

# JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency / 165 West 46th Street / New York, New York 10036

Vol. LVIII - 63rd Year

Friday, January 25, 1980

No. 18

## CARTER VIEWS ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE TREATY AS A 'STRATEGIC ASSET' FOR U.S.

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 (JTA) -- President Carter's characterization of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty as "a strategic asset for America" was not in the prepared text of the State of the Union message he delivered in a joint session of Congress last night. Neither did the prepared text, which was given to reporters well in advance of the President's address, contain his emphatic statement, "Let no one doubt our commitment to the security of Israel."

At the White House today, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told that the President's remarks were his own interpolations. There was no immediate indication as to whether the previous reports within the Carter Administration that Israel was to be downgraded as a strategic asset were thus being stunted aside by the President.

### Section On The Mideast

Following is the text from the White House transcript of the section of the President's address pertaining to the Middle East:

"We are working with our allies to prevent conflict in the Middle East. The peace treaty between Egypt and Israel is a notable achievement which represents a strategic asset for America and which also enhances prospects for regional and world peace. We are now engaged in further negotiations to provide full autonomy for the people of the West Bank and Gaza, to resolve the Palestinian issue in all its aspects, and to preserve the peace and security of Israel.

"Let no one doubt our commitment to the security of Israel. In a few days we will observe an historic event when Israel makes another major withdrawal from the Sinai and when ambassadors will be exchanged between Israel and Egypt."

The President also said in his address, "We believe that there are no irreconcilable differences between the U.S. and any Islamic nation. We respect the faith of Islam and we are ready to cooperate with all Moslem countries. Finally, we are prepared to work with other countries in the region to share a cooperative security framework that reflects differing values and political beliefs, yet which enhances the independence, security and prosperity of all."

The President's statements appeared to confirm a report in the JTA News Bulletin on Jan. 18 that a Middle East doctrine was in the making to contain Soviet expansionism and prevent further Soviet penetration of the Middle East and its strategic assets.

### Israel Welcomes Carter's Speech

The Israel Embassy here welcomed Carter's State of the Union message as one of "great importance to all freedom-loving people around the world." An Embassy spokesman also said that "Israel expresses its special satisfaction with the President's reference to the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. Israel, for its part, will implement fully the Camp David accords and in particular all elements regarding the autonomy for the inhabitants of Judea, Samaria and Gaza."

(In Jerusalem, political circles expressed

satisfaction with the reference to the autonomy talks in Carter's State of the Union Message. They also described his statement of the peace agreement as "impressive." The source of satisfaction was Carter's omission of any reference to the present difficulties in the autonomy negotiations and the fact that he stuck to referring to "full autonomy for the people of the West Bank and Gaza" without going into specifics.)

## TWO TOP ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS TO CONFER WITH HUSSEIN IN LONDON

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 (JTA) -- Two top Administration officials will confer with King Hussein of Jordan in London tomorrow and Saturday on the Middle East peace process and other subjects, the State Department announced today. They are Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs David Newsom and Ambassador Sol Linowitz, President Carter's special Ambassador to the autonomy talks between Israel and Egypt.

State Department spokesman Hodding Carter said that Linowitz will bring Hussein "up to date" on the discussions of autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the future prospects for the talks while Newsom will discuss "a wider range of subjects of mutual concern" beyond Linowitz's sphere of operations. Hussein so far has refused to enter into a discussion of an Arab-Israeli settlement based on the Camp David accords.

Linowitz and his party will fly from London to Cairo and Jerusalem for meetings with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin. He will then go to Herzliya for a resumption of the autonomy talks and will visit Saudi Arabia and Morocco before returning to Washington Feb. 4.

Asked why Linowitz, who is representing the U.S. in the autonomy negotiations, is becoming involved with Saudi Arabia and Morocco, Carter replied that while those two countries are "not immediately involved" in the autonomy talks, they would be involved in the "long term peace process."

Linowitz, who will be making his second visit to the Middle East as President Carter's personal representative, will be accompanied by his wife; by Cleveland attorney Herbert Hansell, who is his legal advisor and was legal advisor to the State Department until six months ago; and by Robert Hunter, the National Security Council's Middle East specialist.

