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## CABINET CONFIRMS BEN-ELISSAR AS ISRAEL'S FIRST ENVOY TO EGYPT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA) — Elighu Ben-Elissar, a 48-year-old scholar who entered Herut Party politics and became one of Premier Menachem Begin's top aides, was confirmed by the Cabinet today as Israel's first Ambassador to Egypt. He will assume his post in Cairo on February 26 when Israel and Egypt exchange ambassadors.

When the Likud government took office in 1977, Begin named Ben-Elissar Director General of the Prime Minister's Office. In that capacity he became closely involved in the peace negotiations with Egypt. He headed the first Israeli diplomatic delegation to Cairo for peace talks at the Mena House in December, 1977, one month after President Anwar Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem. He continued to be closely involved in the peace process, accompanying Begin to Camp David in September, 1978, and carried out various missions for the Premier in connection with the peace negotiations.

Born in Radom, Poland, Ben-Elissar lost his immediate family in the Holocaust. He immigrated to Palestine in 1942 but pursued his higher education abroad. He received a doctoral degree from the University of Geneva. His thesis was on the foreign policy of the Third Reich and the Jews which later became the title of a book published in Paris in 1969.

He held various positions in the government between 1954 and 1964 and in 1971 became head of the information department of the Herut movement, a position he retained until Likud won the 1977 elections.

Ben-Elissar married for the second time last March. His wife is Nitza Graetz. They have no children. With his appointment as Ambassador officially approved, the Foreign Ministry is expected to name the other members of the Israeli diplomatic mission to Cairo by the end of this week. It will probably number 10 persons. The entire Embassy staff is expected to number 40. A delegation of senior officials will leave for Cairo tomorrow to find a building for the new Embassy.

## LEWIS SAYS U.S. HAS DECLINED ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN OFFERS OF AIR BASES

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13 (JTA) — Ambassador Samuel Lewis told Israelis over the weekend that the U.S. has decided to decline the offers of both Israel and Egypt for the use of military bases on their territory but did not rule out military cooperation with either country in the future if the situation calls for it.

The American envoy, interviewed on television last Friday, also explained that U.S. military cooperation with Israel at this time might hinder rather than help Washington's efforts to mobilize as much support as possible from the moderate countries of the Islamic world.

"At the present stage it is clear that American credibility with many of the moderate Islamic states would be less than enhanced by overt military cooperation with Israel than it would be per-

haps by military assistance and services in Egypt," Lewis said. "But I don't think we have ruled anything out for the future if the threat requires. Things may change," he added.

Commenting on the use of an Egyptian air base by American aircraft, Lewis said this was for training purposes and nothing else. He spoke of the Soviet threat in the region but said he was not sure whether the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan will have a direct impact on U.S.-Israeli relations.

## EL AL READY TO BEGIN TALKS WITH EGYPTAIR FOR FLIGHT OPERATIONS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13 (JTA) — El Al is ready to begin negotiations this week with its Egyptian counterpart, Egyptair, to finalize a schedule and other necessary arrangements for inaugurating air traffic between the two countries as was agreed upon between Premier Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat at their summit meeting in Aswan last week. Rafi Har-Lev, El Al's acting director general, said that from a technical point of view El Al is ready to begin flights on January 26, the day set for the start of air traffic. (See related story, P. 2.)

However, preliminary talks must first be held between the Israeli and Egyptian transport ministries and civil aviation authorities to establish an agreement for landing rights, air corridors and frequency of flights, and to resolve the problems of customs regulations, fees and fueling. El Al said it would propose full cooperation with Egyptair on publicity, marketing and ticketing with a view to promoting combined tours of Israel and Egypt from European and American cities.

## CABINET POSTPONES DISCUSSION OVER SADAT'S PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING AUTONOMY FIRST IN THE GAZA STRIP

By David Landau, Yitzhak Shargil and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA) — The Cabinet decided today to defer to a future session any discussion of President Anwar Sadat's proposal that autonomy be implemented in the Gaza Strip before it is extended to the West Bank. Sadat, who first proposed this in 1978, raised the matter again during his summit meeting with Premier Menachem Begin at Aswan last week.

