

BEGIN REJECTS RUMANIAN PROPOSAL THAT ISRAEL MEET WITH THE PLO

By Barbie Zelizer

JERUSALEM, Sept. 3 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin told the Cabinet yesterday that he rejected a Rumanian proposal that Israel meet with the Palestine Liberation Organization. He said his rejection came during a private 90-minute meeting in his office last Friday with Vasile Pungun, a special representative of Rumanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Begin briefed the Cabinet on the meeting in which Pungun reported on Ceausescu's recent talks with PLO chief Yasir Arafat and Syrian President Hafez Assad. But he refused to provide his fellow Ministers with details. The meeting was supposed to be secret but had been leaked to the press. Both Foreign Ministry and Defense Ministry officials, as well as the Prime Minister's Office knew of the meeting beforehand.

In rejecting talks with the PLO, Begin repeated Israel's position that it would not meet with an organization dedicated to Israel's destruction. Begin said the proposed talks had been discussed in general and no specific date or place was mentioned.

Chances Slim For Meeting With Assad

While Israel will not meet with the PLO, Dr. Elyahu Ben-Elissar, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, stressed to the press after the Cabinet meeting that Israel was always ready to talk to the Syrian President. "Premier Begin has invited Syrian President Assad to meet with him a number of times," he said. "There is no doubt that he would be willing to meet with him now. But such a readiness is not related to the arrival of this envoy or any other."

But Begin said today there was not much chance of a meeting with Assad. He told the visiting members of the Council of Europe's Political Subcommittee on the Middle East, that after speaking with Pungun, "I don't think there is any change in the attitude of Syria toward Israel." Begin said that Rumania and Israel still remain friends despite their differences over the establishment of a Palestinian state and the recognition of the PLO.

Ben-Elissar noted yesterday the meeting between Begin and Pungun was significant itself since it was between two friendly countries. He said Ceausescu's "contributions to the (Middle East) peace process is well known, despite the fact that we do not always agree with all the Rumanian positions. But it is nonetheless important that such clarification of issues take place without a mediator."

There was much speculation in Israel over the weekend about the meeting between Begin and Pungun. A former chief counselor to the Rumanian President, Pungun is credited by both Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat for playing a major role in enabling Sadat to open his peace initiative in 1977.

There were reports that Pungun told Begin that Assad was ready for a settlement with Israel if Israel left the Golan Heights and that Arafat had expressed moderation if changes were made in United Nations Security Council Resolution

242.

Begin reportedly criticized Rumanian policy in the Middle East which he said was "in the past more balanced." He said statements made by Ceausescu after his meetings with Assad and Arafat made it appear he was supporting the Arab rejectionist front. Meanwhile, Jerusalem officials denied that a planned visit to Bucharest by Tel Aviv municipal officials was called off last week because Israel wanted to display its annoyance with Bucharest.

YOUNG SLAMS ISRAEL

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Sept. 3 (JTA) — Andrew Young, the outgoing United States Ambassador to the United Nations, delivered a diatribe against Israel in an interview with the French weekly, Le Nouvel Observateur, his first with a European publication.

In some of his harshest statements to date, Young declared that American Blacks "now believe that the Palestinians are oppressed and will act accordingly," asserted that "I will continue to oppose the fact that Israel can take decisions concerning the national interests of the United States," and hinted that Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan might have personally leaked the news about Young's meeting with the Palestine Liberation Organization observer at the UN, Zehadi Labib Terzi, to Newsweek magazine which first carried the story of the meeting.

About Israel, Young declared: "The Israelis are no less terroristic than the PLO at this moment. I believe that the splinter and phosphorus bombs they drop on Lebanon are just as immoral and deadly as anything the Palestinians might have done in Israel."

Israel was created with our help as an answer to the Holocaust. But since 1967 Israel has gradually become the oppressor — it is the evolution which is costing it its credibility and might in future compromise its military strength.

"The Israelis enjoyed American military help because the American people believe they are right to fight for their survival. But by becoming an expansionist power, by multiplying the settlements (in the territories) and shelling Lebanon, they are in the process of losing their moral advantage."

