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THIRD ROUND OF AUTONOMY TALKS ENDS ON UPBEAT NOTE BUT NO EVIDENCE OF CONCRETE PROGRESS

By David Lardow

HERZLIYA, June 26 (JTA) -- The third round of the Israeli-Egypt autonomy talks adjourned here this afternoon with the delegations expressing "gratification" and "satisfaction" but unable as yet to show much by way of concrete progress.

The two sides are still divided as to what approach to adopt in the talks. Egypt wants a declaration of "bases and objectives" that would serve as an overall agenda framework. Israel, on the other hand, is pressing for detailed negotiations on the practical matters of establishing Palestinian autonomy. The delegations agreed to meet again in Alexandria, Egypt on July 5-6, by which time they will have studied carefully each other's proposals. A fifth round was scheduled for Aug. 5 in Herzliya.

An Israeli participant told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency after the meetings here that the Israeli delegation believed it would be possible to reach agreement on an agenda that would comprise broad statements of objectives, as Egypt desires. But some more work would be required to hammer out the text. Meanwhile, the sources said, the Egyptians were not opposed to starting discussions on the practical arrangements for the holding of the autonomy elections.

In a joint statement issued by the parties today, the difference of approach was accentuated. The statement said:

"The delegation of Egypt led by Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil introduced the position of the Egyptian government concerning the bases and objectives of the process and the future work based on the Camp David framework and the joint letter.

"The delegation of Israel led by (Interior) Minister Yosef Burg put forward its suggestions dealing with the practical ways and means to advance the negotiations."

Hope To Work Out Agenda

Burg described the two days of talks to newsmen as "helpful and constructive." Khalil characterized them as "very serious and fruitful." Khalil said he hoped the agenda could finally be worked out at the Alexandria meeting, or at least at the next Herzliya meeting on Aug. 5 and 6; and then "our statement will contain more substance and material than the present one." Both men explained that the proposals put forward this week would be studied in the interim, and each side would come to the Alexandria session with comments and reactions.

The fact that there was no deadlock, and that serious discussions were taking place, was itself "progress," Khalil observed. But he would "welcome" United States special envoy Robert Strauss' efforts "to push" the talks at a quicker pace, Khalil added. Strauss is due to take part in the Alexandria meeting -- his first appearance at the negotiations to which he was appointed President Carter's special envoy.

Strauss' deputy, James Leonard, who was here, said the U.S. delegation was "satisfied

with both the spirit and the substance of the negotiations so far," but he added that the U.S. looked forward to "more tangible" achievements in the future. He conceded that if "we go a great deal longer" without attaining agreement on an agenda, "we won't be so satisfied any more...." Leonard praised the "quality of the discussions." Both Israeli and Egyptian sources reported that Khalil and Burg had struck up a warm and informal rapport.

Begin Calls Khalil

After the session ended today Khalil received a telephone call from Premier Menachem Begin, who was in the northern town of Maalot touring the area. Khalil "thanked Begin for his call and his greetings" at a press conference. He said he hoped to meet with the Israeli Premier when Begin and Sadat hold their next summit, in Alexandria on July 10.

Burg explained that the month-long gap between the July 6 meeting and the Aug. 5 session was due to the Organization of African Unity meeting in Monrovia, which Egypt wanted to attend, the Moslem fast of Ramadan and the nine days of Jewish mourning before Tisha B'Av.

Before today's negotiating session, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Baruch Goli visited Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan at his hospital bed. Egyptian Defense Minister Kemal Hassan Ali toured sections of the "green line" in the company of Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon. "He showed understanding of our security problems," Sharon reported afterwards. "But that doesn't mean he agreed with us...."

SPECIAL INTERVIEW STRAUSS SAYS HIS MISSION IS TO KEEP NEGOTIATIONS MOVING

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, June 26 (JTA) -- Robert Strauss, President Carter's special envoy to the Middle East said, five days before his departure to that region, that he has the President's "full authority and support" in the execution of his mission. He said that basically it was to keep the Israeli-Egyptian peace process moving and make sure it does not "die of attrition" and "to find out how to bring something more than armaments (to the Mideast) for one country to frighten the other."

