

JTA daily news bulletin

Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. XLVI - 62nd Year

Tuesday, August 14, 1979

No. 156

SAUDI ARABIA WILL NOT DICTATE U.S. MIDEAST POLICY, CARTER TELLS EVRON

By Giti Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- President Carter told Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Evron last week that United States policy in the Middle East will not be dictated by Saudi Arabia, according to a report Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan gave the Cabinet yesterday.

Carter reportedly complained to Evron during a luncheon meeting at the White House last Wednesday that Israel doubted his intentions. "Would I desert Israel?" he asked. He reportedly explained to the Ambassador that he could not do so for both moral and political reasons. He added that if he went back on his commitments to Israel this would hurt him politically.

Evron reportedly replied that senior Administration officials were acting contrary to Carter's commitments. As an example, he said James Leonard, the deputy head of the U.S. delegation to the autonomy talks, had proposed positions such as allowing East Jerusalem Arabs and Palestinians living outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip to vote, international supervision of the autonomy elections and allowing the self-governing authority (administrative council) under the autonomy plan to have legislative, judicial as well as executive power. Members of the Israeli ministerial team on the autonomy talks said that Leonard had taken this position on instructions from Washington.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who was at the Carter-Evron meeting, reportedly said that Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who heads the Israeli delegation to the autonomy talks, did not understand the nature of the American proposals. Evron then read the protocol in order to prove his point. Carter responded to this by noting: "This indeed is not in order. It must have been lack of coordination."

Will Not Support Palestinian State

Carter reportedly repeated his commitment not to support a Palestinian state, although he supported the establishment of "full autonomy" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the context of the Camp David agreements. Carter said he had his doubts whether this was what Israel wanted.

Evron asked what the U.S. position is on the Kuwaiti proposal at the United Nations Security Council to grant the Palestinians the right of self-determination. Carter reportedly promised that the U.S. would use the right of veto to veto any such proposal. However, Dayan noted, it was not clear whether the U.S. would also veto a similar suggestion with a different wording. Dayan expressed concern about a possible coordination between the U.S. and the nine members of the European Economic Community. He expressed confidence that Israel could rally U.S. Jewry behind Israel's position on autonomy.

HOELAND EQUIVOCATES ON BOYCOTT

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- The

Dutch government said today that it will seek to tighten its law on discrimination to make it more difficult for the Arab boycott to be applied against Dutch firms.

The step was taken in response to a report by a parliamentary commission on the Arab boycott which said that Dutch firms were being hit with the boycott in virtually all phases of their transactions with Arab states.

At the same time, the government said it would not prevent companies from complying with the Arab economic boycott of Israel under which they declare their goods contain no Israel-manufactured components. The government also said it had no intention of preventing Dutch Chambers of Commerce from authenticating exported products as having no connection with Israel.

The parliamentary committee reported that some Dutch firms had issued declarations that the firms had no dealing with Israel and that employees being sent to Arab countries were not Jewish. The Israeli Information Center in the Hague said today that the Dutch government's response to the request from Israel that it take measures against the boycott was "disappointing and incomplete."

STRAUSS GOING TO MIDEAST TO CHART STEPS FOR PROGRESS IN AUTONOMY TALKS

In Speech In Texas, Strauss Says The U.S.

Wants To See Palestinians In Peace Talks Now
By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- The State Department said today that Ambassador Robert Strauss, President Carter's special envoy for Middle East negotiations, is going to Israel and Egypt this week in order to find out how to achieve progress in the Israeli-Egyptian talks on autonomy. Strauss, who leaves Washington Thursday, will be discussing this effort with Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, according to State Department spokesman Tom Reston.

However, Strauss, who had pushed up his Middle East visit twice, had said earlier that he had done so to calm the present tension in Israeli-American relations.

(Addressing the American Bar Association in Houston; Texas today Strauss described as "false" the idea that there has been a lessening of U.S. commitment to keep Israel strong. He also affirmed: "We would like to see the Palestinians in the (peace) talks now, as the Camp David agreement provides. And their acceptance of (United Nations Security Council) Resolution 242 and of Israel's right to exist would be a major step along the road to peace." See full story P.3.)

