

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## EGYPTIANS REJECT DETAILED AUTONOMY 'MODEL' PRESENTED BY ISRAEL

By Gil Spedon

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17 (JTA) — The Israeli working team in the autonomy negotiations with Egypt returned from their latest session in Cairo today clearly taken aback by the vehemence of the Egyptians' rejection of the detailed autonomy "model" presented by Israel. While no agreement had been anticipated, the tone of the Egyptian response was unexpectedly sharp.

Izzat Abdul Latif, head of the Egyptian working group, called the Israeli proposals "a step backward" based on an old, discredited autonomy plan which pre-dated the peace agreement and was rejected by Egypt at the time. Dan Pattir, the Israeli spokesman, retorted that the Israeli proposals were an accurate reflection of the principles embodied in the Camp David agreements and not the "distorted interpretation by Egypt."

### Elements In The 'Model'

The Egyptians insist that autonomy lead to self-determination by the Palestinians. The Israelis are determined to limit the powers of the autonomous authority to local administrative functions. The Israeli "model" divided the functions into three categories; those that would be carried out entirely by the elected administrative council; those that the council would share with Israeli authorities; and those to be retained exclusively by Israel.

The first category includes agriculture, health services, religious affairs; local commerce and industry, labor and welfare, finance, education and culture, local affairs and local police. Shared authority would be exercised in the fields of transportation and communications and personnel. While education would be administered autonomously, Israel would retain control over textbooks. Israel would also be in exclusive control of sanitation services, imports and exports, public works and overall security. The autonomous authority would have no powers to legislate.

The gap between Israel and Egypt remains as wide as ever. Premier Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat made no progress on autonomy at their summit meeting in Aswan last week. According to observers here, it remains to be seen whether U.S. special Ambassador Sol Linowitz will be able to break the impasse when he visits the region again later this month.

(In Washington, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has disclosed that Linowitz's trip will include visiting the so-called Arab moderate states such as Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Morocco. This is being viewed here in some quarters as a mission to assure the Arabs that the U.S. plans to make a strong effort to speed up the autonomy talks.)

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who heads the Israeli autonomy negotiating team, told a press conference in Tel Aviv tonight that he will recommend to the government that it reject Sadat's proposal that autonomy be implemented in the Gaza Strip before it is extended to the West Bank as totally unacceptable, the same way that the Egyptians rejected Israel's "model." Grim faced, Burg told reporters: "I am sorry that the

Egyptians were in a rush to reject our plan. This is a real slowdown, an unwarranted slowdown in the talks. I would say that the Egyptian decision took us back six months and even more."

## TAMIR: IT IS 'PREMATURE' TO SAY U.S. IS PRESSURING ISRAEL TO SPEED UP THE AUTONOMY TALKS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 17 (JTA) — Israeli Minister of Justice Shmuel Tamir said today that it is "premature" to talk about American pressure on Israel to speed up the negotiating process for autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Tamir, who is a member of Israel's ministerial negotiating team on autonomy, arrived in the U.S. on a visit four days ago and has had meetings in Washington with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and other top Administration officials.

Addressing a meeting here of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Tamir said that Vance had assured him that the Administration does not intend to pressure Israel and that the U.S. needs "a strong Israel" now.

"There is no doubt in my mind that new winds are blowing in this country," Tamir said. He referred to the new situation created by the Iranian and Afghanisthan crises and the new realization in Washington that a strong Israel is in America's national interest. He said that since the autonomy talks began last spring, the U.S. has not brought any pressure to bear on Israel "to agree to things it (Israel) did not agree to in the Camp David accords." But Tamir acknowledged that there are differences between Israel and the U.S. and that the U.S. does not always see eye-to-eye with Israel.

He expressed hope that the autonomy talks between Israel and Egypt will be concluded by their target date next May. The Israeli minister also said that the new situation in the Middle East has strengthened Israel in its opposition to the creation of a third state between itself and Jordan.

### Confident Of Continued U.S. Support

"I feel it is easier now to express our position here," he said. He said he was confident that the U.S. will continue to support Israel because the Jewish State is the one "reliable friend" it has in the Middle East. Nevertheless, he called on American Jews to be on the watch. "We live in a cruel world," he said and observed that Israelis have no illusions and are aware that America has needs and interests in the Middle East that do not always coincide with those of Israel.