Predicts U.S. Will Talk With PLO

Young claimed that Israel was upset by his meeting with Terzi because "I was about to make the PLO take a great step forward towards recognizing Israel and this is what Israel does not want. They (the Israelis) do not want peace with the PLO. They want to destroy them. But they can't achieve this aim as with each of their bombs, they create new terrorists." Young said he believed that Washington will eventually start discussions with the PLO.

The envoy also said: "For a long time the Palestinians failed to obtain the backing of the American Blacks because the Blacks were convinced that the Jews were the oppressed people. The Blacks are not anti-Semites. The proof is that in spite of everything which has happened there has not been a single act of anti-Jewish violence. But the Blacks now believe that the Palestinians are oppressed and will act accordingly."

(Regarding Young's statement that Dayan might have leaked the Ambassador's meeting with Terzi, Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Michael Shiloh said yesterday that "the allegation is totally

unfounded." He said the Ministry only heard about the meeting when Ephraim Evron, Israel's Ambassador to Washington, spoke with a State Department official on Aug. 12 and was told that Newsweek would be carrying the story of the meeting in the issue coming out the following day. Young met with Terzi July 26. On Aug. 14, a day after the Newsweek article appeared, Dayan instructed Evron to lodge an official protest to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.)

The U.S. State Department announced last week that Young will go to Africa this week with a trade delegation to develop contacts with African government officials and that he will make the trip with his rank as U.S. Ambassador.

DOLE TERMS U.S. MIDEAST POLICY AN 'INTERNATIONAL DEAD END'

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 3 (JTA) -- Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.), a potential Presidential candidate in next year's elections, characterized the Carter Administration's Middle East policy as an "international dead end." Addressing the opening session of the Zionist Organization of America's National Executive Committee meeting here Saturday night, Dole said "We stand dangerously close to a Mideast policy that threatens the very integrity of Israel. As long as America is at the mercy of the Arab oil producers, Israel is at dagger's point."

The Senator, President Ford's running mate in the 1976 election, said "The first tenet of American policy towards the Palestinian question should be to refute the notion that the Palestine Liberation Organization represents the Palestinian people. Just as Israel should not be expected to right the historic wrongs of the Arabs towards their Palestinian brethren, neither should Israel negotiate with terrorists who openly proclaim their objective -- the destruction of the State of Israel."

Dole suggested accepting the late UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld's policy in 1959 for Arab lands to absorb Arab refugees, "the cost of such resettlement to be paid for by oil revenues."

WEEKEND ROUNDUP THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE

From Combined JTA Bureau Dispatches

Sept. 3 (JTA) -- The role of the Palestinians in the Middle East peace process received widespread attention over the weekend. Donald McHenry, named by President Carter to succeed Andrew Young as United States Ambassador to the United Nations, said it is necessary "to find some kind of way of including Palestinians in the search for peace" as the Camp David agreements propose Israeli Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef said that Israel "should talk with the Palestinians." Israeli Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin also said that Israel must talk with the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Addressing a news conference at the U.S. Mission to the UN last Friday, McHenry, a 42-year-old career diplomat who had been Young's deputy, said he believed that some progress in bringing Palestinians into the peace process will be made in the future, but added that how to do this is still a "riddle."

Parries PLO Issue

The Black diplomat declined to say whether he would meet with the Palestine Liberation Organization, as Young had, but he lauded the for-

mer envoy and said he too might find it necessary to take actions that are against State Department policy. "We all have to follow the dictates of our conscience," McHenry said, adding that every Ambassador "faces a point when he has to decide how a particular policy goal" is best implemented. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance admonished Young for meeting with the PLO observer at the UN and reiterated U.S. policy of not talking with the PLO until it recognizes Israel's right to exist and accepts UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

McHenry indicated indirectly that he agreed with Young's assessment that it is foolish for the U.S. to refuse to talk with PLO representatives. However, he was careful not to mention the PLO when he said that the Camp David accords make it clear that the U.S. will have to find some way of including the Palestinians in the search for Mideast peace.

On another issue, McHenry, whose nomination must be approved by the Senate, said he hoped his appointment was on the basis of his qualities and not because of his color or as a tactic to ease tensions between Blacks and Jews following Young's resignation. "Having said that," he added, "it is my hope and expectation that all Americans, regardless of race, color or creed, can work together in this great society we have."

