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WEIZMAN, SAUNDERS MAKE PEACE

By Joseph Palakoff

—WASHINGTON, Sept. 19 (JTA) — Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman and Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders, whose heated dispute at an Israeli Embassy party here last Saturday night made headlines around the world, renewed their good relations before television cameras in the diplomatic lobby of the State Department today.

The two men have been engaged in discussions with Egyptian representatives concerning, primarily, the issue of monitoring in Sinai during Israel's withdrawal from the peninsula. Weizman is returning to Israel this afternoon and the State Department announced earlier that he and Saunders would meet the press, a gesture toward amicability between the two democracies.

"I just want especially to say goodbye to my friend Hal Saunders," Weizman said. "Today we were very calm and as usual, extremely friendly. I hope to see you in Israel very soon," he said to Saunders. The American diplomat replied, "I look forward to that very much. Ezer and I have known each other for 15 years. We have discussed many things over the years and always came out of it with smiles -- as we do today."

Weizman interjected, "That's right, that's good." Before they stepped up to the microphones Weizman was heard to remark to Saunders, "I was very sorry it blew up like that," a reference to their dispute, adding, "but this is it, this is a democracy." Weizman also observed, "With Kamal (Egyptian Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, a participant in the Sinai discussions) we have no problems, absolutely. So here we are." Hassan Ali did not appear with Weizman and Saunders.

EXPLOSION KILLS 1, INJURES 42

JERUSALEM, Sept. 19 (JTA) — One person was killed and 42 were injured, some of them seriously, in a bomb explosion that rocked Ben Yehuda Street in the center of the city. Police dismantled a second bomb found in the vicinity and organized a search for other explosive devices. (See full story P.3.)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT DENOUNCES ISRAEL, CALLS FOR PALESTINIAN STATE

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 19 (JTA) — Salim Ahmed Salim of Tanzania, the president of the 34th General Assembly, began this session's proceedings yesterday by denouncing Israel's "senseless bombings of civilian targets" in south Lebanon and declared that the Palestinians have a right to self-determination and an independent state.

The 37-year-old Ambassador also referred to the Palestine Liberation Organization as "the representative" of the Palestinian people. "The core of the Middle East problem is the continued denial of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to establish an independent state," he said.

The "necessary conditions" for peace in the Mideast are "the realization of that right, the refusal to give legitimacy to the fruits of conquest, the respect of the right of all states in the

area to an independent existence," Salim said.

His statement following his election by acclamation, focussed attention of the world body's preoccupation with the Mideast and was a foretaste of the attacks which Israel will find itself under during the scheduled 13-week session. Salim, who is also the Tanzanian Ambassador to Cuba and who attended the recent conference of non-aligned nations in Havana, praised what he termed the fresh and dynamic impetus generated by that gathering. President Fidel Castro of Cuba, the new leader of the non-aligned nations, is due to address the General Assembly.

At a press conference today, Salim reiterated that the PLO, as the representative of the Palestinian people, must be brought into the negotiating process if there is to be a lasting peace. He told a reporter that he was prepared to ask the PLO to accept Israel's existence. "But I must also be equally prepared to ask the Israelis to accept" the PLO, he added.

Absent from yesterday's proceedings was U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young who resigned last month following the furor aroused by his meeting with the PLO observer at the UN, Zehadi Labib Terzi. Technically, Young remains the U.S. envoy until his successor, Donald McHenry, presents his credentials. Young is currently visiting Africa as the head of a U.S. trade mission.

Tanzania Rejects Renewing Ties With Israel

Meanwhile, according to reports reaching here today, President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania said his country was not going to resume diplomatic negotiations with Israel, severed after the Yom Kippur War. Addressing a press conference with Young in Dar Es Salaam, Nyerere reportedly said that Tanzania recognized the existence of Israel but that is not now the issue in the Middle East.

"The real problem is whether the Palestinians are going to have a home of their own and whether the international community is going to regard this as a serious matter," Nyerere was quoted as saying. He asked, "Are the Palestinians going to remain homeless forever? Are we going to continue talking solely about the security of Israel forever? Is that the issue in the Middle East?"

