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STRAUSS SEEKS TO GET AUTONOMY NEGOTIATIONS OFF DEAD CENTER

By David Lahdou

ALEXANDRIA, July 5 (JTA) — The fourth session of the Israeli-Egyptian U.S. autonomy talks got underway here today with a spirited opening statement by President Carter's special envoy, Robert Strauss, obviously intended to get the negotiations off dead center where they have been stalled since they started last May. Strauss called on both sides to "have the courage not to equivocate but to face difficult issues and resolve them fairly." He was referring to the Israeli-Egyptian deadlock over an agenda.

Egypt has proposed a declarative statement of principles that would establish the ultimate objectives of autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It feels this approach would provide an incentive to Palestinian moderates to join in the negotiations and would improve the image of the autonomy plan in the Arab world.

Israel has rejected that idea for fear that it would bog down the discussions in politics and ideology. The Israeli position is that the talks begin by tackling the practical aspects of autonomy such as the election of an autonomous council, who may seek election and who is eligible to vote, the structure of the self-governing authority and its ambit of responsibility.

Expect Creation Of 'Working Groups'

U.S. sources close to the conference told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that they expected this round of talks to result in the creation of "working groups," meaning apparently, subcommittees, each to deal with a specific issue involved in the creation of Palestinian autonomy. If that is achieved during the roughly 36 hours allocated for this negotiating session, Strauss will have chalked up a notable success for his no-nonsense approach.

But the feeling as the talks started was that any substantive progress will have to await the outcome of next week's scheduled summit meeting between Premier Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat in Alexandria. Both sides seem to be depending upon the two leaders to reach some sort of compromise in the course of their private conversations.

As far as Israel is concerned, however, its opposition to the Egyptian plan was reaffirmed by the negotiating team which met under the chairmanship of Begin before leaving for Alexandria yesterday. A number of Egyptian suggestions, including the declaration of principles, were rejected on grounds that they went beyond the Camp David frameworks and the joint letter of Begin and Sadat which accompanied the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. Israeli sources said privately that the U.S. negotiators seem inclined toward Israel's "practical approach" despite Strauss' assertions that at this stage he favors neither plan.

Says Carter Is Committed To Peace Process

The American envoy emphasized in his opening statement today that his participation was "physical evidence of the commitment" of President Carter personally and the U.S. as a nation to the continuation of the Mideast peace process.

He said he looked forward to the U.S. playing "a full, hopefully fair, constructive, reasonable and creative (role of) partner" in the talks.

Strauss was flanked by a top-level American team of Middle East experts, including the U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Alfred Atherton, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs Harold Saunders, State Department legal aide Herbert Hansell, and Strauss' deputy, Ambassador James Leonard.

Strauss said that he and Leonard "feel you have set the stage for breakthrough rather than breakdown, as Dr. Burg has said, and we shall have it." He was referring to the opening remarks of Interior Minister Yosef Burg, chairman of the Israeli delegation, who expressed hope for a "breakthrough rather than a breakdown" in this round of talks. Both Burg and Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil, head of the Egyptian delegation, called Strauss' presence "enriching and enhancing the panorama." Khalil said "We hope we are going to reach a new progress...."

Burg and Khalil conferred privately for almost a half-hour before the session got underway. They met at the San Stefano Hotel where the Israeli delegation is quartered. Since the last session, the Egyptians installed air conditioning in the suites occupied by the Israeli and American delegations. The Egyptian team is staying at the more luxurious Falastin Hotel. The Israelis refused to take rooms there because of the political connotation of the name, which means Palestine.

ISRAELIS SATISFIED WITH BUNDESTAG ACTION ON STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) — Israelis have hailed the West German Bundestag's vote abolishing the statute of limitations for prosecuting Nazi war criminals and have sent cables of appreciation to German officials and Germany's Ambassador to Israel, Klaus Schuetz.

Premier Menachem Begin personally expressed his satisfaction today to visiting West Berlin Mayor Dietrich Stobbe. Begin urged West Germany to pursue the prosecution of war criminals. At the same time, the Premier protested to Stobbe over the recent statement by the foreign ministers of the European Economic Community criticizing Israel's settlement policy.

Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir expressed his satisfaction yesterday with the vote. Tamir, who interrupted the Knesset session Tuesday to announce the vote, said he hoped that now Nazi criminals still free would be brought to trial. Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres sent a cable of congratulations to his opposite number in Germany, Willy Brandt, chairman of the Social Democratic Party, expressing his appreciation for the decision.

Likud MK Yosef Tamir, chairman of the Israel-Germany Association, sent cables of congratulations to German leaders as well as West German Ambassador Schuetz. Tamir expressed the hope the decision would improve relations between Germany and Israel.

KISSINGER: JORDAN NOT SEEKING CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) — U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said here today that King Hussein of Jordan is not bent on a military

confrontation with Israel. Kissinger returned to Israel after visiting Amman and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Speaking at a press conference, he said the fact that Hussein is receiving Robert Strauss, President Carter's special envoy to the Middle East, on Saturday means that the purpose is to "explore what possibilities exist for negotiations, otherwise it wouldn't make any sense."

Asked if Saudi Arabia was linking oil supplies to the autonomy talks, the American diplomat said "I would hate to think that our position in these negotiations depends on expectations of the supply of oil." He agreed completely with what Strauss reportedly said yesterday in Cairo, rejecting oil blackmail. Strauss was quoted as saying that the United States will not talk with the Palestine Liberation Organization under pressure from the oil-producing Arab nations.

"On the other hand," Kissinger added, "I must say that this was not a threat that was made to me while I was in Saudi Arabia. The two issues were not brought into connection while I was there. The issue of energy and the issue of problems here should be dealt with as separate problems. I would have thought that Saudi Arabia would understand that its own position depends on stable world economy. There is enough to talk about in the energy field without linking it to other issues."

Kissinger said there could be no change in the attitude toward the PLO until it accepted Security Council Resolution 242 and Israel's right to exist.

U.S. BANKERS SEE ISRAEL AS 'SWITZERLAND OF THE MIDDLE EAST'

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) — An Israel Bond Organization bankers delegation, whose banks and bank holding companies list assets of nearly \$30 billion and have already invested significantly in Israel Bonds, predicted a role for Israel as the "Switzerland of the Middle East" provided a lasting peace is achieved.

This was the view of Frederick Deane Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of the Bank of Virginia in Richmond, speaking at the closing dinner of the delegation which visited Israel for a week under the auspices of Israel Bonds.

The dinner, addressed by Israel Manufacturers Association president Avraham Shavit, provided an opportunity for the 20 bankers to assess their impressions of Israel "as bankers who are interested in lending money and getting it back." Deane summed up his views: "I think that the achievement in industry has been fantastic particularly when you consider that it's been going on while you had war at the same time."

A theme heard more than once was the "bad press" Israel gets in the United States. William Brenton, chairman of Brenton Banks of Des Moines, Iowa, said, "This is a very dynamic country. Instead of Bank Leumi buying U.S. banks, they ought to buy U.S. newspapers. The message of this country has not been brought to us."

A similar note was struck by Harvey Kershaw Jr., chairman of the Provident Savings Bank of Baltimore. "Many misconceptions have been reversed. These people are among the most hard-working groups in the world. Israel and her people deserve the greatest amount of encouragement. The West is less informed than it should be," he said.

If a Middle East development fund can amass \$30-\$50 billion in the next decade to boost economic development within both Egypt and Israel, the peace process will really succeed, the Gov-

ernor of the Bank of Israel, Amnon Gafni, told the Americans.

Unless this economic underpinning of peace is provided, he saw disillusion with the peace setting in within one and a half to two years. Gafni called on the U.S., West Germany, Japan and the European Economic Community (EEC), as well as world money markets to join forces in providing support.

Israel had amply demonstrated the successes that flow from imported capital, Shimon Peres, chairman of the opposition Labor Party, told the group. By investing loans provided from the sales of Israel Bonds, capital notes and other government securities in the country's infrastructure, Israel had reached the stage where she exported one-third of all Middle East non-oil exports.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA ISRAEL'S SOLAR TECHNOLOGY PRAISED

By Lauren Deutsch

LOS ANGELES, July 5 (JTA) — "Israel's advanced solar energy technology may spark the beginning of new foreign and energy politics with the United States and other countries seeking independence from OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) cartel power," suggests California economic/energy activist Tom Hayden who represents the State of California in Western Sun, a federally funded solar energy agency, and heads the Campaign for Economic Democracy.