Speaking to reporters in Washington yesterday, Tamir reiterated his view that the U.S. was taking a risk in supplying Egypt with large amounts of military aid because the future course of events in that country is unpredictable.

He suggested that Egypt might turn against the West if it was threatened with a takeover by radicals or an Islamic revolution in the manner of Iran's. Egypt is "a relatively benevolent autocratic regime but not a democracy," he said.

## ISRAEL APPEARS TO BE OPPOSED TO BOYCOTTING OLYMPICS IN MOSCOW

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 17 (JTA) — Israel is quietly

in favor of this year's Olympic Games being held in Moscow, and is unofficially pressing Western Jewish communities not to join in the current worldwide attempts to have the Games moved elsewhere. This emerged here on the eve of today's meeting of the Olympics Committee of the Brussels World Conference on Soviet Jewry, to discuss its attitude towards the Games.

Prof. Yosef Rom, a leading Likud member of the Knesset, will tell the special committee that the Games are an opportunity to gain concessions from the Kremlin over the numbers of Jews allowed to leave the USSR and the release of Prisoners of Conscience, including Ida Nudel, Anatoly Shcharansky and Yosef Mendelovich.

Rom, a member of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, outlined his views last night at a meeting with British Herut supporters, who agreed with what he said. The Jewish people should act in accordance with its own interests, he said, and not be swayed by what was happening in Afghanistan. "I hope 1980 will be the year of the Soviet Jewish Prisoner," he said.

Rom is one of two Israeli delegates -- the other is Prof. Yaakov Rai -- attending the Olympics committee meeting of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry. Its chairman is Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section.

The meeting is being held against the background of deep divisions among Soviet Jewish activists over whether the Olympics should be boycotted. These divisions existed long before hints of a boycott were announced by President Carter, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and other Western leaders.

In Britain, calls for a boycott of the Games have been made by the Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry, one of the most active groups in the Soviet Jewry movement. However, Britain's National Council has opposed the boycott campaign, claiming that Soviet refusniks and prisoners themselves want the Olympic Games to be used as a springboard for strengthening the Jewish emigration movement.

#### ELON MOREH SETTLERS AGREE TO LEAVE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- The Elon Moreh settlers agreed last night, after prolonged deliberations, to move to the new site at Djebil Kebir six miles away where the government is preparing a settlement for them. The settlers said they made the decision "albeit painfully" in order "to avoid confrontation and not stand in the way of the government to establish the settlement on Mt. Kebir."

The settlers did not say when they would move. But if they observe the new deadline set by the Cabinet when it granted them a second extension last month, the transfer should be completed by next week.

There was no public indication that the government had agreed to the settlers' earlier demand to initiate legislation that would change the status of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories in a way that would bar future court challenges. Until last night, that had been their condition for leaving Elon Moreh. But there were hints that they may have received some promise in that direction.

It was learned that the Knesset members backing Elon Moreh gave the settlers a letter committing them "to act to change the legal status of

Judea and Samaria." However, Haim Korfu, the coalition Whip in the Knesset, said flatly that the evacuation of Elon Moreh would not accelerate consideration of new legislation. This is a serious topic and cannot be discussed "while standing on one leg," he said.

#### ORT AIDED 98,000 LAST YEAR

NEW YORK, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- ORT education and vocational training programs last year served 98,000 people in 24 countries, according to a report by Sidne, Leiwant, American ORT Federation (AOF) president, prepared for presentation at the AOF centennial national conference, which begins tomorrow at the New York Hilton and will continue through Sunday.

Two out of three of the total ORT enrollment, Leiwant indicated, were in the 95 ORT vocational and technical training institutions in Israel in 1979. He predicted the continued expansion of the ORT network in the Jewish State to meet the continuing needs of "the advanced technology sector" of Israel's expanding economy, and called courses providing such skills "the ORT of the future."