CONTROVERSY OVER SETTLEMENTS POLICY

By GH Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 19 (JTA) — The controversy over the value and wisdom of Israel's settlement policy on the West Bank was reflected at the weekly meeting of the World Zionist Organization Executive yesterday where demands were made for the resignation of Raanan Weitz, co-chairman of the WZO's settlement department.

Weitz, who was not present, was attacked by Rafael Kotlowitz, head of the immigration and absorption department and by settlement department co-chairman Matityahu Drobless for saying publicly that the government should give priority to settlements within the borders of Israel proper rather than in the middle of heavily Arab-populated areas.

Kotlowitz demanded that Weitz either stop urging the government to halt settlements on the West Bank or quit. Drobless accused Weitz of "mixing personal political views with so-called professional arguments." Eli Tavin, head of the diaspora culture and education department, charged that

Weitz was trying to make the WZO Executive the "spearhead to bring down the (Likud) government."

Weitz told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the attacks on him were an "inappropriate response to the serious problems which I raised." In his speech before the Agriculture Center, Weitz warned that of the 150 settlements established since 1967, about 70 faced severe economic problems. He suggested, therefore, that the government establish a new list of priorities which would concentrate on settlements in the Jordan Valley, the Negev, Galilee and the Arava district.

"I represent the Labor Party in the Zionist Executive and the views I expressed are precisely the views of the Labor Party," Weitz told the JTA. "I did not speak on a controversial issue such as the establishment of a Palestinian state but on the fact that Jewish settlements on the West Bank, in the heart of dense Arab population, cause political damage and have no other value."

Weitz, whose views clash sharply with those of the government, observed: "We cannot do everything simultaneously and therefore we must set a list of priorities. If we continue with the settlement drive on the West Bank we shall not accomplish the important tasks we have in the Golan and the Jordan Valley. I say this on a professional basis regardless of my political views."

Yadin's Appeal Rejected

Meanwhile, the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee today rejected an appeal by Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin against two new settlements in Samaria, Rehav and Dotan. The vote to reject his appeal and to approve the settlements was easily arrived at partly because of the support by key Labor Alignment-Knesset members. The action was the second and final defeat for Yadin and a victory for Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon who supported the settlements. Yadin lost the first round when the Cabinet last Sunday rejected his appeal.

Each of the two settlements was approved in a separate vote by the Knesset committee. Alignment Knesseters Yigal Allon, Yitzhak Rabin, Adi Amari, Yehzkel Zakai and Amos Hadar supported the settlement in Rehav. They explained that the previous Labor Party government had already decided to establish that settlement. However, they voted against Dotan. The Likud coalition Knesset members voted in favor of both settlements.

U.S. OFFICIAL TELLS ISRAELIS THAT U.S. PUBLIC OPINION IS ANTI-ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Sept. 19 (JTA) -- American public opinion is growing increasingly anti-Israel because of Israel's increased requests for economic aid, Douglas Bennet, head of the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) yesterday told Adi Amari, coordinator of the Labor Alignment faction in the Knesset Finance Committee. Bennet is in Israel to review Israel's economic requests for 1981.

He met with Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich on Monday, who outlined Israel's economic needs. Ehrlich told Bennet that the peace agreement with Egypt paradoxically made it necessary for Israel to increase its defense spending. But Bennet maintained that Israel had chosen a difficult time to make her increased request. Inflation and growing unemployment in the U.S. made it difficult to raise the aid, he said.

Ehrlich admitted that the government's economic policy had partially failed. But on the

other hand, he said, Israel was making an effort to cope with the energy crisis on her own and would not exercise her right to ask the U.S. to honor its commitment and supply her with oil.

BEGIN SUPPORTS EITAN

TEL AVIV, Sept. 19 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin personally assured Chief of Staff Gen. Raphael Eitan that he supports him fully in the angry controversy over Eitan's reduction of the sentence of a former paratrooper officer convicted of the torture-murder of four Lebanese civilians. Begin telephoned the Chief of Staff today to say that he had full confidence in him and considered the action he took in the case of former Lt. Daniel Pinto within his competence as chief of the armed forces.