## MILITARY PERSONNEL MOVING INTO SINAI

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 24 (JTA) -- An advance detachment of Egyptian military personnel arrived at Refidim today to prepare for the formal Egyptian takeover of the Sinai military base evacuated by Israeli forces yesterday. Israel will hand over the base at ceremonies tomorrow. Meanwhile, the Egyptian soldiers have taken over the electric power system, communications facilities and water sources. They are being quartered temporarily at the local hospital and in dormitories at the airfield.

No decision has been reached so far on the disposition of the 100-odd members of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) whose functions will become redundant when Israeli and Egyptian troops begin their joint policing of the new buffer zone in Sinai. The UNTSO force includes

18 Russians. It has been in Sinai since the 1975 interim agreement between Israel and Egypt established a system of buffer zones and limited forces zones. UNTSO was established to see to it that both sides observed the terms of the truce agreement.

One suggestion is that Egypt request UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to assign UNTSO officers to assist the 200 American civilians who have been manning the early warning system in Sinai since 1975.

Meanwhile, Israelis are looking forward to Saturday when the normalization of relations with Egypt becomes official. Normalization will be the first affirmative action by Egypt after nine months during which Israel has carried the burden of the peace treaty, relinquishing strategic territory, important military bases and the Sinai oil fields. On Saturday, the Egyptians are expected to formally announce the end of the state of war with Israel and the abrogation of all anti-Israel clauses in the treaties and agreements they have with other countries. Egyptian Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali has promised that a new epoch-making phase in Egyptian-Israeli relations will begin this weekend.

Defense Minister Ezer Weizman returned today from his three-day visit to Cairo, where he had talks with President Anwar Sadat, Premier Mustapha Khalil and Ali, optimistic that normalization will be implemented as agreed. Weizman reported that Ali will visit Israel sometime next month. He said his talks with Sadat focussed on the developments in Afghanistan and Pakistan and that both he and Sadat spoke "in a common language" on the Afghanistan issue. The issue of autonomy did not come up during Weizman's visit.

Meanwhile, the Israeli and Egyptian representatives at the International Convention on Land Communications in Geneva agreed this week to develop an 800-kilometer Sinai railroad system linking Israel and Egypt. The rail line will run from Kantara on the Suez Canal to El Arish. There it will be connected to the existing Israeli railway system which is itself badly in need of reconstruction.

#### FUTURE OF JEWISH LIFE IN QUEBEC

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Jan. 24 (JTA) — About 400 Jewish men and women between the ages of 18 and 24 held a day-long conference here to discuss the future of Jewish life in the province of Quebec and the best ways to adjust to changes taking place here. It adopted recommendations for a dialogue between Jews and Francophone Quebecers to foster greater appreciation for each other's culture and suggested that fluency in the French language was important for anyone who wished to feel comfortable in Quebec.

The conference also called for wide distribution of a pamphlet titled "Of Myths and Facts" about Jews in Quebec. It expressed concern over the shrinking economy of the province and stressed the necessity for Jewish communal leaders to serve the interests and energies of Jewish youths.

The conference, held last Sunday at the headquarters of the Allied Jewish Community Services here, was coordinated by that organization's young-people's division, the Canadian Jewish Congress, Le Centre Communautaire Juif and the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation. Douglas Schwartz, chairman of the Youth Task Force, presided at the meeting which was titled "Direction

80s." The provincial government provided the necessary funds for the gathering and Premier Rene Levesque sent his personal assistant, Evelyn Dumas, as an observer. The conference proposed the establishment of a "Youth Council" with the organizing committee of "Direction 80s" as its nucleus.

#### DEMAND JAIL SENTENCES FOR EX-NAZIS

BONN, Jan. 24 (JTA) — Cologne Public Prosecutor Johann Cohnen yesterday demanded jail sentences for three former Nazis charged with complicity in the wartime murder of thousands of French Jews and Communists. He called for 12-year sentences for Kurt Lischka, 70, the gestapo chief in Nazi-occupied Paris, and Herbert-Martin Hagen, 66, who was responsible to the "Jewish Office" in Berlin, both of whom Cohnen said were actively involved in all anti-Jewish measures in France and in organizing the mass deportations to Auschwitz.