Reston said that Strauss' deputy, James Leonard, is returning to the Mideast to help Egypt and Israel in the autonomy talks. "Our delegation has been capably led by Jim Leonard," Reston added. Leonard has been criticized by Israel for making proposals in the autonomy talks which Israel feels are against its interests.

There are no plans for Strauss to visit Jordan and Saudi Arabia during this trip, Reston said, although both countries will be informed of developments through diplomatic channels.

Reston said Strauss will take with him a delegation of American businessmen to explore investment opportunities in Israel. "This is a similar type of operation to the one he (Strauss) had in Cairo on his last trip to the Middle East when he also took a group of

American businessmen with him," Reston said.

The Department spokesman said that Israeli Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, who is leaving for the U.S. Wednesday, does not plan to meet with any Administration officials in Washington or anywhere else. He said he understood from the Israeli Embassy that Yadin will be on a private visit and will be in New York and Chicago but not Washington.

Yadin is scheduled to address a luncheon meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York City Friday. He is also due to speak to the 65th annual national convention of Hadassah which is being held in Chicago Aug. 19-22. Strauss, meanwhile, has invited the Presidents Conference to meet with him in Washington Wednesday afternoon.

Meanwhile, Reston sought to assure reporters that a meeting July 23 between Andrew Young, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and Zehadi Labib Terzi, the Palestine Liberation Organization observer at the UN in New York, was "just happenstance."

Reston said Young and his son went to the home of Kuwaiti Ambassador Abdalla Yaccoub Bishara who has a son the same age as Young's son. He said while Young was there Terzi arrived but the two only exchanged normal amenities during the 15 minutes they were in the same apartment. No diplomatic exchanges took place, Reston stressed.

RABINOWITZ CRITICALLY ILL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Former Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz was reported in critical condition at Hadassah Hospital today after suffering a massive coronary yesterday. He collapsed in Jerusalem while attending the funeral of David Horowitz, the former Governor of the Bank of Israel who died last Friday at the age of 80. Labor Knesset members Adi Amora and Gad Yaacobi carried Rabinowitz to a nearby ambulance where he was given first aid on the way to the hospital.

Rabinowitz, 67, served as Finance Minister in the government headed by Premier Yitzhak Rabin, succeeding the late Pinhas Sapir. Prior to that he was the mayor of Tel Aviv. One of the central figures in the Labor Party, Rabinowitz has been the Labor Alignment's frontline spokesman against the present government under Premier Menachem Begin in the area of economic policy.

ISRAEL HIT BY 2-HOUR STRIKE TO PROTEST GOVERNMENT CUT IN SUBSIDIES

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- A two-hour nationwide strike, called by the Histadrut today to protest the government's cut in subsidies which sent basic food prices up by an average of 50 percent, delayed flights at Ben Gurion Airport, disrupted banking and communications, and closed down many large plants.

Histadrut spokesmen said the strike was fully observed throughout the country except for exempted fields, such as public transportation, El Al and Arkia airlines, military installations and the health services. But the Manufacturers Association contended that at many factories the employees continued working. It was also reported that workers at large factories shut down the plants but at smaller concerns the employees continued working.

In the Galilee development town of Carmiel, the local Histadrut leader did not call a strike. Instead, he held a meeting during the lunch break. But at Ben Gurion Airport, workers were incensed that they had been exempted from the strike, so they held a four-hour strike. This delayed takeoffs for hours and caused a bottleneck at the terminal since thousands of arriving passengers could not get their luggage. Workers at the Communications Ministry were the only government employees to join the strike.

Histadrut Secretary General Yeruhim Meshel, who visited some of the larger factories, told the workers that the two-hour strike was a warning to the government that if it does not accept the Histadrut's demands there will be another strike, this time for an entire day.

Hapoel Hagizradi and Henut labor organizations condemned the strike, calling it politically motivated. This charge was echoed by Commerce and Industry Minister Gideon Patt who said the strike was a collusion between the Labor Party and the political leadership of Histadrut. He said the strike was an attempt to help the sinking fortunes of the Labor Party.