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency of his White House office yesterday, Strauss said the President has told him to use "his own judgment and instincts" but "not to revise" U.S. positions, such as its stand on the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Strauss leaves for Israel Saturday to begin a week-long trip that will take him to Egypt and Saudi Arabia and probably to Jordan if details with Amman can be arranged in time. He will be accompanied on what the State Department described as his "first major impact swing" as Carter's diplomatic representative, by the Administration's foremost specialists on the Middle East. These include Harold Saunders, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs and Robert Hunter who recently succeeded William Quandt as Middle East chief on the National Security Council.

In addition, several prominent clothing industry and trade union leaders will be in the party, including Murphy Finley, president of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, AFL-CIO. By

design and in practical effect, the party's make-up indicates that Strauss will be serving in his two ambassadorial capacities and will combine economic matters with diplomacy. He is still the U.S. representative for trade negotiations, a job he has held since March, 1977 as well as Ambassador-at-Large for Middle East peace negotiations to which post he was appointed earlier this year.

Strauss last visited Egypt and Israel April 16-21 on a trade mission. He said the industry people who will leave with him Sunday are going to "pursue economic ventures" in Egypt as a follow-up on his earlier visit there to cooperate in developing Egypt's economy.

Won't Discuss Substantive Issues

Apart from his allusions to tactics, Strauss refused to discuss substantive issues. "I am not going to negotiate in the newspapers," he said. "I have to find out how to bring something more than armaments for one country to frighten the other. The peace process 'has to move,'" he stressed. After the accomplishments by President Carter, President Anwar Sadat and Premier Menachem Begin "this thing can't die of attrition. The President (Carter) wants to see this doesn't happen," Strauss said.

Reminded that Israel has come under intense pressure and criticism in recent weeks over its settlement policy on the West Bank, that Saudi Arabia, fully tied to the Arab "rejectionists" of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, is urging that the U.S. begin an "immediate dialogue" with the PLO and most recently, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's insistence that the Palestinians have a "small state of their own," the Presidential envoy was asked if there will be marked changes in the U.S. position to achieve "movement."

"Let us not talk specific issues," he replied. "We have positions. The President said last Thursday 'I want you to go there and do the same kind of job you have done in other areas. You have my full authority and support. You will be making mistakes but you will bring peace to the area.'" Strauss added, "I am not a loose cannon aboard a ship. I act loose but I play conservative whether in poker or otherwise. I consider my chances to get to second base before leaving first." He observed that "It is necessary and appropriate to move the peace process -- not in violation of the commitments of this nation or the President to either side but in pursuit of his basic commitment to peace in the Middle East."

Strauss, a former Democratic Party National Chairman, pursued two personal topics. One relates to why the President gave him the job and the other to his outlook on Jewish concerns when he was a young lawyer in Dallas. "Some people think Strauss took this job because of his relationship with the President and his political skills to hold it (the Mideast peace process) together," he said, "until after the 1980 elections. That's a lot of bunk. No point in my wasting time trying to dissuade people who believe that. I can only change their minds by what I can produce," he said.

Committed Jew

"Some people," he continued, "think because I am a committed Jew whose roots go back many years and deeply steeped in Judaism on both sides of my family -- and I have a long history of activity by my family and my wife's family on behalf of Israel -- I am going to sell out

to the Arab world for Israel. That's a lot of bunk. Just like the other, there is no point to my wasting time to dissuade those people." He added, "Then there's a third group that says Carter put me out there, a Jew, because I'm better postured to put the squeeze on Israel. That too is a lot of bunk. Again, no reason to waste time to dissuade those people. The only thing that will convince them is my actions. In something like this, I'm not angry with those who feel that way; there's a lot of paranoia, suspicion, mistrust."

Strauss said "I understand each of these three positions. What I've got to do by my actions is demonstrate there's no basis for them. If I do my job right, one side will be unhappy with me for one month and the other side the following month. But I did not take this job for a popularity contest. I took it on for commitment for the cause of peace and the President believes I am uniquely qualified on his behalf and the country's behalf."

Asked if he was ever associated, in any way with the anti-Zionist American Council for Judaism which at one time was influential among certain Jews in the South and southwest, Strauss referred to his late father-in-law, Leslie L. Jacobs of Dallas and his own leadership in the Jewish Welfare Federation there. He said "In the town in the 1940s about 20 percent of the Jews were Zionist, ten percent belonged to the Council and the rest were nothing -- neither Zionist nor Council. I was among those." He replied "exactly" when asked if he had favored the creation of Israel. "We all supported the UJA (United Jewish Appeal) extremely well. I never at any time opposed the creation of the State of Israel. Anyone who says I did is nothing but a troublemaker who would like to diminish my effectiveness."