The prosecutor also called for a five-year jail sentence for Ernest Heinrichsohn, 59, now the mayor of a small town in Bavaria, accused of dealing with the elderly and child deportees. Cohnen said he was asking for a lesser sentence for Heinrichsohn because during the trial, which lasted several weeks, he had declared his "moral guilt" over what had occurred during the war although he did not accept legal guilt.

Cohnen, in demanding the jail sentences, said all three must have known the fate awaiting French deportees to Auschwitz and must have known the meaning of the official term "the final solution to the Jewish problem." Summation by the defense is scheduled for next week.

#### REPORT EL ARISH-SUFFERS

#### DECLINE UNDER EGYPTIAN RULE

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 24 (JTA) — El Arish has suffered a serious decline of its economy and a general deterioration of living standards since it was handed back to Egyptian rule three months ago. That gloomy report was brought here by a resident of the northern Sinai town who is in Israel on business. He asked not to be identified.

According to the informant, El Arish citizens who used to work in Israel and the thousands of workers who were employed by the Israeli authorities in and around El Arish are now jobless. Money is scarce, as is housing and many people live in tents pitched in the middle of town. The once flourishing fishing industry is dead, the El Arish man told Yediot Achronot. Restrictions imposed by the Egyptian authorities have led to an increase in smuggling. The smugglers of goods to and from Israel are the only people making money, he said.

According to this visitor, the people of El Arish wish the Israelis were back. It was recalled that when President Anwar Sadat visited El Arish during the formal Egyptian take-over last year, his aides were infuriated by posters that said, "Sadat, when will you return El Arish to Israel?" A number of arrests were made at the time.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Victor Shemtov, who was Health Minister in the last Labor-led government, was elected Secretary General of Mapam Thursday. The vote was almost unanimous at the Mapam Central Committee meeting which also adopted a resolution condemning the arrest and exile of Soviet human rights activist Andrei Sakharov. Shemtov is the first non-kibbutz member elected to Mapam's highest administrative and policy-making post. There was no other candidate. Although Chaika Grossman, a Mapam veteran, was proposed as a candidate, she rejected it on the spot.

## BACK GROUND REPORT THE SOVIET MOVE INTO AFGHANISTAN

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 24 (JTA) — East-European experts, Kremlinologists and intelligence experts believe that the Soviet Union moved into Afghanistan, provoking a major East-West crisis for strategic reasons, but also because of its own internal Moslem problems.

These experts are convinced that the Soviet Union's Moslem population is increasingly turbulent in its demands for local autonomy and cultural determination. Since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's return to Iran a year ago, millions of Soviet Moslems regularly listen to Radio Teheran and are increasingly attracted to his teachings.

Europe's best known expert on Soviet ethnic problems, Helene Carrere d'Encausse, is convinced that the Russian empire, outwardly a close-knit state over which Stalin's iron fist hung less than a generation ago, is now bursting of the seams. Dozens of nationalities, mainly Moslems from the Kalmuks to the Kazaks, openly aspire towards a certain form of national independence and resent traditional Russian domination.

Prof. Carrere d'Encausse and many other European experts believe that the Russian empire will soon be in danger of fragmentation into a mosaic of diverse national interests.

The most restless element are the Soviet Union's 50 million Moslems. In a generation from now they will number 80 million and, if current demographic trends continue, will become the Soviet Union's majority by the middle of the next century.

### Moslems Resent Slavic Authority

The Asian Moslems who border Iran and Afghanistan, already openly resent Slavic authority, kneel towards Mecca five times a day, celebrate with unabated fervor Moslem religious holidays and aspire towards an Islamic cultural and national revival. Soviet official statistics quoted by Prof. Carrere d'Encausse, show that they contract no outside marriages in spite of intense atheistic state propaganda and even managed to convert to Islam the nomadic tribes in the deep south.

For the Soviet Union's Moslems, Karl Marx, after 60 years of Communist rule, is still only a minor prophet, somewhere between Buddha and Jesus. The intensity of Khomeini's preachings and the dangers of an Islamic Republic in Afghanistan were reportedly seen by the Kremlin as a direct threat to Soviet state integrity.

The Soviet Union was always preoccupied by the relations between the various nationalities. Lenin dealt with it and so did Trotsky but the real expert was Stalin. It was "the little father of the peoples" who gave the Soviet Union its Russian character and it was during his rule that the Russian and in general Slavic domination over the other 51 nationalities became absolute.