Must Speak With Palestinians

Yadin, in discussing the Palestinians, told Israel Radio yesterday that "we cannot expect to make any breakthroughs on the autonomy plan or any other plan if we do not speak with the residents living in the areas (West Bank and Gaza Strip) to which the plan addresses itself." But, he stressed, "this does not mean we should consent to speak with Persons who say they are speaking on behalf of the PLO. On that we have a government decision."

Yosef, in an interview last Friday with the French daily, Le Matin, also rejected the idea that Israel should talk with PLO representatives and observed: "There are Palestinians who do not want to make peace with us and who refuse to accept our presence here (in Israel). But there are others who are ready to recognize us. One should speak with them. There is no other possible solution."

Arab Leaders On Palestinian State

In a related development, Carter told Florida newspaper editors in an interview last Thursday in Plains, Ga. that "I have never met an Arab leader that in private professed a desire for an independent Palestinian state. Publicly, they all espouse an independent Palestinian state, almost all of them, because that is what they committed themselves to at Rabat" in 1974 where Arab heads of state acknowledged the PLO as representing the Palestinians. But, Carter added, "the private diplomatic tone of conversations is much more proper than is often alleged by the press and others."

Commenting on speculation that Saudi Arabia would decrease or halt entirely its oil shipments to the U.S. unless the Palestinian issue is resolved, Carter stated that no Arab nor any other foreign leader had tried to use oil supply as blackmail since he has been in the White House.

Meanwhile, the Security Council ended its debate last Thursday night on the situation in south Lebanon. Young, who was Council President for August, appealed "for restraint on the part of all concerned so hostilities can be brought to an end." Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, in an address to the Council, also appealed to all parties to cease hostilities and achieve peace. He said he appreciated Israel's concern for the safety of its citizens but

added: "I do not believe that the policy of pre-emptive strikes on targets in Lebanon is acceptable or indeed is justified by the circumstances now prevailing."

No resolution was introduced during the two-day debate which was convened at the request of Lebanon.

BURG PREDICTS JORDAN MAY SOON JOIN THE PEACE TALKS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 3 (JTA) -- Interior Minister Josef Burg predicted yesterday that Jordan may join the peace talks within the next several months. "I expect that in the next few months, Jordan will change its views and will join the deliberations," he told the visiting members of the Council of Europe's Political Subcommittee for Mideast Affairs.

Burg gave no basis for his belief, but in an interview in Maariv today he said he has "a corner" on certain information but "I will kill the matter if I publicize it. I do not want to burn the source to that information."

The Interior Minister suggested that King Hussein might change his opposition to joining the peace talks because Hussein, like other Mideast Kings and Persian Gulf Sheikhs, was concerned by the rise of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Iran and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Burg ruled out any talks with the PLO. "If the PLO would say they accept (United Nations Security Council Resolution) 242, I would not believe them as long as they do not renounce the Palestinian covenant." He said he would only believe a "new era" has come if there were several years without any terrorism.

Opposed To Autonomy For Palestinians

Burg said he opposed any autonomy for Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip "that would lead to sovereignty." He said such a situation would cause "too much dynamism in the region's global policy and would be explosive." But he said he will meet with Arab leaders in the territories during the next few days to see whether they will join the autonomy talks.

The Interior Minister's comments on Jordan coincided with an interview by the Arabic-language newspaper, Al-Anba, with Hebron Mayor Faded Kawasme who praised Jordan for its help to the Palestinians. "Despite our desire to establish a Palestinian state, we do not want to detach ourselves from Jordan," he said in the interview which will be published later this week.

The European delegation also met today with foreign Minister Moshe Dayan for a private luncheon, where they reportedly voiced their concern to him over the increased isolation of Israel among European nations. This, they contended, has been generated in part due to the growing ties between the PLO and the European states.

Meanwhile, Israel Radio reported tonight that Dayan met this evening with a prominent West Bank personality, Dr. Ahmed Hamaz Natcha, a local Communist leader, in the Military Government headquarters in Hebron. Following the meeting, Jewish residents of Kiryat Arba assembled outside the headquarters building to protest the meeting. Last week Dayan was under fire for meeting with an outspoken pro-PLO Gaza leader, Dr. Haider Abdul-Shafi. Dayan said at that time that he will continue to meet periodically with West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians of various political persuasions.