RABIN RAPPED BY LABOR PARTY LEADERS FOR HIS CRITICISM OF PERES

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Former Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin was lambasted by Labor Party leaders last night for his criticism of party chairman Shimon Peres but the party bureau decided not to pass a resolution rebuking him.

Peres, who Rabin accuses in his autobiography of undermining his leadership when Peres was Defense Minister in the Rabin government, said there was no need for a resolution since he considers the matter closed. "Having heard what all members have said, I feel they have confidence in me," Peres said.

The only Labor Party leader to defend Rabin during the four-hour meeting was former Foreign Minister Yigal Allon. "The party needs both Peres and Rabin," Allon declared. He criticized the all-out assaults against the former Premier.

Rabin appeared to take the ordeal philosophically although the outcome left no doubt that Peres emerged the unchallenged leader of the party despite Rabin's hopes to replace him. "I knew I would have to go through this ordeal," he said. "But I shall still make myself heard." He said his book speaks for him.

Rabin said he sticks by his autobiography in which he accuses Peres of lying and leaking State secrets in order to undermine Rabin as Premier. The book is being serialized in Maariv, but portions were first revealed by Israel Television, causing a storm within the Labor Party.

"I am not the first to write an autobiographical book," Rabin said. He noted that the late Premier Moshe Sharett wrote an autobiography in which he criticized many Labor Party leaders, including his party rival, David Ben Gurion.

During the debate last night, former Justice Minister Haim Zadok said the book had "damaged Rabin's credibility and the belief in his balanced judgment and showed how personal enmity could affect an author's senses." Labor Party secretary general Haim Barlev said the book has helped Premier Menachem Begin's government.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Hundreds gathered Sunday at the old Jewish cemetery in Hebron to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Arab riot against Hebron's Jewish population in 1929.

STRAUSS UNFOLDS U.S. POSITION ON ISRAEL AND PALESTINIAN PROBLEM

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Ambassador Robert Strauss, President Carter's special envoy to the Middle East, declared today that the United States will never lessen its commitment to Israel. But at the same time, he stressed that a solution to the Palestinian problem is necessary, not only to end violence and terrorism, but to achieve an enduring peace in the Mideast.

U.S. efforts to achieve Mideast peace "will always have as our absolute requirement the security of Israel, its borders and its people," Strauss said in a speech to the American Bar Association (ABA) in Houston, Texas. "This nation will never walk away from any of its commitments to Israel."

Strauss told the ABA that "a strong, vital and independent Israel is indispensable to enduring peace and stability in the Middle East." He added that "The solution to the Palestinian problem, with the cycle of terrorism, violence and destruction it has caused, is not only morally essential, but it too, is indispensable to enduring peace and stability in the Middle East."

The Presidential envoy declared that he will not depart from the mandate given him by United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the Camp David agreements in the current negotiations with Israel and Egypt for Palestinian autonomy. He urged the Palestinians to accept the UN resolutions to join the peace talks.

The State Department, in releasing the text of Strauss' speech here, cautioned reporters not to read into it any changes in the U.S. position toward the PLO. The PLO was not mentioned by name in the speech.

PLQ Says No To U.S.

(Meanwhile, the PLO's 57-member Palestine Central Council meeting in Damascus said it would reject any UN resolution that did not explicitly recognize the Palestinians' right to an independent state. It was reported last week that the U.S. would veto a Kuwaiti-sponsored resolution now pending in the UN Security Council on Palestinian rights because it would alter Resolution 242 by calling for Palestinian self-determination and an independent state. President Carter also rejected such a state in an interview with editors last Friday.

(The Palestine Central Council, including PLO chief Yasir Arafat, also reportedly agreed that hints that the U.S. might enter into a dialogue with the PLO were merely maneuvers aimed at alienating radicals from moderates in the PLO.)

Strauss, who is leaving for Israel and Egypt on Thursday, told the ABA that he rejected charges that have appeared in the last few weeks that the U.S. is lessening its commitment to Israel.

"The idea that there has been a lessening of the U.S. commitment to keep Israel strong -- so that it will remain secure -- to promote Israel's future, or to fulfill all our undertakings and commitments to Israel is false," he said. "The idea that we reject or are insensitive to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people is equally false."