Accompanied by his wife, activist/actress Jane Fonda, Hayden has been stumping within the Los Angeles Jewish community to gain public and legislative support for a joint Israel-California solar pond project in the Salton Sea near Palm Springs, an area similar to the Dead Sea in Israel.

The Salton Sea solar pond project, currently in feasibility study phase, is one of the fruits of a unique technological exchange and solar energy agreement signed last April by California Governor Edmund Brown and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin. Participating are Southern California Edison, California energy officials, and Israel's Ormat turbine company in Yavne. If fully developed, the Salton Sea site would be capable of generating up to 600 megawatts of electricity and support for local agricultural and economic systems.

Hayden's impressions of Israel's solar development were gleaned from a one-week trip earlier this year, and he clearly spells out in his statements the successes Israel — as consumer and producer — has had with solar power.

"David Ben Gurion, the first prophet of solar energy, realized Israel lacked fossil fuels and encouraged government support for Israeli scientists to develop the nation's solar power potential," Hayden noted. "Israel is the most solarized nation on earth, and thus has a new energy role in the world."

"However, like most highly industrialized nations today, Israel has a huge dependency on oil. It's hard to fight land or rocket wars with solar power," he added, calling for a closer sensitivity and alternative approach to the relationships of energy, economic development and peace.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — A record number of Ph.D. and Masters Degrees were awarded by the Bar Ilan University, the religious oriented university in Ramat Gan, at a graduation ceremony Tuesday in the presence of Education Minister Ze'evulun Hammer and Bar Ilan University president Emanuel Rackman. There were 30 Ph.D. awardees, 130 Masters and 1095 Bachelors degrees, including 692 who received their degrees in social sciences. Hammer is himself a graduate of the university.

JEWISH AGENCY SEEKS WAYS TO WIN OVER SOVIET DROPOUTS

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency stepped up its campaign to win over "noshrim" (dropouts) in several directions. This week, a group of 16 noshrim presently living in Rome came here, paying for the journey out of their own pockets, to learn about Israel at first hand under the guidance of the Agency's Soviet immigrants department.

Most of them are academically trained people in their 20s and 30s, and their program concentrates on universities and science-based industries where they are introduced to Soviet olim who have found employment and fulfillment in Israel.

Leah Slovin, director of the Soviet immigrant department, noted that of late the period required for the noshrim to reside in Rome while their visas to the U.S. are processed has been reduced from four months to one. This obviously gives the Jewish Agency less opportunity to arrange get-acquainted tours of Israel for those who are interested. Nevertheless, this week's group of 16 were selected from more than 100 applicants.

There have been two previous such groups, and the feedback shows that they were highly successful. Participants returned to Rome with accounts of what they had seen and learned that were considerably more favorable than the impressions of Israel and life here that are widespread among the noshrim.

Thinking Of Changing Destinations

According to a Jewish Agency spokesman there are "already initial signs" that some of the people involved are actively thinking of changing their intended destination from the U.S. to Israel. The tour for this week's group includes, for the first time, a day at "Tekoa" a new settlement in Judea on the West Bank, peopled mainly by Soviet olim. A meeting has also been arranged between the group and several "Prisoners of Zion."

The Agency has also completed a course this week for prospective emissaries who are to be sent to Vienna and Rome to work among the Jewish emigres from the USSR. The course was given by Prof. Yosef Topinski, a psychology professor at Bar Ilan University, himself a Soviet immigrant. Topinski spent a year in the U.S. doing research among noshrim there. His academic specialty is communication.

Some 65 recent olim from Russia participated in the course, and out of these, the Agency's Soviet immigrants department will select those most suitable to be sent on this form of delicate and difficult mission. At the present time, there are six such emissaries in Vienna and three in Rome.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA AUSTRALIA ACTS AGAINST THE PLO

By Sam Lipski

MELBOURNE, July 5 (JTA) -- Jewish communal leaders have welcomed the decision by the Australian government to withdraw an invitation to host the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime scheduled next year in Sydney. The 1980 conference was dropped because delegates representing the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has observer status at the UN, would have been eligible to attend.