YADIN WALKS OUT OF CABINET MEETING OVER SETTLEMENT DECISION

JERUSALEM, Sept. 3 (JTA) -- Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin walked out of the Cabinet meeting yesterday when his colleagues refused to reconsider a decision by the ministerial committee on settlements, while he was in the United States, to establish four new Jewish settlements in the West Bank. Yadin, who is a member of the committee, returned later after an appeal by Premier Menachem Begin. However, the Cabinet's action on the decision was postponed.

Yadin's Democratic Party feels that no new settlements should be established while the peace negotiations are in process. He reportedly charged that the ministerial committee's decision violated an earlier decision that for the present the government would only thicken existing settlements. Yadin said he would continue his appeal at the next Cabinet meeting. Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, head of the ministerial committee, said that preparations for the four settlements would also continue. Yadin said today that if the matter is not resolved to his satisfaction "I will understand the implications of the situation."

DEATH OF A REFUSNIK

NEW YORK, Sept. 3 (JTA) -- The final chapter in what the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jewry (UCSJ) today called "one of the most tragic stories in the annals of the emigration movement" played itself out last Tuesday when refusnik Dr. Victoria Polinnikov hung herself in her Novosibirsk apartment. Officials at a local hospital where she was recovering from severe malnutrition had made no move to prevent her from walking out.

Her physical state had become self-imposed when she and her mother, Dr. Irma Polinnikov, were driven to paranoia from seven years of exit denials and government harassments, then refused to believe they had finally received visas in January, and locked themselves in their home. Irma Polinnikov died of starvation there on Aug. 6. Victoria's father, Dr. Isaac Polinnikov, had been unable to either persuade his family to leave with him or convince them he had actually arrived in Israel in May to rejoin his second daughter, Eleanor.

Speaking by phone with the SSSJ and UCSJ, Eleanor lashed out at the Soviet authorities "who knew what the end would be, but patiently waited for the result," since her sister and mother's mental states were "classic textbook cases." Under "strict Soviet law," she said, Victoria should have been placed under mental observation as a would-be suicide. "Instead, they left her alone without control and allowed her to leave. She walked out and nobody paid attention. They were apparently glad to see her go." Several days earlier, seeing that the hospital physicians were ready to discharge her, Novosibirsk activist Felix Kochbjevsky unsuccessfully pleaded with them to keep her further.

Her voice breaking into sobs, Eleanor said: "All my father and I now have left in Russia are graves. We have no family there to erect a monument. But our monument will be our memory of them. We want everybody in the West who worked for them, wrote to them and visited them, even when they were sick; to have good memories of them and remember them as people who gave their lives to our cause."

HAIFA (JTA) -- Egyptian and Israeli flags began flying here Monday in preparation for the arrival by yacht Tuesday of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat who will hold talks with Premier Menachem Begin.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA AAJE FINDS TUITION FEE INCREASES IN CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOLS HAVE LAGGED FAR BEHIND COST OF LIVING

NEW YORK, Sept. 3 (JTA) -- The American Association for Jewish Education (AAJE) disclosed this week that rises in tuition fees charged by Jewish congregational schools have lagged far behind increases in the cost of living over the past nine years to the point where such fees now represent only 10 percent of the cost of educating a student.

Reporting on a nationwide survey on tuition scales and policies which it conducted during the 1978-79 academic year, the AAJE said that since 1969-70 (the last time it undertook a study in this area), the cost of living rose more than 2 1/2 times as much as did tuition fees in primary, elementary and high school classes of one-, two- and three-day-a-week congregational schools.

The survey by the AAJE's Department of Community Services, Information and Studies analyzed findings from 266 selected congregational, day and communal schools in 46 American and Canadian communities. Its analysis, according to Department director Dr. George Pollak, "strongly indicates that as the gap between income and expenses continues to widen for congregational schools, these schools will be compelled to make hard decisions affecting their educational quality, fiscal accountability and perhaps even synagogal autonomy."