LESSING ROSENWALD DEAD AT 88

JENKINTOWN, Pa., June 26 (JTA) -- Lessing J. Rosenwald, the founder and first president of the anti-Zionist American Council for Judaism and one-time chairman of the board of Sears, Roebuck and Co., died at his estate near here yesterday at the age of 88. A private funeral service was scheduled.

Lessing and his brother, William, are sons of Julius Rosenwald, who founded Sears Roebuck and built it into one of the nation's largest retailing firms. William has been active for years in a variety of Jewish organizations aiding Israel, including national chairmanship of the United Jewish Appeal from 1942 to 1963, chairman of the Israel Emergency Fund and vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee. The poles-apart views of the Rosenwald brothers on Zionism and Israel was for many years a focus of interest in the Jewish community.

As president of the Council for Judaism, Lessing Rosenwald signed a memorandum submitted in 1947 to the United Nations the year that the General Assembly voted to recommend the partition of Palestine into economically linked Jewish and Arab states, asserting that the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine would be harmful to Jews throughout the world. After Israel was established, both leaders and members resigned from the Council for Judaism but not Lessing Rosenwald.

Active in Philadelphia's cultural life, he was also a member of the Congregation Knesseth Israel, a major Reform synagogue, and president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of Philadelphia from 1930 to 1934.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A military tribunal in Lod imposed a 15-year prison sentence Tuesday on George Kurzo, a Haifa student, for planting a bomb near the Central Synagogue in Haifa last February.

BEGIN TELLS GALILEE RESIDENTS ISRAEL HAS TERRORISTS ON THE RUN

By Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, June 26 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin, on a two-day tour of Galilee, told residents of the border town of Kiryat Shmona last night that the Israel army has taken the initiative against Palestinian terrorists and has them on the run. He spent the night at Kiryat Shmona which is largely populated by immigrants from Oriental countries and has long been a target of terrorist rocket and artillery attacks.

"The initiative in south Lebanon is in our hands now," Begin told an audience of 10,000 at the Kiryat Shmona amphitheater where he received a rousing welcome. "We have the strength to hit the terrorists until they stop the bloodshed. And now they are fleeing. We do not retaliate any more. We hit them once or even twice a day according to our decision and any time. We look for them in their hiding places. We try to locate their command posts, those responsible for murder. You have a good chance to get rid of the terrorists but give us time to fulfill this chance. It is our intention to dissuade them from wanting to hurt us. But this is not done overnight," he said.

Begin met with Maj. Saad Haddad, commander of the Christian Militia in south Lebanon and reiterated Israel's pledge not to desert the Christians who are battling the Palestinians. He also repeated his call to the Lebanese government in Beirut to sit down at the negotiating table with Israel. He announced that Israel will absorb a third group of refugees from Vietnam.

Gaan Named Honorary Citizen

Begin attended ceremonies at which his close friend, Nissim Gaon, president of the World Sephardi Federation, was made an honorary citizen of Kiryat Shmona. Gaon agreed to three projects to improve facilities and the quality of life in that largely Sephardic township. He said he would bring in Swiss technicians to survey the possibility of a cable car line from Kiryat Shmona to Manara on a hilltop nearby. If the government participates in financing this project, Gaon said he would also provide means of his own. He promised to channel aid given Oriental immigrants to Kiryat Shmona if the town is able to ensure adequate housing for them. He also said he would help construct a youth center for underprivileged youngsters in the town.

In addition to Kiryat Shmona, Begin visited Hatzor Ob, the ancient site of Hatzor Haglilit, Rosh Pina, gravesite of Shlomo Ben Yossef, a Betor member executed by the British during the disturbances of 1936-39 and Tel Hai which Joseph Trumpeldor and his followers defended against Arab attacks.