The Australian government followed the precedent set by Canada's former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who cancelled the Fifth

UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime in September 1975, because the PLO would have attended.

Although neither Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser nor the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Andrew Peacock, have publicly given the PLO's possible attendance as the reason for withdrawing the invitation, sources close to the Prime Minister have confirmed the details.

The president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Isi Leibler, said Canberra's decision had upheld the highest ideals of international relations and was in the best interests of Australia. "There was something particularly bizarre and hypocritical in the idea of the PLO at an international conference on the prevention of crime," Leibler said. The overwhelming majority of the Australian public quite rightly regarded the PLO as "synonymous with crime and terrorism against civilians."

The government's decision, however, was criticized by a number of leading criminologists who said that Australia had forfeited the opportunity to stage a prestigious conference bringing jurists, police and criminologists together. Surprisingly, the government's action has received very little media coverage and there has been almost no editorial comment in the Australian press.

The Fraser government, which took office in December 1975, has consistently refused to allow any representatives of the PLO to visit Australia and has emphasized on a number of occasions its refusal to recognize the PLO in any way until that organization first recognizes Israel and abandons its war of terror.

LARGER EMIGRATION EXPECTED IN 1979

NEW YORK, July 5 (JTA) -- Based on the first six months of the year, it appears certain that Soviet Jewish emigration in 1979 will break all records, according to the Soviet Jewry Research Bureau of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ). It pointed out that the tally from January to June is 24,794, projecting a total for 1979 of nearly 50,000. This year, the number of emigres arriving in Vienna from the USSR will almost double the 28,864 Soviet Jews who left in 1978.

The significant rise in emigration will unquestionably put 1979 in the lead with the largest number of Soviet Jewish emigres, the NCSJ noted. The highest annual emigration until this year was 34,733 in 1973. Conversely, the NCSJ added, as emigration from the USSR steadily increases, the percentage of Soviet Jews arriving in Israel is steadily decreasing. Since January of this year, only 866 of the 24,794 emigrants have taken up residence in Israel. The percentage of Jews going to Israel for this same six-month period in 1978 was approximately 55 percent.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

ALEXANDRIA, July 5 (JTA) -- Israeli and Egyptian negotiators agreed here tonight under the prodding of President Carter's special Mideast envoy, Robert Strauss, to set up a number of "working groups" which will focus on the various aspects of the autonomy negotiations. In this way, the autonomy talks have circumvented the difference in approaches between Israel and Egypt which had been holding up progress until now.

Late tonight, the three teams met over dinner to discuss the precise number of "working groups" that will be created and their precise designation. Agreement was reached earlier on the names and nature of the first two groups: one will deal with the "modalities" of the self-governing council and the other with its "powers and responsibilities." (Both terms are in the Camp David framework and in the Sadat-Begin March 26 joint letter.)

FOCUS ON ISSUES

JEWISH STUDENTS IN SOUTH AMERICA

By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, July 5 (JTA) -- The Zionist movement is guilty of the sin of neglect towards the Jews in South America, the head of the World Zionist Organization's student division told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency following his one-month trip to the region. "We are totally avoiding a world which desperately needs our help."

Dror Zeigerman, head of the 10-month-old student division, contends that some 70,000 Jewish students in South America constitute Israel's best market for aliya in the college-age group -- if they can only be reached. "The money and the power are in the U.S. But it's time we looked southward," says Zeigerman. "Jewish youth in South America is in a state of social and spiritual deprivation. The Zionist movement and the Jewish community are one of the few places in which he can freely express himself."

Following an extended visit to Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Colombia, Zeigerman is convinced of the need for an organized call for aliya there. The regimes, he says, prevent the youth from thinking and the campuses are physically decentralized so as to prevent social activities. "Just in that light alone, Israel has much to offer the South American Jewish student," he says, adding that the new college-age generation would readily respond to a call of aliya -- if the call will made.

