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AUTONOMY NEGOTIATORS SEEK NEW APPROACHES TO WEST BANK, GAZA LEADERS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- With the normalization of relations between Israel and Egypt little more than a month away, the parties to the autonomy talks are seeking new approaches to Palestinian leaders on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. According to reliable sources, a member of the Egyptian negotiating team in the autonomy talks, Ambassador Ezzat Abdul-Latif, has been holding unofficial -- and until now secret -- talks with a number of West Bank notables.

He has visited East Jerusalem several times to meet with prominent West Bank political figures despite Egypt's official ban on visits by their diplomats to Jerusalem prior to the Jan. 26, 1980 normalization date. Egyptian sources have described these contacts as "profitable" but would not identify the Palestinians with whom Latif talked.

U.S. special Ambassador Sol Linowitz, who left today for Washington, told reporters that he, too, would seek out Palestinian leaders in coming months to discuss the autonomy scheme. Israel's chief negotiator, Interior Minister Yosef Burg, also promised to open an initiative toward West Bank and Gaza Strip leaders. He said he intended to consult with them without involving them at this stage in the autonomy talks since they refuse to be formally involved. Burg said his new initiative was timely now that the affair of Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus has been resolved.

Talks Due On Normalization Procedure

Meanwhile, the Director General of Israel's Foreign Ministry, Yosef Greshonover, has arranged to meet in Cairo next Tuesday with Egypt's Foreign Minister Butros Ghali to discuss preparations for the normalization procedure. The arrangements were made by Eliahu Ben-Elissar, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, who spoke with Ghali by phone today. Ben-Elissar is expected to be designated Israel's first Ambassador to Cairo. Ambassadors are to be exchanged in February.

Next week's meeting was apparently prompted by concern in Israel over the lack of direct contacts with Cairo on the practical measures that must be taken to effect normalization. Among other things, Israel and Egypt must each rent embassy premises and residences for their diplomats and must finalize arrangements for the free flow of tourists between the two countries, by land, sea and air.

The next plenary session of the autonomy negotiators will be held in the Cairo suburb of Giza next week. Linowitz will not attend.

KHOMEINI'S RIVAL WARNS GOVERNMENT WILL DISSOLVE POLITICAL PARTIES ON PRETEXT THEY ARE ZIONIST OR PRO-U.S.

PARIS, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- The second most powerful Iranian religious leader charged yesterday that the new Islamic Constitution that grants absolute power to the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini would lead to the dissolution of political parties in Iran on the pretext that they were

"Zionist" or pro-American and imperialist. Ayatollah Kazem Shariat-Madari publicly challenged Khomeini for the first time at a press conference with Iranian and Western journalists in Tabriz.

His statement was in reply to demands from pro-Khomeini clerical groups that he disband his independent Moslem People's Party. "The point I must make to you respectable gentlemen is with the present government's methods there is no need for the founders to dissolve the party. The government will gradually dissolve all the parties by labeling them as American, Zionist and anti-Islamic," Madari said. "Therefore," he added, "do not worry about

this ... attributing to anybody or any group imperialism or Zionism can be easily done by controlling the mass media, but testifying to righteousness and justice is a very difficult thing to do."

Madari refused to denounce the anti-Khomeini uprising by Turkish-speaking Iranians in Azerbaijan province of which Tabriz is the capital. He announced that he did not take part in the referendum that approved Khomeini's constitution last week despite Khomeini's exhortation that it was the religious duty of every Moslem. He also warned that Khomeini is courting a civil war in Iran.

News Agencies Denounced As Zionist

In Teheran, meanwhile, the official Pars News Agency issued a statement today accusing Western news agencies of being "at the service of Zionism, imperialism and international trusts and, above all, America." The statement, headlined "May The Windpipe of Imperialism and Zionism Be Cut," charged that Western journalists "believe it is to be their main duty to act as the mouthpiece of international Zionism in exploiting and colonizing the oppressed nations of the world and the deprived of the world in particular."

The Pars News Agency serves the Islamic Society of Pars. The statement, published in the Parsi language, called for a demonstration against Western news agencies this Sunday. The demonstration was advertised prominently in the newspaper Islamic Republic, the mouthpiece of Khomeini's ruling clergy.