With Khrushchev's rise to power the various nationalities start showing their ethnic and religious particularities. Since the early 1970s, this process has been accelerating. This national process is also accompanied by a demographic explosion. While in 1959 the Russians represented over 55 percent of the Soviet Union's total population and the Moslems 12, the Russians now represent less than half of the population and the Moslems close to 16 percent.

The Soviet Union is a country of huge internal migrations. Every year a minimum of 15

million people change their place of residence, sometimes moving over thousands of kilometers. But most of these migrants are the Slavs, Russians and Ukrainians, who settle in the far off territories, further depleting their own republics and drawing in the mass of the native inhabitants.

The Slavs are the administrators, the technicians, often the higher echelon experts in most of the non-Slavic republics. The First Secretary of the local Communist Party usually is a native but the Second Secretary, the man who holds the reigns of real power is a Russian or Ukrainian.

### Relationship Between Nationalities

Within the Moscow Central Committee, 82 percent of the members are Slavs and within the Politburo 14 out of 16 are Slavs. Within the Secretariat, all 11 members, from Leonid Brezhnev down are Slavs.

Within the army, Slavic and especially Russian domination is complete. Although army units are officially integrated and of mixed nationality, the Moslems find themselves in such branches as the infantry which require less formal schooling and the Russians in the Air Force.

At the end of World War II, this disproportion was even greater. Ninety percent of the men serving in artillery units were Slavs and 90 percent of the officers were Russians. A recent statistic published by the Red Army newspaper, "The Red Star," reveals that even for junior officers 82.5 percent come from workers families and only 17.5 percent from farming villages. Most Slavs are employed in industry; practically all Moslems in agriculture.

As far as senior officers are concerned, Western intelligence sources find that 91 percent of generals promoted between 1940 and 1976 are of Slavic origin with 60 percent Russian, 20 percent Ukrainian, 4 percent Byelorussian, 2 percent Poles and 5 percent of unknown origin.

A more recent study shows that of the generals, members of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament), 95 percent are Slavs and of 42 generals mentioned by the Soviet press in 1977, 40 are Slavs, one Armenian and one either Jewish or of German origin.

### A National And Religious Renaissance

This anti-Moslem discrimination was accompanied by a national and religious renaissance. In the Karakalpak Republic (part of Uzbekistan) close to 80 percent of the inhabitants officially declared themselves practising Moslems — this in spite of the dangers inherent in such a declaration. Over 25 percent of the population said they were "fervent" Moslems and even in the northern Caucasus, closer to Moscow and central influences, only 20 percent of Moslem school children said in school tests that they were atheists.

While the Soviet Moslems are divided, as elsewhere, between Sunnites and Shites, they invariably define themselves as "plain Moslems" and explain that for them their religion is "belonging to the Umma, the Islamic community."

The Moslems follow their religious precepts and when they cannot, due to government imposed restrictions, they try to find another solution. Thus the Soviet authorities have forbidden the killing of animals for the "feast of the sacrifice." The Moslem Religious Council issued a "fetwa" (edict) saying that the sacrifice can be replaced by a financial contribution equal to the value of the animal which would have been killed.

In this way, the Soviet laws are respected. But not only do the faithful continue their ancestral practices but their communal organizations and funds grow ever more prosperous.

Another "fetwa" replaced the feast of Mavlud, celebrating the birth of the Prophet, which is normally accompanied by a gathering in the mosque, with private celebrations. Thus, according to Soviet observers quoted by Carrere d'Encausse, for every mosque celebration over 90 private ceremonies are held in homes, out of the authorities' sight.

Even the pilgrimage to Mecca, which the Soviet government forbids, has been replaced with pilgrimages to local sites within the Soviet Union.

Practically 100 percent of Moslems undergo religious weddings and the number of mixed marriages is practically nil. When such a rare marriage does occur, it usually involves a Moslem and a non-Moslem woman. The children are invariably raised in their father's religion.

Soviet legislation forbids the marriage of minor girls or paying a price for the bride. In spite of these laws, the traditional practices continue unabated. In 1965, the Central Committee of the Uzbek Communist Party even laid down a ruling for what it considered the "normal" price: 500 Rubles, 200 kilograms of flour, 80 kilograms of rice, two sheep and nine suits, or a total of 2000-3000 Rubles for a good looking and healthy wife.