Begin promised to take it up with his Cabinet. In the course of his overall briefing on the Aswan talks today he mentioned the proposition but reportedly showed a singular lack of enthusiasm for it, an attitude said to be shared by other ministers. Cabinet secretary Arye Naor told reporters later that the Cabinet would discuss the idea at a later session but did not indicate when. It is understood that Begin's views will be the decisive factor, as it is on other foreign policy matters.

## Arguments Against The Proposal

The strongest argument against the proposal is that it would represent a deviation from the Camp David accords and therefore might set a precedent for other deviations inimical to Israel. The Camp David agreements did not call for two separate autonomies but for a single political framework to apply to both Gaza and the West Bank. In any event, Begin made it clear that autonomy would not be implemented in Gaza before an overall autonomy plan

was agreed to by Israel and Egypt.

Another point raised against the Gaza first idea is that it could open the way for the return of Egyptian influence in that territory which was under Egyptian control from 1948 to 1967. Israel has already flatly rejected a proposal by Egypt that it establish a liaison office in Gaza during the autonomy period. However, many Israelis fear that early autonomy for Gaza would in effect allow the Egyptians to return through "the back door."

Not all Israelis are opposed to Sadat's idea, however. Some believe that a strong Egyptian presence in the territory would neutralize demands for a Palestinian state, at least in that heavily Arab populated region and would encourage King Hussein of Jordan to try to regain his influence on the West Bank which would be a further barrier to a Palestinian state.

It is precisely for that reason that the Cabinet hawks who oppose the autonomy scheme in general also reject Sadat's proposal. These ministers do not conceal their hope that nothing will come of the Camp David autonomy plan and that Israel's present status in the occupied territories will remain unchanged. Any return of Jordanian or Egyptian influence, they believe, will play into the hands of elements who advocate territorial compromise, notably the opposition Labor Alignment.

#### Peres Favors Sadat's Proposal

Shimon Peres, chairman of the Labor Party, said on a television interview Friday that he favored Sadat's proposal because it would allow Israel time to study the ways and means of ensuring its security before autonomy is extended to the West Bank. According to Peres, the application of autonomy to Gaza would be much easier than on the West Bank because there are no problems of water resources or land ownership and the authority of the Military Government is undisputed.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who heads the Israeli negotiating team in the autonomy talks, also said on Friday that he would propose the creation of a special subcommittee to study Sadat's proposal. However, he said he wanted to hear Begin's briefing first.

#### Consideration Of Long-Range Effects

When and if the Cabinet takes up the Gaza idea it will have to consider the long-range effects of a negative decision on Israeli-Egyptian relations. Begin's promise to bring the matter to his Cabinet was, in fact, all that saved the Aswan summit from total failure on the autonomy issues. Sadat took no pains to conceal his disappointment over the lack of progress.

Seeing Begin off at Aswan Airport Thursday, he told reporters that "Our main concern" at the summit meeting had been "to give momentum to the peace process. I thought that on this visit we could reach a directive for our ministers. But we still have our differences... it will need more meetings to solve these differences," he said. He added, in what seemed to be a warning though couched in positive terms, "We will have another four months to agree on the autonomy question and on what I have already raised here — the question of Jerusalem."

At their 90-minute final session before Begin's departure, the two leaders found themselves

in total disagreement over the question of whether East Jerusalem should be included in the autonomy scheme. This is totally unacceptable to Begin who continues to emphasize that Jerusalem is the "eternally indivisible capital of Israel." To Sadat it is a focal point in the spiritual lives of 700 million Moslems.