DAYAN, EBAN DEBATE PALESTINIAN FUTURE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- Former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan does not expect the West Bank and Gaza Palestinians to accept the autonomy scheme, even if Israel and Egypt agree on all its details. Dayan made this clear yesterday in a live radio discussion with another former Foreign Minister, Abba Eban.

It is for that reason, Dayan explained, that he advocates the unilateral application by Israel of its part of the scheme, namely, the removal of the military government and redeployment of the army in specified security locations. "If Israel did this," Dayan said, "and thereby ceased its involvement in the Palestinians' affairs, they might with time come to accept the situation (without formally endorsing it)."

Dayan remained flatly opposed to the notion of an independent Palestinian state, now or in the future. He said he envisages the "permanent status" of the areas as a combination of local autonomy and political affiliation to Jordan. But this would not mean, he stressed, that Jordan could exercise

sovereignty -- either in the West Bank or in Gaza.

Eban propounded his recently adopted thesis in favor of a "Benelux-type" community to include Israel, Jordan and a Palestinian state. The basic issue, he said, was whether Israel wanted to continue ruling a million Arabs against their will. If it did not -- and he certainly did not -- then it must part company from them, and it mattered little whether they became part of Jordan again, or a separate state.

In the negotiations over the "permanent status," Israel's opening stance must be the retention of the Jewish settlements on the West Bank. But, Eban reminded Dayan, that had been the opening position with Egypt, too, "and yet you were unable to achieve it in the end." Eban said the negotiations must, at any rate, provide for Israel's minimal, vital security requirements; the retention of "security locations" and the demilitarization of the West Bank.

Dayan challenged Eban on this last point. If the Palestinian state were sovereign, it could one day throw out the Israeli "security locations." But Eban retorted that West Germany today was a sovereign state, and yet was not at liberty to evict the U.S. army from its territory. The agreements providing for the U.S. presence did not contradict the fact of German sovereignty, Eban argued.

Similarly, he said, once Israel "parted company from" the West Bank, even if it ceded the territory to Jordan, it could do little to determine the subsequent fate of the area. The Palestinians might take over the whole of Jordan one day, or alternatively the West Bankers and Gazans might break away from Jordan and become an independent state.

TOWERING CHANUKAH MENORAH TO GLOW OPPOSITE THE WHITE HOUSE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- Chanukah in Washington is different this year. Starting tomorrow night, a towering electric "National Chanukah Menorah" will glow in Lafayette Park directly opposite the White House in the traditional numerical order for eight successive days in celebration of the Festival of Lights.

Erection of the all-steel menorah was completed last night and successfully tested in the presence of Lubavitcher Rabbi Abraham Shemtov, who supervised the project sponsored by the American Friends of Lubavitch; the menorah's designer, Gunther Kilshiemer, a Berlin refugee from Nazism; and a reporter for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Washington's menorah, fabricated with gold painted square tubing and weighing 5000 pounds, is the nation's largest, Shemtov said. Its 30-foot-high base is surmounted by a triangle of nine lights, each four feet high, with the top of the "Shamash" -- the centered light 36 feet above ground. The span of the lights is 20 feet wide. Each "flame" is 20 inches high.

A special ceremony of lighting will take place Monday, the fourth night of Chanukah with government and community leaders participating. The menorah will be turned on each evening at dusk and glow until midnight during the holiday.

The Lubavitch movement's "National Candleabra" is one of many that Lubavitch Friends have installed in major cities across the country, Shemtov said. Among them are menorahs in front of the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan and at the foot

of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, as they have been on the past three Chanukahs.

Kilshiemer was overjoyed as the lights of his design gleamed for the first time. He said he was in an orphanage in Berlin when, in 1938, he was removed to Brazil for safety. After nine years there, he came to Washington. Looking at his design he said wistfully, "I did this as a Jew, hopeful of making a contribution to the whole world -- to have a menorah in front of the White House."