#### Instances Of Traditional Practices

Another instance of traditional practices occurred in 1972 when one of Tashkent's main Communist leaders died. The Moscow Central Committee sent an official representative who organized a state funeral in the city's cemetery -- a non-religious institution in which all deserving Communists are buried. The family, including his Communist Party member sons, adamantly refused and opted for a religious burial in the Moslem cemetery.

When a foreign journalist on a visit to Uzbek asked last year on the eve of "Revolution Day" what is the Soviet Union's most important holiday, he was invariably told: the end of the Ramadan.

While practically all nationalities have accepted the Cyrillic alphabet, in Daghستان the local Central Committee officially asked for the adoption of the Arabic alphabet, explaining in its request "that it is the Latin of the East."

Moslem vitality, religious and cultural, is not only more intense than in the rest of the Soviet Union but seems to be growing stronger every year. According to Western analysts, the Kremlin probably considers in this context, the spread of Khomeini's Islamic revolution to the Soviet Moslem republics to be a major danger.

#### YESHIVA UNIVERSITY'S MEDICAL COLLEGE LAUNCHES PROGRAM TO IMPROVE MEDICAL SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Jan. 24 (JTA) -- Scientists and doctors from Israel, Egypt, and later, the United States, will unite in an effort to improve medical services throughout the Middle East in a new program started by Yeshiva University's Albert Einstein Medical College, Dr. Norman Lamm, Yeshiva University president, announced today.

He said the new Camp David Institute for International Health, named in commemoration of the site of the negotiations leading to the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, has been funded by

an anonymous \$3 million gift in honor of President Carter, Premier Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat. Lamm returned Dec. 20 from a trip to Israel and Egypt, where he met with Begin and with Hassan el-Kamel, chief of Sadat's Cabinet. He said both expressed support for the Camp David Institute.

A spokesman for the university told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the first phase of the new program is underway with a committee which has started to screen applicants, whose names have been submitted by the Health Ministries of Israel and Egypt.

Dr. Barry Bloom, professor and chairman of the Albert Einstein Medical College, and director of the Institute, said that plans called for eight to 10 students annually in the Institute, starting next September. For the first few years, he said, all of the students will be Israelis and Egyptians and that, afterwards, consideration would be given to the medical college students.

#### Will Provide A Unique Opportunity

Dr. Ephraim Friedman, dean of the medical college, said the Institute would provide a unique opportunity to apply the school's "renowned" research and teaching programs to train students from Israel and Egypt to help them deal effectively with the major medical problems of their countries. He predicted that, "over the long run, the Institute will help 'seed' various institutions in those countries with a core of bright, young, exceptionally well-trained scientists and investigators." The Institute will be housed in the medical college in The Bronx, N.Y.

He said the medical college's "particular expertise" in cancer research, cardiovascular research, diabetes research and aging, apply to conditions which are "universal" and of "major interest both to Israel and Egypt." He said that the Institute also hoped to lay the basis for research in areas of interest of "particular importance" to Egypt and Israel. He cited "tropical and parasitic diseases, malnutrition and epidemiological methods for analyzing the health needs of the population."

Young American and Egyptian students will train together at the medical college, later to be joined by American students, with an annual operating budget of \$300,000 providing opportunities for about 24 graduate fellowships for students in doctoral studies, or for a variety of training arrangements, Bloom said. The JTA was told that the grant will cover all living expenses and tuition fees for the participating students. During the 10-year period over which the grant will be expended, some 100 scientists will receive their training. Bloom said the length of study will vary, depending on the student's choice of courses, with a maximum of two years for post-doctoral participants.

#### ARAB POPULATION INCREASING IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 24 (JTA) -- Arabs will comprise 20.5 percent of Israel's population by 1995, according to a demographic projection prepared by the Hebrew University. The survey covered Israel within its 1967 borders but included East Jerusalem. According to the 1975 census, Arabs comprised 15.3 percent of the Israeli population.

The rapid growth of the Arab population was explained by their high rate of natural increase -- 3.5 percent a year. Almost half of Israel's 600,000 Arabs are under the age of 15. According to the Hebrew University study, Israel's population in 15 years will total 5,268,000, assuming an average annual rate of immigration of 10,000.