Pollak said certain options which would seem apparent to schools in such circumstances -- those of either raising tuition fees or cutting operational costs -- "are in fact apt to be regarded as counterproductive. The first incurs the risk of discouraging school enrollment and congregational membership," he said, "while the second, involving the watering down of staff and depletion of staffing needs, carries with it the seeds of destruction for Jewish education."

Must Consider Alternative Action

As a result, Pollak said more and more congregational schools will have to begin considering such alternative courses of action as intra- and trans-denominational school mergers, for greater educational and fiscal efficiency, increased appeals to local Federations for subsidies or allocations, and new fundraising approaches conducted either independently or via a coordinated community education campaign.

Pollak declared that the American Jewish community "must soon come to grips with the issue of where the fiscal responsibility for congregational education lies if it is to prevent irretrievable damage to the financial foundations of the Jewish educational enterprise." He said it must determine "whether the increase of tuition fees is truly a deterrent to school enrollment or merely a phantom fear, what should be the admission policies of various-sized schools regarding the children of non-members, and what are the implications for synagogue auspices should the community become involved in funding congregational education."

Fee Increases Pinpointed

The AAJE survey found that while the cost of living rose 78 percent over the past nine years, tuition fees in congregational schools (exclusive of nursery and kindergarten classes) increased only 30.3 percent. The average tuition fee charged by these schools last year, covering primary through high school grades, was slightly more

than \$78. Concomitantly, tuition fees rose 26.8 percent in three-day-a-week schools, resulting in average tuition charges of \$42, \$85 and \$107, respectively, for 1978-79.

The survey also disclosed that 73.6 percent of the reporting congregational schools require tuition fees for children of members, a slight increase from the 68 percent recorded in the 1969-70 study; 65 percent of the schools restrict enrollment to the children of congregational members -- a surprising increase, in light of their growing financial need, over the 53 percent which followed such a policy in 1969-70; 89 percent of the schools which admit non-affiliated children charge higher tuition fees for their education.

According to the survey, only 18 percent of the reporting schools receive some form of communal subsidy; tuition fees levied by larger schools tend to be higher than those charged by smaller schools; and tuition fees are usually reduced for each additional child from the same family.

With respect to day schools, the survey showed that tuition fee increases during the period examined were 107 percent for primary grades, 98 percent for elementary grades and 124 percent for high school grades, resulting in an overall rise of 110.3 percent since 1969-70. The average tuition fees at these levels last year were \$1222, \$1268 and \$1610, respectively. As with congregational schools, tuition fees tend to be reduced when parents enroll more than one child in a day school, such reductions ranging from 4 percent to 13 percent.

The average tuition fees of communal schools are higher at all grade levels than those in congregational schools. For example, the survey showed tuition in two-day-a-week schools is \$124 (communal) as against \$107 (congregational) at the primary level, \$354 (communal) as against \$275 (congregational) at the elementary level and \$139 (communal) as against \$74 (congregational) at the high school level.

NAVON INVITES SINGER TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Sept. 3 (JTA) -- President Yitzhak Navon has issued an invitation to Nobel Laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer to come to Israel as an official State guest for a week in December.

"It is an honor for me to express our appreciation for your contributions to the Jewish culture in this way," Navon wrote the prominent author, "especially considering the fact that this culture has recently earned international public recognition. I know that various circles interested in the Yiddish culture and Yiddish literature will also want to honor you and your literature during your stay here."

Singer cabled Navon after receiving the invitation, thanking him for the honor and informing him that he would arrive in Israel Dec. 9.

SANTIAGO, Chile (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Santiago held a meeting on Aug. 12, the anniversary of the execution of Jewish writers in Moscow in 1952. Speakers included Gil Sinay, president of the Jewish community; Berl Grinberg, representing Polish Jews here; Dr. Eyzor Kloman of B'nai B'rith; Miguel Saldel on behalf of Chilean Jewish intellectuals; and Miss Tata Gulloff, president of the Committee for the Jews in the USSR. They condemned the crimes against the Soviet writers and protested against the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union. They appealed for the release of Anatoly Shcharansky and other Jewish dissidents imprisoned in the USSR. The Chilean press and television reported widely on the heavily-attended memorial meeting.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Cabinet Sunday approved Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's trip to West Germany next week.