MRS. MEIR WAS CLOSE TO SUICIDE AT EARLY STAGES OF THE YOM KIPPUR WAR

JERUSALEM, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- The late Premier Golda Meir was close to suicide during the early stages of the Yom Kippur War, according to a long-time political ally. Veteran Mapam leader Yaacov Hazan told a memorial meeting for Mrs. Meir in Tel Aviv last night that she had revealed to him, close to her death one year ago, that she had contemplated suicide because she could not bear the thought of her moral responsibility for the pre-war unpreparedness.

Hazan said Mrs. Meir had told him she fully expected to be exonerated of any direct responsibility "by any tribunal on this earth." Nevertheless, she could not forgive herself for not having followed the dictates of her instincts rather than the advice of her various ministerial and military experts.

She had been confident of ultimate Israeli victory, Hazan said, even during the worst moments of the war. But she felt -- as she told him -- that her own life had become worthless as a result of the pre-war catastrophe, and she no longer wished to live. Why, then had she not carried out her suicide urge? Because, Hazan quoted her as saying, she felt that to do so would be to weaken the resolve of the young fighting soldiers on the battlefield.

Hazan's revelation came a few days after a Jewish Telegraphic Agency report from New York by Yitzhak Rabi that Mrs. Meir, according to her sister, Clara Stein of Bridgeport, Conn., always carried with her a fatal dose of cyanide in case she was captured by terrorists.

STUDY ANALYZES PROBLEMS SOVIET JEWISH STUDENTS HAVE IN CANADA

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewish students in junior and senior high schools are misunderstood, ridiculed, disliked and made to feel unwelcome by their Canadian peers, according to a case study on the subject. The study, "Adaptation: A Case Study of Soviet Jewish Immigrant Children in Toronto, 1970-1978," written by Roberta-Lander Markus, also states that according to their teachers, Soviet Jewish students often display violent behavior and uncooperative attitudes toward learning.

Mrs. Markus' 73-page study was sponsored by the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) of Canada Central Region. The Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation co-funded her project while the Secretary of State, which is a federal agency in Ottawa, assisted in its publication.

According to Mrs. Markus, who is fluent in Russian, "a number of Soviet children were having emotional, behavioral and learning problems, and in several cases Soviet students were unable to cope with the accumulated pressures of leaving their country, remaining in stateless transition for up to a year or more and trying to establish themselves in a culture alien to their way of thinking."

Teachers' reports indicate that the frustration

exhibited by the students "were often manifested through extended absenteeism, violent behavior, generally uncooperative attitudes toward learning, hostile and aggressive relations with others, and other types of anti-social and destructive behavior."

Mrs. Markus spent two years on the study visiting 40 different schools -- both those within the public system and those under the Board of Jewish Education. A linguist and political scientist, she interviewed about 100 of the approximately 200 Soviet Jewish students who attend Toronto junior and senior high schools, as well as parents and teachers.

She found that Russians are ill-prepared to deal with the Canadian educational system which is not based on rote learning as appears to be the case in the Soviet Union. Relatively few have Canadian friends and they feel unwelcome, unimportant and unwanted, Mrs. Markus noted. In the view of Canadians they are "Ruskies, cliquish, unfriendly, rude, violent and smelly. Some Canadians just said 'I just dislike them' without giving any reasons."

The Jewish students who were interviewed did not identify themselves as Jews but as Russians. Israeli students at the school are accepted because they are Western, and people have positive feelings about Israel, Mrs. Markus reported.

U.S. SAYS THE PLO PLAYS CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN HOSTAGE SITUATION IN TEHRAN
By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- The State Department drew a rhetorical line today between "Palestinian terrorists" and the "Palestine Liberation Organization" and reported that "the PLO" is being constructive in connection with the 50 Americans being held hostage in the U.S. Embassy compound in Teheran.

In face of persistent and increasingly firm reports that Palestinians are deeply involved in the hostage-taking and blackmail, the State Department said that its information on who is in the Embassy compound is "very imperfect" and that it has "nothing to announce about their identities."

"We are in a state of ignorance about what is going on in the Embassy," Department spokesman Thomas Reston replied at one point during intense questioning by reporters. However, when he was asked if it is "possible" Palestinians are in there, he replied, "sure."