Sen. Jacob Javits (R-NY) will be the feature speaker at the ORT centennial banquet Saturday evening. Israel's UN Ambassador, Yehuda Blum, will bring greetings from Israel. Some 750 delegates from all parts of the United States are expected at the conference, which will celebrate the founding of ORT -- the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training -- in Czarist Russia in 1880. The conclave will also plan American participation in the World ORT Centennial Congress in Jerusalem this summer.

#### PROBING ISRAELI JET CRASH IN MALAWI

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- An official investigator left for Malawi today to ascertain the circumstances that led to the crash of an Israeli-made civilian jet aircraft, killing the two Israeli test pilots who were demonstrating it to potential buyers in that southeast African country last Tuesday.

The victims were David Levine, 41, a former U.S. Marine pilot who saw action in Vietnam, and Eli Mor, 44, a Lt. Col. (res.) who formerly commanded a Skyhawk jet squadron in the Israel Air Force. Both were employed by Israel Aircraft Industries, manufacturer of the Arava short-take-off-and-landing (STOL) aircraft involved in the crash.

IAI was negotiating with the Malawi authorities for the sale of four of the planes and a large crowd of local officials was watching the demonstration. Levine and Mor, who had flown the Arava to Malawi from Israel, crashed shortly after taking off. It is assumed that the wing struck the ground or some other object while the plane was being maneuvered.

The remains of the two flyers were flown to Israel today for burial. Levine is survived by his wife and two children, and Mor by his wife and four children.

#### UPCOMING TRIAL FOR WAR CRIMINAL

CLEVELAND, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- Records in the Federal District Court here reveal that the defense attorneys for accused Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk will be allowed to accompany Justice Department prosecutors to Germany next month to take depositions from two German witnesses for an upcoming trial. Demjanjuk is accused of having been a guard at the Treblinka death camp during World War II.

Travel and maintenance expenses of John Martin and Spiros Gonakis, lawyers for the 59-year-old, Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk, will be paid by the U.S.

government. The identities of the two German witnesses are being kept secret pursuant to an order by U.S. Magistrate Jack Streepy. It is known, however, that the testimony of at least one of them will be video-taped and that the recording of this testimony will be replayed during the trial.

The case is expected to reach the courtroom of Federal District Judge Frank Battisti as early as March.

### JTS HEAD SAYS ORDINATION OF WOMEN RABBIS IS STILL ON AGENDA

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Jan. 17 (JTA) — Dr. Gerson Cohen, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, declared that the vote last month by a majority of the seminary's Faculty Senate to table a proposal to admit women to the seminary as rabbinical candidates "must not be taken as a defeat of the idea of women in the rabbinate" and he urged a long-range effort to "create a climate of opinion" in the Conservative movement to bring about seminary approval of such ordination.

The 25-19 vote on Dec. 20 ended for the time being a battle in the movement, led by a majority of the members of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis, for seminary agreement to accept women for ordination. Cohen gave his assessment at a plenary session of the seminary's faculty and student body Tuesday night which he had called to discuss the significance of the Faculty Senate vote. The proposal that women be admitted for ordination had been the key recommendation of a report by a 14-member commission which Cohen had named, with himself as chairman, representing what he said was the entire spectrum of opinion in the movement.

The chancellor held that what the vote "really means is that the majority of the Senate -- the 25 members who voted to table -- did not sense the existence of a climate of opinion" in the movement "for a major change" on the issue. He added that "any major change in the structure of religion requires a sort of populist recognition of a need for change."

"Such a climate of opinion presupposes a loyalty with full knowledge of both the present practice and the implications of change," Cohen said, adding that the majority of the Faculty Senate felt that the Conservative movement was seriously divided on the issue. He said the Faculty Senate, in the Dec. 20 vote, had placed a higher priority on preserving the integrity of the movement than on the ordination of women.

He said those Conservative Jews who believe women should be ordained, "who feel that such change is theologically and halachically permissible and ethically and spiritually mandated, now have the task of creating the climate of opinion" in the movement "which will make such change possible."

### Women Will Have To Shoulder Task

Commenting that while "the challenge" confronts all who favor that change, Cohen asserted that "the task will inevitably fall most heavily on the women themselves," who had been denied "immediate fulfillment of their dearest aspirations." He added that, "in living with that frustration," he hoped the women would "find the courage to serve the Jewish community in para-rabbinic functions." He said this would help to

teach Conservative Jews "the importance" of accepting women "in new roles."