According to the text of Strauss' speech as released here, he told the ABA: "As the

President's personal representative to the Middle East peace negotiations, my mandate is Resolutions 242 and 338, and the Camp David accords, in their entirety. Secretary of State (Cyrus) Vance took the lead in developing and fully supports that mandate. I will work with Egypt and Israel under that mandate, as expeditiously as possible. But no artificial deadline -- no position of the United States -- will be set that goes beyond that mandate."

"In carrying out that mandate, we are also doing our utmost to work with other parties in the Middle East to try to gain their support for the peace effort. I have been to Israel and Egypt and to other Arab countries as well. I want to broaden and deepen this effort, within the framework of established U.S. policy."

"All parties recognize, in the Camp David agreements and elsewhere, that the Palestinian people have a right to participate in determining their future. The Camp David framework not only affirms this right -- it commits the parties for the first time to a practical program of negotiation by which Palestinian rights can be translated into concrete reality. We must recognize the historical importance of this achievement, and we must be certain that we proceed now in a manner that does not weaken it."

"In support of these rights we are working hard to create a self-governing authority that will meet the needs of all the parties and give the Palestinians a stake in the process and in their future. We would like to see the Palestinians in the talks now, as the Camp David agreement provides. And their acceptance of Resolution 242 and of Israel's right to exist would be a major step along the road to peace."

(While Strauss was telling the ABA that the U.S. wants the Palestinians to participate in the peace talks, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan was telling a meeting of Likud Knesset members in Tel Aviv that the Egyptians and Americans now have as their top priority bringing the Palestinians to the peace negotiations table. As a result, he said, the U.S. is presently seeking a legal basis for recognizing the PLO so that it may represent the Palestinians in the negotiations.)

DULZIN: ISRAEL WILL RESIST U.S. PRESSURE

RIO DE JANEIRO, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, told Rio's Jewish community in a radio broadcast that Israel will firmly resist any American pressure to change its policy. Dulzin, who is also a leader of Israel's Liberal Party, arrived here last week from New York and is scheduled to visit Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Mexico.

He said that American Jewish leaders with whom he spoke fully support Israel's stand on all the issues which have been the cause of tension between the Jewish State and the U.S. He also told his audience that no change of or in the Israeli government is expected before the spring of 1980 when new general elections are held.

Discussing the situation of Soviet Jewry, Dulzin said that 400,000 Jews are waiting for exit permits in the Soviet Union. Of the 205,000 Jews who left the USSR since 1971, more than 155,000 settled in Israel, he reported.

In an unrelated development, Gaynor Jacobson, executive vice president of HIAS, was this week named a member of Brazil's national order, "Cruzeiro do Sul," with the title of "Comendador" for his contribution to "the good relations between United HIAS Service and the Brazilian government." HIAS maintains offices in all Latin American countries, with its headquarters in Rio de Janeiro which is headed by Dr. Fred Weinstein.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES A UNIQUE HOLOCAUST PROJECT

By Rochelle Saidel Walk

ALBANY, N.Y., Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Dr. Fred Crawford's experience as "possibly the only non-Jew" in a Nazi prison camp in 1944 has led to a unique "Witness to the Holocaust" project at Emory University's Center for Research in Social Change in Atlanta, Ga.

Now director of the Emory Center and a professor of sociology, Crawford left high school and enlisted during World War II, when his fighter plane was shot down over Hungary, a Nazi-inspired mob thought he was a Jew and almost lynched him, he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. He was beaten, dragged to the nearest poplar and had a noose placed around his neck. At that moment, his dog tag flopped outside of his shirt and the crowd noticed that a small gold cross was attached to it. Deciding that perhaps he wasn't Jewish, the mob spared his life and had him thrown in prison.

Crawford was incarcerated in a civilian prison near Budapest, and he watched through the narrow window of his cell each morning as Jews were marched off to be hanged. He later was sent to Stalag 7A, a POW camp near Dachau. His camp and Dachau were both liberated on the same day, and Crawford saw the death camp, complete with boxcars of bodies, on April 30, 1945.