Meanwhile, with public opinion overwhelmingly favoring Eitan, his supporters turned wrathfully on Sheli MK Uri Avneri who has been demanding that the Chief of Staff resign. Avneri was accused of violating security by leaking details of Pinto's offense and trial to foreign correspondents. Avneri denies this but the State Attorney General is being urged by many to institute legal proceedings against the MK.

FLATTO-SHARON SENTENCED IN ABSENTIA

PARIS, Sept. 19 (JTA) -- Jewish financier Samuel Flatto-Sharon, a member of the Israeli Knesset, was sentenced in absentia by a Paris court today to a five-year prison term and a 30,000 franc (about \$7000) fine, for illicit financial operations. About 25 accomplices received suspended sentences.

The court stated that most of them, including Sharon, would be liable to several million francs in taxes and fiscal fines owed to the French state. The trial of Sharon, referred to in court by his original name, Samuel Sigevits, began last May.

According to the charges, he made illegal profits totalling some \$250 million by creating fictitious companies which bought and resold land among themselves and pocketed advantageous loans which were not repaid. Sharon fled to Israel, taking with him the money he allegedly swindled, long before his fraud was uncovered.

(In Jerusalem today, Sharon said his attorney in Paris would file an appeal against the right of the French courts to try him. But he said he would go to France himself if a new trial is ordered and if arrangements can be made with the French authorities. The latter have sought Sharon's extradition from Israel in the past and are expected to renew their request. A Justice Ministry spokesman said that if this is done, the Ministry would review the matter again. Sharon was stripped of his Knesset immunity last July so that he can stand trial in Israel for alleged election campaign fraud.)

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Rabbi Dabi Maahuk, a member of the Tel Aviv rabbinical committee, left this week for Egypt to help Egyptian Jews to set up a new kosher system. Maahuk, who served until 20 years ago as the Chief Rabbi of Alexandria, went on his mission to Egypt at the initiative of the religious services bureau of the World Zionist Organization and Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef. Maahuk will stay in Egypt two months. He will look into the condition of the synagogues, the Jewish cemeteries, and the community institutions in various cities, particularly in Cairo and Alexandria. He took with him a number of ritual articles as gifts for the Egyptian Jewish community.

LOS ANGELES (JTA) -- Henry Kissinger will keynote the Technion-Coyote/haqot Pan American Conference to be held Feb. 15-18 in Mexico City.

PLO CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOMBING OUTRAGE IN JERUSALEM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 19 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization claimed responsibility tonight for the bomb explosion that killed one person and injured 42 others on crowded Ben Yehuda Street in downtown Jerusalem early this evening. The PLO made the claim in a broadcast from its radio station in Beirut.

The blast occurred at 6:45 p.m. local time. The dead person was not immediately identified. Six victims were seriously injured, 17 sustained lesser injuries and the rest light injuries. Most of the victims were rushed to Shaare Zedek Hospital.

Ben Yehuda Street, a major shopping center, is a narrow thoroughfare. According to police the fatal explosive charge was concealed in the wheels of a bicycle parked in an area reserved for pedestrians and was apparently set to detonate at a time when it would cause maximum civilian casualties. Hundreds of customers were leaving the shops along the mall which close at 7 p.m. and other crowds were lining up for the first show at one of the many movie houses in the vicinity.

Many people raced to the area after the explosion to render assistance but succeeded only in blocking ambulances and other emergency vehicles rushing to the scene. Only a short while before the blast police were investigating a number of suspicious-looking objects on a side street about 50 feet away. After the explosion, police combed the area for additional explosives and found a second bomb which was safely dismantled by sappers.

An initial investigation showed that the terrorists placed the explosives inside the frame between the bicycle wheels. Most of the victims were hurt by parts of the frame which was shattered. The bicycle was placed by the terrorists at the entrance to the Alno Coffee Shop shortly before the bomb went off.

A coffee shop employee spotted the bicycle about five minutes before the explosion. "Often people come here, place their bikes and come in and buy a piece of cake, or go to the bathroom," he told reporters. "Usually every suspicious object that I spot, I check. This time I missed it."

A similar sabotage technique was used four years ago on Jaffa Road in Jerusalem, about a half mile from the scene of tonight's explosion. At that time, the bomb was placed in the frame of a baby carriage. Seven youths were killed.