The battle on the issue began when delegates to the 1977 RA convention approved a resolution calling on the seminary to admit women as rabbinical candidates. The resolution was withdrawn when Cohen promised to name the commission, with the additional promise that he would bring its findings, which he clearly expected to be pro-ordination, to the Faculty Senate early in 1979.

But last April, Cohen announced he had agreed to a request by seminary faculty members to defer until early 1980 action on the commission's report, which declared that the commission found nothing in Jewish law barring women from the rabbinate. Mounting pressure from seminary faculty members and from a substantial number of RA members, who opposed seminary acceptance of women for the rabbinate, forced Cohen to schedule the Faculty Senate vote for Dec. 20, instead of in January, as previously scheduled.

### ARAB KILLED BY BOMB EXPLOSION

By Maurice Samielsen

LONDON, Jan. 17 (JTA) — An Arab was killed early this morning by a bomb he was believed to be assembling in a hotel in central London. The bomb went off in a bedroom on the fifth floor of the 700-room Mount Royal Hotel, wrecking five bedrooms. Three other guests were injured, including a German who was hospitalized and is being questioned by Scotland Yard. Scores of guests fled into the streets in their nightclothes. Police identified the dead man as Mohammed Soltani, 22, from Bahrain. He had registered in the hotel on Tuesday as a student.

Some five hours later a second bomb exploded in the hotel. There were no casualties. The second explosion was thought to have come from a device buried by debris from the original blast, a Scotland Yard spokesman said. The hotel is at the Marble Arch end of Oxford Street, and close to the scene of several other Arab terrorist incidents, including the attack on an El Al air crew bus two years ago.

The last terrorist incident in London occurred in the middle of December when a bomb went off in the Turkish Airlines office.

### 1500 YOUNG LEADERS TO HOLD CONCLAVE

NEW YORK, Jan. 17 (JTA) — The Young Leadership Conference of the United Jewish Appeal -- the only event of its kind to bring 1500 young leaders from across the United States under a single roof to examine and discuss critical issues affecting the future of the Jewish community and the American community at large -- will be held in Washington Feb. 24-26, it was announced by Stanley Frankel, conference chairman and chairman of the UJA's Young Men's Leadership Cabinet.

He said the conference will focus on major issues, including Israel's strategic importance, terrorism, U.S. foreign aid, the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, human rights and the energy situation. "We've planned an exciting and challenging program with first rate speakers -- prominent government officials, academics and policy planners from the United States and Israel," Frankel said.

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Rep. Robert Drinan (D. Mass.) on Wednesday sent to President Carter petitions compiled by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews containing 65,000 signatures which urged that the sight of the 1980 Olympic Games be moved from Moscow to another location.

# **BEHIND THE HEADLINES** **U.S. 'MIDDLE EAST DOCTRINE'** **DOWNGRADES ISRAEL AS AN ASSET** By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 (JTA) — President Carter's foreign policy aides are reported framing a "Middle East Doctrine" designed to contain the Soviet threat to the Near East and South Asia and to assure the region's oil-producing states of American support against upheavals like that in Iran. The "doctrine," if carried out as tentatively understood in its preliminary stages, would mean the start toward ending the power balance system between Israel and her Arab neighbors.

Moscow's armed intervention in Afghanistan has touched off alarm signals in the Administration and Carter is expected to outline his strategic plan in a major policy speech soon, perhaps in the State of the Union Address to a joint session of Congress next week.

From preliminary soundings, it appears that the doctrine — similar in intent to the Truman Doctrine of 1947 directed against Soviet penetration into Greece and Turkey — will establish Egypt as the anchor in the west and Pakistan in the east with Israel sidelined because of Arab sensitivity over an important role for the Jewish State. China also is expected to have a major part in the coordination efforts, it was said. The cost of the doctrine, however, may prove prohibitive unless the oil-producing countries contributed. Pakistan has already notified the U.S. it wants long-term aid with its military cooperation. Egypt has not been shy in seeking economic and military aid.