Believing that the Holocaust was a "unique catastrophic event of modern history," Crawford and Dr. David Blumenthal, professor of Judaic Studies at Emory, set up the "Witness to the Holocaust" project in the summer of 1978. To trace the influence of the Holocaust, they began to record the testimony of liberators of Nazi concentration camps.

"We thought we'd have 10 liberators volunteer," Crawford told the JTA, "but we had 30 names in one month, 150 names in two months and now we have over 300 names." Interviews with these liberators are being taped and transcribed.

"In addition to this valuable information found in the tapes, the liberators and others have been donating rare historical materials to the project," Crawford said. "We have on file over 60 unpublished photographs taken at six different camps. Included in these pictures are many of German civilians touring the camps and burying the dead."

Two-Fold Purpose Of The Study

The purpose of the study is two-fold: to add to the existing historical testimony concerning the camps and their liberation from a previously untapped source, and to measure the impact of the event on the liberators themselves.

"Although it is too early to present conclusive data or general trends in the research," Crawford said, "we have found unique information in these first interviews. In answer to the questions of historical account, we have already recorded instances of encounters between the American military and the Nazi guards which, to our knowledge, have not previously been documented."

"In addition to accumulating a documentation of horror as our soldiers saw it," he continued, "our aim is to outlaw the Nazi Party in the United States. We defeated the Nazis in World War II, but we failed to end the Nazi sickness."

With the attempts to rewrite history and

deny that the Holocaust occurred, Crawford feels it's important to prove what happened with a source that non-Jews will not reject. The liberators in the project, "every American's father or brother, will be able to communicate to a section of society that never cared," Crawford believes.

PARAGUAY REVOKES MENGELE'S CITIZENSHIP

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- Josef Mengele, the long-sought Nazi war criminal, known as the "Angel of Death," has had his Paraguayan citizenship revoked by the Supreme Court of Paraguay, Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center here, reported.

Hier said he had been told by the Paraguayan ambassador to the United States that the Supreme Court acted on the revocation last Wednesday. Citizenship was granted Mengele in November, 1959. Mengele is believed responsible for the murders of hundreds of thousands of Jews and other inmates at Auschwitz. Hier said he was told that the revocation was based on Article 29 of the Paraguayan constitution which provides that a citizen who leaves Paraguay for more than two years without permission automatically forfeits his citizenship. Paraguayan officials claim Mengele left the country in 1960.

Hier said that, in a telephone conversation with Wiesenthal in Vienna, he had been told that United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim had been informed by the UN envoy from Paraguay that the Paraguayan government plans to issue an arrest warrant for Mengele, whose present whereabouts are not known.

Hier said the development was a direct result of the international campaign against Mengele by the Wiesenthal Center and the U.S. Congress. He lauded the efforts of Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) and Rep. Matthew McHugh (D-NY) in the campaign. He said Waldheim deserved the thanks of all men of goodwill for his efforts.

While lauding the action of the Paraguayan government for facing its responsibility of not remaining indifferent to the presence of the "Angel of Death," Hier reiterated that the Wiesenthal Center and Congress would closely monitor the actions of the Paraguayan government in fulfilling "its long overdue responsibilities" in the Mengele case.

Meanwhile, Wiesenthal announced in Vienna that his Jewish Documentation Center is offering an award of \$50,000 for information leading to the capture of Mengele and an additional \$10,000 for the welfare fund of the police department of the country where Mengele is arrested.

HISTADRUT FOUNDATION REACHES \$60M MARK

NEW YORK, Aug. 13 (JTA) -- The Israel Histadrut Foundation (IHF) which mobilizes support for the Histadrut institution in Israel, has announced that it has reached a milestone of \$60 million in its cumulative total of long-term commitments through its deferred giving programs, such as bequests and trusts. To celebrate that occasion and the upcoming 60th anniversary of Histadrut in Israel, Dr. Sol Stein, national IHF president, announced that 1979-80 has been designated as the "Sixty Million Dollar Year" of the IHF in America with a goal of \$70 million to be reached by Chanukah, 1980, the 60th anniversary of Histadrut in Israel.

Stein, who made this announcement at a meeting of the national staff of the IHF, warned that the galloping rate of inflation in Israel and the economic distress felt in many sectors of the Jewish State makes it imperative to continue the flow of capital to Israel.