LEVY REJECTS CHARGES HOUSING SHORTAGE CAUSING ALIYA DROP

JERUSALEM, June 26 (JTA) -- Housing Minister David Levy rejected charges that lack of housing in Israel was reducing aliya and charged himself today that "elements" in the Jewish Agency were encouraging recent threats to stop aliya. Levy, who is also Minister of Absorption, referred in an address to the Jewish Agency Assembly here to warnings voiced this week by the leaders of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel that unless the housing shortage is solved, they might advise immigrants to postpone their immigration until the situation improved.

"Such demonstrations miss the point and only cause a decrease in the number of immigrants," said Levy. He said that some 90 percent of the immigrants received their permanent apartments fast. Some 13,000 flats were given this year to the 40,000 immigrants who have arrived, Levy said.

Rafael Kottowitz, head of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department, told the Assembly that since the Six-Day War some 500,000 Soviet Jews have asked for visas to immigrate to Israel. Some 200,000 have actually left and 150,000 came to Israel. Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich told the Assembly yesterday that whereas Israel was still struggling with the problems of inflation and the deficit in the balance of payments, the gross national income rose by five percent last year, for the first time in four years.

Jewish Agency Treasurer Akiva Levinsky explained the new three-year budget system of the Agency. Under the system, the Jewish Agency will have a budget of \$522.1 million next year compared to this year's \$405 million. Levinsky said that the change to a three-year budget was "the first step in a new direction. Immigration and absorption, as well as settlement and social projects, cannot be limited to a one-year program," he said.

Urge List Of Priorities

Morton Mandel, president of the Council of Jewish Federations in the U.S., suggested that each Jewish Agency department establish a list of priorities to enable better division between the local needs and those of the needs of the Jewish communities overseas. Levinsky agreed that the proportions between Israeli financial needs and those of the communities should undergo constant checking.

Yosef Shapiro, head of Youth Aliya, said greater efforts should be made in the assistance to any institution aiding distressed youth. Under the present department policy it deals only with youth from the age of 12. Shapiro said that currently there were some 700 children from Iran in Youth Aliya institutions and only a few of them left the country. On the other hand, of a similar number of children who did not enter Youth Aliya institutions, a third have already left the country, he said. (By Gil Sedan)

CLARK URGED NOT TO MOVE EMBASSY

MONTREAL, June 26 (JTA) -- New Democratic Party leader Ed Broadbent called on Prime Minister Joe Clark yesterday to immediately announce that Canada will not move its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. "This would restore our traditional position of neutrality on Jerusalem," Broadbent said after a meeting with representatives of the nine Arab League states here yesterday.

Clark announced Saturday that Robert Stanfield, former leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, will serve as a one-man task force to study the matter of moving Canada's Embassy to Jerusalem. He said that Stanfield will visit Arab countries and Israel on a goodwill and fact-finding mission in the fall.

In an interview published in the Montreal Star today, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat accused Clark of undermining peace efforts in the Middle East by the proposed move and warned that Arab threats against Canada should be taken seriously. He also said that Canada should demonstrate an "even-handed" attitude towards the Palestinians and said that he would welcome discussions on all these points with Stanfield. Sadat added that "Any act of the Canadian government" regarding the Embassy "will undermine any comprehensive peace settlement." (By Michael Solomon)

BEHIND THE HEADLINES 'HOLOCAUST' SERIES FAILS TO MAKE MAJOR IMPACT ON ITALIAN VIEWERS

By Lisa Palmieri-Billing

ROME, June 26 (JTA) -- The NBC-TV production of "Holocaust," watered down, as some observers have charged from four to eight installments over a five-week period, has finally completed its rather weary Italian cycle. Reactions of the media and public opinion have been consistent throughout and afterwards: a reluctant acknowledgement of the didactic value for the uninformed combined with harsh criticism of the contrived "Hollywood-style" plot used to tell the story; the superficiality of historic treatment; and an underplaying or "rose-colored" portrayal of the true horrors of reality, which all agreed, far surpassed the possibilities of fictional imagination.

TV documentaries and debates were broadcast in which Italian Jewish survivors testified to their experiences, at times shocking viewers far more than the serial itself. They agreed, however, that the "Hollywood" version had the virtue of containing violence within the tolerance threshold of the average viewer who might otherwise have switched channels.