With President Anwar Sadat of Egypt having made it clear that his government will not grant bases to any foreign country, Egyptian soldiers will allow its "facilities" to be used. The Carter Doctrine is expected to center on U.S. pledges of support and the visitations of American warships and aircraft in various countries at various times in accordance with a general plan of cooperation preparedness.

## **Upgrading Egypt's Role**

Egypt's pivotal role has long been forecast in Washington in defense of the oil fields and a massive military aid program for Egypt has been broached to Congress. A series of developments has enhanced the prospect of Egypt's key role and Israel's downgrading as a strategic asset. Among them are the talks between Israel Premier Menachem Begin and Sadat in Aswan last week and Washington's coolness towards Israel's offers of assistance to American military forces in case of need.

Egyptian Vice President Hosni Mubarak's meetings this week with Carter, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Defense Secretary Harold Brown and Pentagon experts is understood to be related to the doctrine, along with the five-state tour by Jordan's King Hussein and Pakistan Foreign Affairs Advisor Agah Shahi's Washington visit over the weekend with Carter, Vance and U.S. military officials.

Hussein was in Saudi Arabia last Sunday to begin his consultations with five Arab states for talks on the strategic implications for the area caused by the Iranian upheaval and the Soviet's entry into Afghanistan. His tour came two weeks before the meeting in Islamabad of Moslem foreign ministers called by Pakistan.

## **Israel's Role Minimized**

With Saudi Arabia, Jordan and other "moderate" Arab states intrinsically opposed to the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, Washington strategists are seeking an accommodation with them by keeping Israel in a minor role in the doctrine's overall planning. As in the case of Egypt, according to information here, the Arab states will allow use of their facilities for American equipment but not grant any base rights. Thus, the U.S. will depend first on Arab resistance to Soviet encroachment with American might-in readiness to enter when and if necessary.

Although Israel has offered support to the U.S., Washington is reluctant to give any show of acceptance to avoid Arab excuses against collaboration with the American strategists. Israel, it has been pointed out, has helped Egypt, Jordan and other "moderate" Arab states in the past with its intelligence operations and, in Hussein's case, with military activity when Syria threatened to invade Jordan in 1970 during the uprising against Hussein by Palestinian Arabs.

Now, however, Israel, for the present period, appears to be largely left out of the U.S. calculations in the joint overall strategy although it will continue to be a bastion of strength in its own defense. Egypt is using the Palestinian issue to ward off any overtures for Israel to be part of the overall preparation.

Egyptian Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali indicated this when he rejected Israel's offer of strategic cooperation. Ali said "as long as we do not solve the Palestinian issue there will be no strategic cooperation between our two countries." In addition, according to information here, Egypt rejected Israel's offer of exchange of information between Israeli and Egyptian intelligence services.

## **Egypt's Past Ignored**

Egypt is being pictured here as becoming the region's most reliable ally of the U.S. and the past association of Egyptian politicians and military with the Soviet Union is not being recalled. Instead, reports emphasize joint American-Egyptian aerial exercises with U.S. aircraft using the air bases near Cairo and Kina airbase near Luxor.

Egyptians also are reported training and supplying Afghan rebels fighting Soviet forces and Egyptian commando officers in Oman and North Yemen to train local units to oppose revolutionaries. In addition, Cairo is said to be supplying weapons to Morocco that is opposing the Polisario rebels backed by pro-Soviet Algeria.

"There is strategic cooperation in the Middle East, but Menachem Begin and Israel's intelligence are left out of it," according to one report. This, however, may be at least somewhat off the mark. Israeli intelligence and military craftsmanship continue qualitatively to be the Middle East's best and analysts consider Washington is unlikely to neglect them completely.

What is being suggested is that Washington is hoping that Moslem reaction against Moscow will be helped by the U.S. down-playing Israel and thereby shatter the anti-American mood of the countries opposing the Camp David accords. In this vein, the Carter Administration is being advised by analysts to move "with sensitivity and discrimination" and thus possibly induce even Soviet friends like Syria, Libya and the PLO to condemn the Soviets for entering Afghanistan.