Meanwhile, the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip reacted more vehemently against Sadat's autonomy proposal than many Israelis. Haider A Shaffi, a pro-Palestine Liberation Organization personality who heads the local Red Crescent, said last Friday: "Sadat can propose what he wishes but we Gazaites would say, 'no thanks' to any attempt to introduce autonomy here." Other Gaza leaders stressed that Gaza and the West Bank cannot be split. "We are all Palestinians and there is one Palestine," they said.

#### BEGIN, SADAT REACH ACCORD ON AIR

#### LINKS BETWEEN TEL AVIV AND CAIRO

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat reached agreement at their Aswan summit meeting on the details of normalization between Israel and Egypt which takes effect officially later this month. Begin announced, at a joint press conference with Sadat before he left Aswan, that regular civilian flights between Tel Aviv and Cairo will begin on January 26.

Talking to reporters on the flight home, Begin said the aviation agreement was a notable success since it is not strictly required under the terms of the third annex to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, the protocol dealing with normalization.

However, he said, Sadat had promised him at their meeting in El Arish last summer that air links would be established as soon as normalization went into effect. He has abided by his promise, Begin said. Telephonic communications and postal links will also be opened between the two countries on January 26.

#### JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS MOURN

#### THE PASSING OF GEORGE MEANY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (JTA) — Jewish community leaders joined with other Americans of all ranks in mourning the loss of George Meany who died last Thursday after suffering a cardiac arrest at the age of 85 at George Washington University Hospital. He retired three months ago after being president of the AFL-CIO for 27 years.

"No American was more devoted to Israel's freedom as an independent Jewish State than George Meany," said Albert Zack, who had been closely associated with Meany for 22 years as director of public relations for the AFL-CIO. "If proof were needed of Meany's feeling for Israel, it was evidenced in the innumerable acts of association and devotion to Israel, in his speeches, his appeals to the Congress and his personal encouragement and support to all Americans to help Israel materially," Zack said.

A good friend of all Israeli leaders through the years, Zack pointed out that Meany "cherished among his closest relationships his friendship with Golda Meir." Ironically, Friday was Zack's last day as the "voice" of the AFL-CIO, since he was retiring at age 62. His successor is Saul Miller, director of the AFL-CIO department of publications since 1958, AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland said.

Richard Moass, president of the American Jewish Committee, said the Committee "mourns the passing of George Meany, a truly great American whose lifetime was devoted to enhancing the dignity and welfare of working men and women. American Jews are particularly indebted to him for his stalwart support in such overriding issues as the security of Israel, the plight of Soviet Jewry, and the fight for the preservation of human rights everywhere."

Maxwell Greenberg, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League, and Nathan Perlmutter, ADL director, said in a statement: "We are proud to have fought shoulder to shoulder with him in the advancement of social justice for all people. Throughout his life, Mr. Meany forthrightly opposed all forms of totalitarianism, whether from the right or left. He was a staunch defender of American friendship for Israel and was in the forefront of the struggle against anti-Semitism everywhere. The Jewish people, like the nation and the world, are bereaved."

B'nai B'rith president Jack Spitzer observed that Meany "was always in the forefront for the protection of minorities and for the cause of Soviet Jewry and other oppressed people. He was an outspoken supporter of Israel and a vigorous opponent of all forms of bigotry, violence and terrorism."

In Israel, Histadrut secretary general Yehoram Meshel described Meany as a "great labor leader and a friend of Israel. He was a true democrat, a fighter for freedom and for social justice. He was a courageous man who never hesitated to voice criticism of the American establishment and Administrations when they violated the principles of freedom and justice or harmed Israel."

#### TAMIR EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER WESTERN ARMS SUPPLIES TO EGYPT

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Israel's Minister of Justice, Shmuel Tamir, expressed concern today over the "timing, amount and quality" of Western military shipments to Egypt in light of the unpredictability of events in the Middle East. But he agreed in principle that the Cairo regime should be strengthened.

Tamir, who is visiting the United States (See related story, P. 4.), addressed 400 delegates from all over the country who are attending the annual assembly of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC). The four-day session opened at the Fairmount Hotel here today.