As it stands now, efforts directed by the WZO at the South American continent are poorly organized. "We have to stop thinking and speaking English," contends Zeigerman, pointing to the surplus of written material on Zionism which goes unused in South America simply because it is written in the wrong language. The same situation applies to outdated visual material, which is cast aside due to its lack of relevance.

Problem Is General

The problem, however, says Zeigerman, does not pertain only to South America, where it is felt most strongly, but to the WZO's approach to students everywhere.

"The WZO has largely overlooked the student in its aliya efforts for a number of reasons," observes Zeigerman. "First, it is difficult to locate and organize students. Second, on an ideological level, all activities of the Zionist movement seem to stop at high school graduation. Third, a whole series of objective difficulties, such as the rise of the left and the Vietnam War, have prevented a more efficient link with Jewish students throughout the world. The Zionist movement just couldn't compete on the campuses with these movements."

Now, he contends, Zionism can attract students -- both because competition has died down and because of the contemporary search for roots. "Jews are returning to their Judaism," he says. Also, the situation has somewhat improved with the creation of the WZO student division. Until this year, Jewish students were taken care of by the youth and hechalutz department where, he contends, they were severely overlooked.

"In 1978, students were allocated only \$400,000, three percent of the department's \$10 million annual budget," Zeigerman notes. Now, with the creation of the separate student division, some \$1 million has been allocated. "It's still only 10 percent of youth and hechalutz, but it's a definite improvement over the previous

situation." With the proper assistance, Zeigerman envisions a situation in which Zionist nuclei could be established on campuses throughout the world and up to 100 students on each campus would be responsible for involving others in issues relevant to Israel. "If we can get students involved in the fight against the PLO, against anti-Semitism, in support of Soviet Jewry, then it's only a small step to magnifying their interest in Israel and aliya," Zeigerman observes.

He also wants to establish aliya groups on the campuses and increase Jewish student participation in educational programs in Israeli universities. "This year, we have 2000 students enrolled here from the U.S. and another 2500 from South America. As far as the student is concerned, this is the real key to bringing him closer to Zionism," he says.

Zeigerman does not expect his division to "conquer the student world," but he expects it to work efficiently with small numbers of students who would in turn build wider Zionist action circles around themselves. If we have an active core, things will roll from there by themselves.

The division head urges that steps be taken quickly: "The situation is more serious than most people realize. Who will provide the Jewish nation with quality leadership in another 10-15 years? As it stands now, there is no coming generation in the Zionist movement. ... Things have to be altered now."

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The 19th Israel festival opened Tuesday in Jerusalem with the composition "Baladi" (Arabic for "My Homeland") by the Egyptian composer Gamal Abdul Rahim. The piece was played by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Zubin Mehta, but the composer himself was not present. He was reportedly banned from coming by the Egyptian authorities. "If Abdul Rahim listens to us," said Mehta in the live broadcast, "we want to tell him that we miss him here."

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, operated on for the removal of a malignant tumor in his intestine two weeks ago, is to visit Holland as planned in mid-July, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. The official visit was planned some time ago, but it had been thought that it would have to be put off in view of Dayan's medical condition. Dayan, however, has so far made a faster-than-average recovery from the effects of the operation. He was discharged from the Tel Hashomer Hospital Monday and is presently resting at his Zahala home.

LONDON (JTA) -- The latest edition of Collins English Dictionary has dropped a definition of a Jew as a "skinflint, miser or cheat." Collins, the publisher, said the change had been made because the usages were no longer appropriate. It denied that it has anything to do with Manchester businessman Marcus Shloimowitz who has pressed dictionary publishers for the past 10 years to remove "vulgar" and "offensive" definitions of the word Jew. However, Shloimowitz said he was delighted by the change.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund has planted a 1000-tree grove in honor of the outgoing Venezuelan Ambassador to Israel, Napoleon Gimenez, who is winding up a 10-year tour of duty in Jerusalem. The grove, donated by the Shervet family of Jerusalem, is near the moshav of Messilat Zion in the Jerusalem corridor.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Former Air Force Commander Gen. Mordechai Hod resigned as director general of FIAI.