ISRAEL CONDEMNS BOMBING

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 19 (JTA) -- Israel sent an urgent letter this afternoon to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim following the bomb explosion in the center of Jerusalem, vowing that the Israeli government "is duty bound to take all measures necessary to protect the lives and safety of its citizens."

The letter, sent by Israel Ambassador Ye'huذا Blum, charged that the latest outrage in Jerusalem is only one of a series of atrocities committed in recent weeks by the "criminal" Palestine Liberation Organization.

Noting that the PLO claimed responsibility for the murder of Moshe Yaskovitz, 47, of Bnei Brak, a Gerre Hasid, last Sunday morning in Jerusalem's Old City, as well as for other atrocities against Israelis, Blum said: "The mindless killing of civilians has been the barbaric aim of the terrorist PLO throughout its existence." He requested his letter be circulated as an official document

of the Security Council.

TRIPARTITE SOLUTION REACHED FOR PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN SINAI

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19 (JTA) -- The United States, Egypt and Israel reached a solution today for a peace-keeping force in the Sinai to monitor the withdrawal of the Israeli military in accordance with the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Egyptian Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan made the announcement late today after two days of discussions here.

The agreement is subject to approval by the Egyptian and Israeli governments and Vance said that in the case of the U.S., the President and Congress.

The three leaders outlined in general terms that the force will be made up of Egyptian and Israeli elements with the U.S. civilian monitors now in place in the Sinai, as a surveillance group to participate with them. Unless the United Nations Security Council goes along with this proposal, it was understood, the UN will not have representatives in the peace-keeping force. The agreement announced today is essentially that reached by Premier Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Haifa earlier this month plus the new element of American participation.

Vance said the U.S. will carry out its role through the 200 civilians already in the Sinai at the electronic listening posts. U.S. aerial reconnaissance will continue with an increase in the aerial force. He pointed out that this is an interim arrangement pending either the establishment of a UN force or, in the absence of that, in compliance with the Camp David accords, there would be "established a multilateral force other than the United Nations."

Vance said he was not ruling out the UN having some role, but he went on to say the "interim force would last no longer than three years in which time total withdrawal by Israel" would take place.

Ali told the reporters that Egyptian and Israeli forces will man the observation posts, the checkpoints and reconnaissance patrols in the "buffer zone." Asked whether the Egyptians and Israelis would operate as joint or separate units, Ali said they will be stationed according to the situation. But he seemed to indicate that they will not be joint units.

Asked who will monitor the Mitla and Gidi passes, Ali said that "that will be discussed after approval" of the recommendations by the governments. The passes have been monitored by the American civilians since the 1975 Sinai II agreement. Vance said no document was signed. He said that if there is a UN presence through the UN Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO) neither the U.S. nor the Soviet Union will be involved. Ali said "we don't exclude UNTSO" from the developments.

Dayan was asked whether he was satisfied and he replied, "yes." Noting that the solution is "practical," he added that "it is the best that could be achieved under the circumstances." He said he would present the solution to the Israeli Cabinet within a week. Dayan, who was the last of the three to speak, expressed thanks to "the American people and the Secretary of State for taking responsibility" in the Sinai and the "vigil up to now." He said that Egypt and Israel will "work together" in the buffer zone for implementation of the peace treaty.

YEAR IN REVIEW

THE OUTREACH OF THE NRP

By Uzi Benziman

JERUSALEM, Sept. 19 (JTA) -- The National Religious Party is steadily increasing its involvement in shaping national policy on general (non-religious) issues. While several years ago the NRP, whose Knesset representation consistently hovers around 12 members out of 120, focused its political interests largely on religious-related matters, during the past three years it has become intensely involved in economics and foreign affairs as well.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer said in a special interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the change in the NRP's concept of its role stemmed from a new perception of its duties as a "Jewish political party." Judaism is not only a religion but a way of life, Hammer said, stressing that the NRP seeks a say on the process of shaping the general character of Israel.

However, behind the attractive slogan of an "open party" lies also a cool practical consideration: to increase the NRP's constituency by also wooing non-religious voters.

Translated Into Political Facts

This new image of the NRP is translated daily into political facts. Interior Minister Yosef Burg, the party's veteran leader, is presently playing a major role in Israel's negotiations with Egypt and the United States on the Palestinian autonomy plan as the head of Israel's committee to the autonomy talks.