He said he was disturbed by the "proportions" of U.S. military assistance to Egypt rather than the assistance per se. He observed that it was "natural" that following the "disconnection" between Egypt and the Soviet Union, that the Cairo regime should be strengthened by the West.

"But the amounts, timing and quality of the military shipments from the West to Egypt are of paramount importance," he said. "We are hopeful that the present trend in Egypt will continue," Tamir said. He observed, however, that "Israel has been an integral part of the free world since its inception. Egypt is a new friend of the U.S. and in view of the reversal of Iran from a friend of the West to an enemy of the West, this recent history cannot be forgotten when important decisions on arms are being made."

Tamir also told the NJCRAC assembly that the crisis in Iran and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan have drawn Israel and Egypt closer together and it was time for the free world to recognize that both countries were essential elements of the "overall strategic system of the Western powers." He rejected the notion that the Palestinian issue is central to the achievement of peace in the Middle East, asserting that "There are three sources of Middle East unrest."

The "first," he said, "is unremitting refusal to accept the very existence of Israel, a refusal which caused all of the Arab-Israeli wars from 1948 to 1973 and which still prevails in the Arab world, with the sole exception of Egypt. Second is the Islamic revolution which erupted in Iran but which shows signs of spreading throughout the Middle East. Third is Soviet expansionism which exploits genuine Arab nationalism for its own imperialistic purposes."

In confronting these three sources of tension — and in standing fast to resist them — Israel is serving the interests of the free world, he said. Tamir also claimed that "Anyone who, since the Iranian revolution and the Afghanistan invasion by the USSR, supports the idea of a Palestinian state, which would be run by the PLO, is simply advocating the establishment of a Soviet satellite state close to the warm waters not only of the Red Sea but of the Mediterranean itself."

#### PLO MOVING INTO EAST SIDE TOWNHOUSE

NEW YORK, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization is preparing to move into a townhouse on Manhattan's posh Upper East Side which it bought for a reported \$1 million in cash.

Zehdi Labib Terzi, the PLO's observer at the United Nations, said he plans to hold an open house and make other overtures to calm the fears of neighbors of the new headquarters at 115 East 65th Street. Some neighbors have recalled the recent bomb attack on the Soviet Mission to the United Nations which is only a few blocks away. The new PLO headquarters is on the same street where former President Nixon has bought a townhouse and is scheduled to move in soon.

The PLO bought the East 65th Street site after failing to lease office space which it sought after owners of its first headquarters in a Park Avenue commercial building notified the PLO that the building was being razed. Terzi said the cost was being paid by Arab countries supporting the PLO, such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

#### SOLVING THE ENERGY CRISIS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Representatives of the Synagogue Council of America joined with Protestant and Catholic clergy at a White House breakfast last Thursday with President Carter in connection with their Conference on Religion and Energy in the 1980s. The purpose of the conference is to give religious leaders an opportunity to discuss the roles institutions should play in solving the energy crisis and to agree on joint action.

At a press conference later, Rabbi Bernard Mandelbaum, executive vice president of the Synagogue Council of America, and Rabbi David Saperstein, chairman of the Interfaith Coalition on Energy, joined the participants in discussing aspects of the energy crisis, including conservation, the plight of the poor and renewable sources of energy.

## SPECIAL INTERVIEW

## WOMEN IN ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Israel's growing economic woes, reflected in a three-digit inflation rate, and the government's new austerity program are threatening to bring about a severe reduction, or outright elimination, of vital social services for women and children in Israel, Nava Arad, chairwoman of Na'amat, the Histadrut women's organization, warned here.

In a special interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Arad expressed concern that unless new financial resources are found, a score of social, educational, cultural and welfare projects, operated and sponsored by Na'amat, which has a membership of 720,000 and is the largest women's organization in Israel, might be affected.

"The Israeli woman is required today to struggle in order to earn a livelihood and to maintain a basic standard of living," she said. "We are concerned that the worsening economic situation and the growing unemployment will hit women first, forcing them to go on welfare." She observed that with the growing economic difficulties the services provided by Na'amat assume an even greater importance.