Captors No Longer Just Iranians

The questioning followed a CBS news broadcast last night that reported on the basis of work by "American intelligence experts" that the captors in the Embassy compound are "not just students and they are no longer just Iranians." Other reports had said previously that "the Patriotic Front for the Liberation of Palestine," a part of the PLO, was involved. The PLO frequently dissociates itself from terrorist acts and allows segments of its organization to take credit for them for tactical propaganda purposes.

In the report by diplomatic correspondent Marvin Kalb in Washington, CBS said "When Washington raised the threat of military intervention" to free the hostages, "U.S. experts say an unknown number of Palestinian guerrillas joined the Iranians inside the compound and provided what is called technical assistance."

"CBS News has learned that it was Palestinians who mined the Embassy grounds and walls and

taken a direct hand in the security of the hostages. The Palestinians are still there, which explains why Arabic is heard while in the compound in addition to the (Iranian) native language, Parsi. The Palestinians who early on tried to serve as intermediaries are said to be playing both sides of the street -- drumming popular support in the U.S. while doing Khomeini's bidding inside the Embassy."

When Reston was asked, at the opening of the questioning on this issue, about the "participation by Palestinian terrorists" in Teheran, he replied, from prepared notes: "We have no evidence of it. We have no reason to believe the take-over of the Embassy and holding of our people as hostages is anything but an Iranian operation or that control over that situation is in anybody's hands but Iranian hands."

He added, "Palestinians in the past have, it is true, provided training for some Iranians since the revolution. As to the identity of any individuals who may be in the Embassy compound, we have no way of knowing who all of them are. We have no evidence of any current relationship between outside organizations and those occupying the Embassy compound."

Wording Is Challenged

Reporters challenged Reston's wording. They asked if he did not know "all" who are inside the compound, did he know of "some" and who they are. The State Department spokesman replied that he has "nothing to announce about their identities" and that "We are in a state of ignorance about what is going on in the Embassy." This response seemed to contradict reports and information that has been forthcoming from released hostages and non-American sources in Teheran.

Asked if the "PLO is continuing to play a constructive role" in the Teheran situation, Reston replied, "It is my understanding they are still trying to get our people out." Challenged as to why he specifically suggested that the PLO was constructive when the State Department has avoided identifying negotiators in the past, he said, "Maybe I made a slip." Reston said he had previously designated the French, among others, as helping.

Asked, "Just what is the PLO doing?" he said, "This would take me exactly into the renowned treacherous waters in which I have no business swimming."

URGE MESSAGES TO HOSTAGES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- The State Department today asked Americans to address their messages of support to the hostages in Teheran in care of the U.S. Embassy, 260

Taleghani Ave., Teheran, Iran. The Department said that messages should not be sent to the State Department but through international postal services, since the U.S. has no way to forward them to the Embassy.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The manning of all 30 lookout posts in the Galilee will be completed by the end of April, Amos Harpaz, chairman of the Galilee region section in the Jewish Agency settlement department, said at a press conference in Safed. Some 10-12 families will settle in each of the outposts, designed to strengthen the Jewish presence in the Galilee. All outposts are later planned to become regular settlements. Some IL 300 million were invested so far in the building of the outposts.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE PALESTINIANS**

By Uzi Benziman

JERUSALEM, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- A change of mood within the moderate wing of Israeli public opinion towards the Palestinians is discernible at this time. The new attitude shows signs of evolving into a profound disillusionment with the prospects of achieving a negotiated solution between Israelis and Palestinians. It is expressed by politicians and columnists known hitherto as advocates of a compromise between the two peoples.

Several Knesseters, who until now had consistently favored great Israeli concessions towards the Palestinians -- including the establishment of a Palestinian state -- have been deeply disappointed by Palestinian leaders' reluctance to take part in the recent political meeting in Washington initiated by the Israeli quarterly, New Outlook.

Well-known "doves" like MK Yossi Sarid of the Labor Party, Avraham Melamed of the National Religious Party, and Mordechai Wisniewsky of the Democratic Movement, cancelled their plans to participate in the meeting, and the few Knesset members who did take part in the symposium returned home plainly disappointed.

Reason For Despair

The reason for their despair was the hostile attitude of Palestinian leaders towards the opportunity provided by New Outlook to meet Israelis and start discussing with them the possibilities of reaching an agreement between the two peoples. None of the front-ranking Palestinian leaders on the West Bank responded to the invitation.

