grumbling about the state of the nation's economy and mutterings that the price paid for peace with Egypt -- the eventual evacuation of Sinai -- was too high, Begin carried the 1400 delegates with him on a wave of rhetoric designed to appeal to their ultra-nationalist sentiments. In a lengthy closing speech last night, the Premier vowed that any attempt to declare a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be crushed instantly. Addressing himself to those Herut members uneasy that even his very limited administrative autonomy plan might plant the seeds of such a state, Begin declared: "There will be no Palestinian state out of autonomy. How do I know it won't come to be? Because we will not let it."

He added, "If the administrative council (of Palestinians) meet and declare a Palestinian state, its 11 members will be simply arrested and the military government will be reintroduced within two days."

Begin cited the achievements of his government in the international field. "We brought peace with the largest Arab nation (Egypt) and changed Israel's international standing," he said. "We have more contacts with foreign leaders than ever before and some are such that cannot as yet be divulged." He said there is a "de facto" peace with Jordan since it does not allow terrorists to operate from its territory against Israel.

"The bridges are open and people and goods pass between the two countries," he said.

On domestic matters, Begin promised to keep the cost-of-living in check. "I shall ask, as of today, that every possible effort is made that there will be no more price increases of essential commodities," he said. He also pledged to solve the housing shortage. "I shall ask Housing Minister (David) Levy every Sunday (when the Cabinet meets) how many new flats were under construction," Begin said. He expressed sympathy for Arab residents in Hebron beaten up recently by Jewish vandals who invaded their homes and offered them compensation. "Hooliganism casts shame on all of us," he said.

Control Of Territories Urged

Resolutions adopted at the close of the convention declared that "The Herut movement will seek the imposition of Israeli law, justice and administration on Judaea and Samaria (West Bank) and the Gaza Strip" after the five-year autonomy period expires; that "Jerusalem remains under Israeli sovereignty and will never again be divided"; and that "there will never be a Palestinian state." Another resolution declared that in future negotiations with Syria, "the Herut movement will seek to ensure that the Golan Heights remains under Israeli control."

The convention expressed appreciation for Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's courageous leadership in signing the peace treaty with Israel in face of growing hostility on the part of Arab leaders. But the convention called on the government to make new efforts to persuade Egypt to allow Israel to retain its settlements in Sinai. Resolutions on domestic affairs urged additional cuts in the national budget to fight inflation and called for minimum wage and minimum income standards.

WEVD TO STRENGTHEN FM AFTER SALE OF AM STATION By Judith Rosen

NEW YORK, June 7 (JTA) -- The sale of WEVD-AM by the Forward Association Inc. to a group specializing in Christian-religious broadcasting will not affect programming on WEVD-FM, Joel J. Plavin, general manager of the station said. He stressed that WEVD will "absolutely" continue its Jewish programming in Yiddish, Hebrew and English. The Forward Association, Inc., publishers of the Jewish Daily Forward, will retain its ownership of the FM frequency.

Plavin added that the sale of the station, whose call letters memorialize Eugene V. Debs, the American Socialist leader, "can only help" WEVD-FM programming efforts by providing new funds. Plavin noted that the AM facility had only limited air-time, which it shared with WPOW-AM of Staten Island. Plavin hopes that the concentration on FM broadcasting will reach a larger and more dispersed Jewish constituency in the suburbs, though possibly at the expense of losing older urban listeners with no access to the FM frequency.

Weekly listeners of WEVD are estimated at about one-half million. Plavin emphasized that expanded FM Jewish programming on a full-time basis will result from the sale. Currently, the station broadcasts from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., and 8 p.m. - midnight, Monday through Friday; 9 p.m. - midnight Saturday, and all-day Sunday. Harold Ostroff, general manager of the Forward, said the sale will allow the FM station to broadcast 24 hours a day seven days a week. The \$1,175,000 sale is expected to go into effect on January 1. WEVD began broadcasting in 1927.

BURG BRIEFS MINISTERS**ON AGENDA TALKS IN CAIRO**

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 7 (JTA) -- The Israeli ministerial team that will negotiate with Egypt over autonomy for the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip was briefed today by its chairman, Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who just returned from talks with Egyptian leaders in Cairo over the negotiating agenda. The meeting, held in the office of Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, was attended by five of the six ministers. Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who himself returned from Cairo yesterday, was absent.

Burg told his colleagues of his talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Butros Ghali and Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil separately today, shortly before he departed for Israel. Each meeting lasted 90 minutes. While in Cairo, Burg also met with James Leonard, deputy to Ambassador Robert Strauss who will head the American delegation at the autonomy talks.

Burg reported that the Egyptians accepted his proposals to hold negotiating sessions once every two weeks, each session to last a day or two as required. He produced a calendar of the meetings for the next two months. He said the Egyptians also agreed that the full negotiating teams of both sides will attend the initial sessions, after which special subcommittees would be established to discuss specific details of the autonomy plan.