Arad said she is in the United States for a two-week fund-raising tour sponsored by Pioneer Women, the American sister organization of Na'amat. "This is an emergency fund-raising tour," she said, noting that the IL 750 million annual budget of her organization is largely composed of contributions in Israel and abroad in addition to allocations from the Israeli government and Histadrut.

## Large Variety Of Activities

The activities of Na'amat embrace a large variety of services and projects all over Israel, Arad said, including the operation of day nurseries and child care centers, community centers, counselling programs for adolescents and their families, clubs for Arab and Druze women for job training and cultural activities, agricultural and vocational training schools, and programs and activities for the promotion of women's rights and the equality of Israeli women under the law.

Asked to assess the status of Israeli women in recent years, Arad, who is an active member of the Labor Party, said she sees "a tremendous backlash in women's rights in Israel as far as the law is concerned since the Likud government assumed power. We are concerned over this regression in the status of women."

She underlined a number of regressive developments: the recent amendment to the abortion law, the change in law allowing women to stay out of the army on religious grounds, the Likud government's decision to postpone the enactment of a social security law granting rehabilitation rights and workmen's compensation for women disabled while working at home, the intention of the government to curtail aid to dependent children, and the lack of new legislation concerning women's rights.

## Cites A Special Concern

"A special concern for us now," Arad said, "is the growing signs of impending unemployment. We are afraid that women will be the first to get

fired. This will be hard to take after all the efforts we had made to make women part of the labor force in Israel. More than 39 percent of Israeli women are presently working outside of their homes and this percentage is likely to decrease if unemployment continues to increase in the next few months," she warned.

According to Arad, Na'amat tackles the problems of women as part of the problems of Israeli society as a whole. "Our approach is to define the problems, bring them to the surface and then to conduct a mutual struggle with other parts of society to solve them," she said. At the same time, she said, her organization concerns itself with "general social problems and issues such as the rights of Israeli senior citizens or the state of agriculture in the country."

## TAMIR, MUBARAK COMING TO WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (JTA) -- Israel Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir and Vice President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt will be on separate visits here this week. Tamir is scheduled to meet with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti and Robert Strauss, head of President Carter's re-election campaign committee, during his two-day visit tomorrow and Tuesday.

According to an Israel Embassy spokesman, Strauss is an old friend of Tamir's. The two men were described as having developed a warm relationship while Strauss was Carter's special Middle East Ambassador to the Egyptian-Israeli autonomy talks. Tamir, who is a member of Israel's autonomy negotiating team, is expected to discuss the legal aspects of the autonomy process during his visit here.

On Thursday, the Justice Minister will be in New York for a working breakfast with media editors and will then meet with journalists at a meeting arranged by the American Jewish Committee and with Jewish leaders at a meeting arranged by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Mubarak is due to meet with Carter, Vance, Defense Secretary Harold Brown and key members of Congress for what was described as part of a series of U.S.-Egyptian exchanges. State Department spokesman Hadding Carter said the talks will "cover a wide range of issues -- bilateral; regional and international."

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Jihan Sadat, wife of President Anwar Sadat, has been invited to Israel next March to open the Peace Pavilion at Floris 80, the 23rd International Flower Show in Haifa. She will preside at the ceremonies along with Ophira Navon, wife of President Yitzhak Navon. The flower show, opening March 30, is expected to be the largest ever held in Haifa.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Henny Youngman, the comedian known for his snappy one-liners, finally had his bar mitzvah Saturday in Atlantic City, New Jersey, 60 years later than scheduled. The 73-year-old Youngman was originally scheduled for a bar mitzvah at the age of 13 in Brooklyn. But when a cousin died the ceremony was cancelled. The tenor, Jan Peerce, an old friend, recently offered the comedian help in preparing for the bar mitzvah and Peerce was the cantor at Saturday's service.