The viewing-audience, though exceptionally large, did not reach the high percentage that saw the program in West Germany. Critics gave two reasons. First, many Italians lived through these experiences first hand as victims, and vicarious identification was too painful. The second reason was well stated by the Rome daily *Il Messaggero*:

"Since the end of the war, 99 documentaries on Nazism were shown on German TV and no one imagined the hundredth one would have polarized the attention of the entire country. During the four evenings dedicated to 'Holocaust' the streets of the cities were deserted. The fact that (in Italy) our streets are deserted only on the occasion of a national soccer match (might be explained in that)... Italian anti-Semitism was confined to only a fanatic minority. The masses do not feel indirect guilt nor involvement in the horrors of Nazi crimes. 'Holocaust' did not touch them as elsewhere."

Anti-Semitism Debated

Newspapers published various accounts on the many instances when the Italian government intervened, even under Fascism, to protect and save Jewish lives. But a running debate on anti-Semitism, past and present, has also been a news constant during the showing of the TV series.

A result of all this is that the freshly sensitized Italian awareness of Nazi crimes has perhaps added a context of deeper understanding to the words recently spoken by Pope John Paul II in behalf of Jewish victims at Auschwitz and has aroused public opinion to a stronger stand in favor of the abolition of the statute of limitations on war crimes in Germany. The Union of Italian Jewish Communities has, incidentally, requested the Italian government to send an observer to the West German Parliament for the coming debate on this matter.

Another unfortunate result, which seems to follow the psychological patterns of other countries, is that there has been a marked increase in neo-Nazi graffiti by an active if small minority. Finally, a series of movies on Nazi and pre-war Nazi Germany is expected by Italian movie-makers who feel they can "do better" than the American TV producers.

BEGIN ADVISOR TO CROSS U.S. EXPLAINING ISRAEL'S POLICIES

By Yitzhak Rabi.

NEW YORK, June 26 (JTA) -- Harry Hurwitz, Premier Menachem Begin's advisor on external information, started here last night a tour across the United States in which he will meet with representatives of the American media in an effort to explain the policies of the Begin government, some of which have aroused sharp criticism in the general media and puzzlement and controversy among American Jews.

Speaking with members of the Jewish media in New York at a press conference at the Israeli Consulate here, Hurwitz said that the main message he carries with him is that "the terms of the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt are working satisfactorily," and that the process of normalization between the two countries is quicker than anticipated.

But he said that current talks in Israel between Israeli and Egyptian officials on autonomy for Palestinians living in Judea, Samaria and Gaza might face complications. "Please be prepared for ups and downs, for advances and setbacks" in the autonomy talks, Hurwitz said. He expressed, however, the belief that despite the expected difficulties, differences will be solved because "there is a desire on both sides to make progress."

Asked if Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria might have an adverse effect on the talks with Egypt, Hurwitz replied so far there are no indications that Israel's moves in these areas are disturbing relations with Egypt.

Making 'Mountain From Molehill'

On the controversial Alan March settlement, which brought criticism from Jews and non-Jews alike, Hurwitz said: "I believe we are making a mountain from a molehill." He said that "all the fuss" is over a small stretch of rocky land of about ten acres. He reiterated the contention of the government that the settlements are legal and they are needed for Israeli security.

Hurwitz said that those American Jews who criticize the settlements do not know the facts and the importance of these settlements for Israel's defense. Noting that according to some recently published statistics only five percent of American Jews have visited Israel, he said that "the Jews of America should come and see the land for themselves" and only then they will be able to judge on Israeli security needs in Judea and Samaria which overlook the narrow coastline of Israel.

RUMANIA CANCELS IPO VISIT

TEL AVIV, June 26 (JTA) -- The Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra is angry that the Rumanian government has cancelled two concerts it was scheduled to give in Bucharest under a cultural exchange program. Zubin Mehta, the orchestra's musical director, said that the excuse that a suitable auditorium could not be found for the Sept. 27 and 29 concerts was unacceptable.

Mehta noted that a Bucharest Opera House Troupe performed 12 times in Israel under the agreement. "They sent us a third-rate troupe and the subscribers of the Philharmonic series had to listen to those singers 12 times," he said. "Now they say they don't have a proper auditorium. This is a simple violation of an agreement." Two world-famous pianists, Radu Lupu and Daniel Barenboim, had volunteered to perform with the orchestra at the two concerts. The Rumanian Jewish community had been preparing to host the group. (By Yitzhak Shargil)