Those few Knesset members who did attend realized that Israelis are in fact arguing among themselves over the possibility of reaching an accommodation with the Palestinians. The Palestinians, for their part, take no role in the dialogue.

As one Israeli dove commented later: "Instead of waiting for a real Palestinian readiness to change their attitude towards Israel, we -- wrongly -- express our expectation of such a change and blame the government for its refusal to agree with the Palestinians on the hypothetical possibility of such a new approach."

The bold fact is that the Palestine Liberation Organization establishment has not shown -- for the time being -- any sign of flexibility towards Israel. None of the top leaders has expressed readiness to begin negotiating with Israel. None of them is ready to amend the "Palestine Covenant" which calls for the dismantling of the Israeli State. None of them has declared publicly willingness to adopt the UN Resolution 242 as the basis for a solution.

New Sense Of Suspicion

Recent commentaries by Israeli journalists are even more unequivocal and can be described as imbued with a new sense of suspicion towards the Palestinians' motives and goals.

Yehuda Litani, a well-known reporter on the prestigious daily Haaretz, recently visited several Palestinian centers in the U.S. and Western Europe, surveying the contacts between the PLO and the international community. Litani's reports were as despairing as the impressions brought by the politicians who returned from the New Outlook conference.

Litani, familiar to his readers as a zealous advocate of far-reaching Israeli concessions towards the Palestinians, discovered -- and reported -- that there was no real moderation within the Palestinian leadership. Nevertheless, the Palestinian establishment has succeeded in winning international recognition and sympathy.

Litani, in a series of 13 articles, stressed that the Palestinians had been able to foster the image of the "underdog" who needs the world's assistance in their conflict with Israel, without being required to pay for this sympathy by any significant flexibility in their ideological attitude towards Israel's existence.

Litani paints a picture of a sophisticated political and propaganda network set up by the PLO leadership in the main Western centers. His conclusion: the Palestinian leaders, represented by the PLO, are not ready to accept the existence of the Israeli State, and all their political moves -- designed to increase international support -- are based on a false presentation of their true goals.

'The Bride Who Didn't Show Up'

Amos Elon, another prominent journalist who consistently preaches a moderate approach towards the Palestinians, returned from Washington as disappointed as Litani. In a recent article, Elon talked about "the bride who didn't show up for her wedding."

Referring to the New Outlook conference, Elon lamented the circumstances in which several Israeli intellectuals and politicians came to the U.S. their hearts full of goodwill, and failed to find their prospective partners. The Palestinians were not brave enough or willing enough to discuss the conflict and its possible solution with the moderate group who came from Israel.

These voices of disappointment and disillusionment sounded by articulate politicians and intellectuals who are considered favorable to the idea of a Palestinian state, may evolve into a total despair of the PLO leaders as realistic partners to a reasonable dialogue. Such an eventuality may in time weaken the moderate camp in the Israeli political arena.

JEWISH RIGHTS ON THE WEST BANK

LONDON, Dec. 13 (JTA) -- Israel's Knesset Speaker Yitzhak Shamir made it clear that he supported the right of Jews to settle in Elon Moreh and other places in the West Bank which are the center of political controversy in Israel. In a speech to Herut supporters he drew an analogy between the present day status of Elon Moreh and Ariel, another West Bank settlement, and that of Nahariya, the Jewish town north of Acre, 30 years ago.

Nahariya had been allotted to the Arab state under the 1947 United Nations partition plan and although it soon came under Israeli military control, some Israeli ministers regarded it for a time as "occupied territory." Noting that today the town was an integral part of the State of Israel, rather than "occupied territory," Shamir added: "Yesterday Nahariya, today Elon Moreh and Ariel."

This was Shamir's only departure from the political neutrality imposed on him as Speaker of the Knesset. As he said in his opening remarks, he was really only permitted to express the consensus view of Israeli politicians. "Despite all the party fighting," he said Israel's consensus opposed withdrawal to the pre-1967 lines and the establishment of a Palestinian state, which would be a "gathering place of all the anti-democratic elements, from the guards of Khmeini to the soldiers of Castro."