The NRP caucus chairman, Yehuda Ben Meir, together with Hammer, his long-time friend and political ally, is heading a discreet, behind-the-scenes political effort within the government coalition designed to force the government to come to some tough decisions with regard to the economic situation.

During the negotiations process with Egypt over the past two years, Israel's positions were often quite considerably influenced by the attitude of the "hawkish" wing of the NRP concerning the future of Judea and Samaria and the settlement policy. Hammer personally uses his post as Education Minister to promote and foster particular values within Israeli society, thus furthering his own ideas about the character of the nation.

"I want to revitalize the concepts of national responsibility and solidarity," he said, adding that his ideas about strengthening the connection between the individual, his family and the community may be considered partly as a reaction to David Ben Gurion's emphasis on "mamlachtiyut" (national dimensions).

Ben Gurion's approach, which was necessary to foster national pride in a new State, has been distorted over the years, Hammer observed. He pointed out that a negative and unwelcome by-product of Ben Gurion's "mamlachtiyut," which emphasized the importance of the State as such and urged the people to adapt their behavior to the State's needs, is an exaggerated tendency by Israelis to rely upon the State, rather than on one's self, and to shirk civic duties.

View Of The Likud Government

Asked to evaluate the functioning of the present government, Hammer replied that its main achievement is the peace treaty. He acknowledged that the public's expectations of major changes in the social and the economic fields have not yet been realized, but he noted that the Likud government had to base its economic policy on the

hard reality that evolved over the previous 30 years.

He conceded, however, that when the Likud came to power, the public showed a marked readiness to suffer economic restrictions and make sacrifices. Hammer said he believes that the very fact of a "change of guard" on the national level was a most important contribution to Israel's democracy. He also expressed belief that the record of this Cabinet should be reviewed and judged only after two terms of office, that is, in eight years.

Still, he was not oblivious to the widespread public dissatisfaction with the government's performance in the economic and social fields and he conceded that while eight years in office would be the ideally fair perspective from which to evaluate a government's performance, it is "a pity" that during the first two years of its term the present Cabinet has not shown enough evidence that it successfully grappled with the economic situation.

"We have to concentrate on designing a credible economic plan," Hammer said, stressing that even though the individual's standard of living has not declined in real terms, nevertheless, the general atmosphere is that of living from day-to-day and of distress.

Two-Unit Cabinet Suggested

Hammer suggested that the Cabinet be divided into two separate units: one dealing with security and foreign affairs and the other dealing with the economic and social problems. "Only by giving economic leadership can we succeed to change the people's way of life and in establishing more altruistic values within Israeli society," he said.

Asked what made him think that henceforth the Cabinet will succeed where it has failed in the past, he replied: "The two years of grace have terminated. The Cabinet members realize that their futures as successful politicians are at stake. I believe that solidarity among the Ministers will increase now, as will their readiness to prefer a united economic policy to their particular departmental interests."

Though Hammer refrained from fixing a specific date as his "deadline" by which he hopes and requires that the competence of the government will have improved, especially in economic policy and in reflecting a new sense of leadership, his answers implied that he will reconsider his own and his party's participation in this Cabinet six months from now.

The Education Minister said he feels a heavy sense of urgency. The country and the Jewish people are faced with a plethora of fateful problems, all crowding in simultaneously. Jews all over the world, Hammer said, are a prey to assimilation, and one of the vital tasks of the State is to strive to halt this process.

Referring to relations between Israeli and the diaspora, Hammer pointed out that the linkage between these two entities has been gradually transformed since the establishment of the State; from a total Israeli negation of Jewish existence in the galut to a great dependence of Israel upon the Jewish communities in the Western world.

ALBANY, N.Y. (JTA) -- Commissioner Thomas Coughlin III of the New York State Department of Correctional Services has issued a directive to the superintendent of the state's correctional facilities that they are to make provisions for Jewish prisoners who intend to fast on Yom Kippur. The directive requests that Jewish prisoners should receive adequate meals prior to Yom Kippur which begins sundown Sept. 30 and following the day of fasting.