Burg flew to Cairo Tuesday for the purpose of arranging an agenda for the first meeting to be held in Alexandria next Monday. It was learned that while some circles in Israel and the U.S. regarded the National Religious Party leader as no more than a "figurehead" bereft of real negotiating authority, the Egyptians, for their part, view him as Israel's top negotiator and intend to deal with him as such. They will not, highly placed sources in Cairo said, seek to sidestep Burg and negotiate with the two other ranking members of the Israeli team, Weizman and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

BLUM REJECTS WALDHEIM REQUEST

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, June 7 (JTA) -- Secretary General Kurt Waldheim is seeking a "counter gesture" on the part of Israel in the wake of yesterday's announcement by the Palestine Liberation Organization that it began closing down its offices in the port town of Tyre and pulling its members out of villages in south Lebanon to head off Israeli attacks against Lebanese civilians.

According to the spokesman for the Israeli UN Mission, Waldheim made his request in a meeting this morning with Israel's UN Ambassador Yehuda Blum. During the meeting, which lasted an hour, the Israeli envoy told Waldheim the PLO announcement cannot be considered a "gesture." The announced decision of the PLO to withdraw from south Lebanon, Blum contended, "is a result of the Israeli activity in the area of the city of Tyre, which brought pressure from the local populace to remove the terrorists from the area."

Blum also said, during his conversation with the Secretary General, that even after the reported withdrawal from south Lebanon by the PLO, terrorists belonging to other terrorist organization will stay in the area. In addition,

Blum pointed out the presence of "hundreds" of terrorists in the area under UNIFIL control in south Lebanon.

Meanwhile, intensive consultations are being held here between members of the Security Council concerning the renewal of the UNIFIL mandate which is due to expire June 19. The Council will meet next Tuesday to vote on the extension of the UNIFIL mandate.

ECONOMIC POLICY PROTESTED

By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, June 7 (JTA) -- Hundreds of Israelis demonstrated outside the Treasury building here last night to protest the government's economic policy which, they charge, only feeds inflation. The protest was organized by the National Consumers Authority and the Jerusalem Workers Council. The demonstration was prompted by reports earlier this week of an impending 50 percent hike in the prices of basic commodities. According to the reports, the rise is necessary if the government is to fulfill its promise not to increase its IL-9 billion budget earmarked for commodity subsidies.

"We are demanding that the government stop the price spiral, reinstate price controls and re-examine its subsidy policy," said Nava Arad, one of the protest organizers. "We also demand that it refrain from raising prices on basic goods which principally harms a growing population of women, children and the aged."

OPEN BORDERS AGREED UPON

JERUSALEM, June 7 (JTA) -- After months of public declarations and private uncertainty, open borders between Israel and Egypt are on the verge of becoming a reality. As a result of Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's visit to Egypt this week, the two governments have agreed that unlimited travel between the countries can begin forthwith. According to Egyptian Premier Mustapha Khalil, the two-way traffic can be expected to start by air or sea in "less than a month or two."

"Flying or sailing" are key words, because the two sides have agreed to open only air and sea links at this stage. The land border will remain closed until the end of the Israeli interim evacuation of Sinai, in eight months. (By David Landau)

NEW YORK (JTA) -- A delegation of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations has accepted an invitation from Premier Menachem Begin to visit Israel next week for briefings and discussions of the current Middle East peace negotiations.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Minister of Religious Affairs Aharon Abu-Hezra, told the Knesset that he plans to submit a bill to create a Mount of Olives Authority in order to develop and preserve the historic hill. His announcement came after Rabbi Yehuda Meir Abramowitz, an Agudath Israel MK, charged that terrorist groups were using the Mount of Olives cemetery by night while Arab shepherds were using it by day as a grazing ground.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Egypt has rejected an Israeli proposal for a binational peace effort against smuggling and the drug traffic in Sinai. In a message conveyed through diplomatic channels, the Egyptian police said they could not consider a coordinated effort with Israel at this time. Israeli police still hope to gain the cooperation of their Egyptian counterparts when the normalization process between the two countries is further advanced.

BEGIN TO BE ASKED TO HELP FIND WALLENBERG, MISSING SWEDISH ENVOY

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, June 7 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin of Israel is expected to be asked to help solve the mystery of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who may still be imprisoned in the Soviet Union, 34 years after his abduction by the Red Army. Wallenberg's close relatives are flying to Jerusalem this weekend following fruitless attempts by the Swedish government to reopen the case with the Russian authorities.

Wallenberg -- who would now be 66 -- was kidnapped in Budapest, where he headed a team of Swedish diplomats who saved 30,000 Jews from deportation by the Nazis. Many of the survivors live in Israel. His half brother and half sister, Prof. Guy Van Dardel and Mrs. Nina Lagergren, decided to go to Jerusalem after hearing that Begin had privately expressed an interest in the case. In view of Israel's influence in the human rights field, they will ask Begin's help in putting the Wallenberg affair high on the list of urgent individual cases discussed in East-West contacts.

Several politicians in other Western countries have promised their support. Sen. Frank Church (D. Idaho), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has urged the Kremlin to make a full disclosure of its files on Wallenberg. In Britain, Winston Churchill MP, grandson of the wartime Prime Minister, and Greville Janner MP, are organizing a Parliamentary committee to follow the case.

U.S. Position Unclear

However, although U.S. Ambassador Arthur Goldberg is reported to have brought it up at the Belgrade sequel to the Helsinki Conference on Human Rights, U.S. government interest has been erratic.

At the end of 1973, the State Department was on the brink of ordering the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to inquire about Wallenberg. But at the last moment, Henry Kissinger, then Secretary of State, failed to authorize the move. Swedish press reports have attributed this to his anger over Sweden's anti-American policy on Vietnam at that time. Other sources quote Kissinger as refusing to introduce individual human rights cases into East-West discussions.

The Carter Administration, however, has no such inhibitions, as seen in the recent swap of two Soviet spies for five leading Soviet dissidents. Since further Soviet relaxations have been predicted prior to the Carter-Brezhnev summit in Vienna this summer, Wallenberg's family feels that a campaign on his behalf is particularly timely.

A further reason for the visit to Israel is that much of the latest information on Wallenberg's imprisonment comes from former Soviet prisoners, who have settled in Israel over the past few years. Abraham Kalinski, who claims to have seen Wallenberg in prison long after the date when the Russians claim Wallenberg died, provided much of the evidence for the latest Swedish note to Moscow.

The latest information comes from the daughter of a Jew who is still in the Soviet Union. In 1976, Jan Kaplan telephoned his daughter, Anna Bilder, who lives in Jaffa. He had recently been released from the Butyrka prison and casually told her not to worry about his health because in the prison hospital, a year earlier, he had met a

Swede who had been a prisoner for 30 years and whose health was not bad. The Swedish government eventually heard of Kaplan's remark from other Soviet Jewish circles. However, news of it was published before the Swedish government could make direct contact with Kaplan. At the end of last year, Kaplan was rearrested by the Soviet police.

MARTIN FOX NEW JTA PRESIDENT; LANDAU NAMED BOARD CHAIRMAN

NEW YORK, June 7 (JTA) -- Robert H. Arrow, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, announced yesterday that Martin S. Fox of Newark, N.J., has been elected president of the JTA and will take office June 15. Fox succeeds William M. Landau who has been president since 1973. The announcement by Arrow came at the annual meeting yesterday of the Board of Directors.

Fox, a graduate of Amherst College and Harvard Law School, has practiced law in Newark as a partner in Fox and Fox since his graduation from Harvard in 1949. A native of Newark, Fox was president of the Jewish Community Federation of Metropolitan New Jersey and a United Jewish Appeal campaign chairman. He was also on the Board of the Council of Jewish Federations.

Fox is on the Board of HIAS and on the Board of the Jewish News of Metropolitan New Jersey. He served for 10 years as a member of the New Jersey State Board of Education and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Northern Energy Corporation by appointment of the Governor of New Jersey.

Other officers elected were: William M. Landau of New York, JTA Board chairman; Robert H. Arrow of New York, chairman of the Executive Committee; Raymond Epstein of Chicago; Philip Slomovitz of Detroit; Melvin M. Swig of San Francisco; and Marshall Weinberg of New York, vice presidents; Julius Berman of New York, Secretary; and Abraham Goodman of Kearny, N.J., treasurer.

Arrow also announced the election of six new Board members. They are: Jack Goldbart of Atlanta, Ga., former editor and publisher of the Southern Israelite and a Board member of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Atlanta; Joseph D. Hurwitz of Hartford, Conn., president of the Hartford Jewish Community Center and a director of the Greater Hartford Jewish Federation; Burton S. Levinson of Los Angeles, Calif., national chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation-Council of Greater Los Angeles.

Also, Prof. Allen Pollack of New York, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance and a member of the World Zionist Organization Executive and the Jewish Agency Board of Governors; Fred K. Shochet of Miami, Fla., editor and publisher of the Jewish Floridian and a director of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation; Dr. Gene Sosin of New York, director of program planning of Radio Free Europe and a vice president of the New York Association for New Americans.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- During the month of June, 15 top show business personalities will lend their support to the Israel Bond drive to help speed economic aid to Israel. Monty Hall, entertainment division chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, announced this week that the stars who will participate in Israel Bond events across the nation this month include: film and stage personalities Elizabeth Taylor, Sammy Davis, Jr., Joel Grey, Ben Vereen, Imogene Coca, Judd Hirsch, Robert Klein and Lucie Arnaz; comedians Red Buttons, Jerry Stiller and Anne Mearns; actor James Caan; composer Marvin Hamlisch; opera star Robert Merrill; and lyricist Sammy Cahn.