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Continued on page 11

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NORMAL RELATIONS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL

EGYPT ANNOUNCES END OF ITS STATE OF WAR WITH ISRAEL AND PARTICIPATION IN ARAB LEAGUE BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- Israel and Egypt were officially at peace with each other today for the first time in more than 30 years. Their land borders were opened to tourists and other civilian traffic. Egypt announced the termination of its state of war with Israel and its participation in the Arab League boycott of Israel and relayed those decisions to the United Nations and other international organizations.

Normal relations were established over the weekend; beginning Friday, when Refidim, the largest Israeli military base in Sinai was formally handed over to Egypt along with some 5500-square miles of territory evacuated by Israeli forces last week. On that occasion, President Anwar Sadat telephoned Premier Menachem Begin and assured the Israeli leader of Egypt's determination to implement fully the normalization clauses of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Israeli officials were especially pleased by the Egyptian decision not to link the normalization process to the autonomy talks which remain deadlocked. Sadat placed Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali in direct charge of the normalization machinery, a move regarded here as a slap in the face to Foreign Minister Butros Ghali and other hardliners who wanted to develop relations with Israel at a slower pace. The Israeli Cabinet is expected to reciprocate by putting Defense Minister Ezer Weizman in charge of normalization on the Israeli side.

Practical Effects Of Normalization

The practical effects of normalization were visible this morning when the first bus load of Israeli tourists arrived at El Arish and, after undergoing formalities, boarded an Egyptian bus bound for Cairo. For the time being, the Egyptians are limiting border crossings to organized groups of Israelis who have obtained entry visas from the Foreign Ministry in Cairo or who hold passports of a third country. Two foreign tourists, one French and one German, crossed the border from Egypt into Israel today. The Egyptians, however, refused entry to a group of Arab residents of Gaza who arrived at El Arish by bus with valid entry permits. No immediate explanation was given.

El Arish, which was returned to Egypt last month, is equipped to handle civilian cross traffic. It has a police checkpoint and a bank where travellers can exchange currencies. Only buses were allowed to cross the border today. Private vehicles will be permitted after Egypt opens its first consulate in Tel Aviv next month.

Israel and Egypt will exchange ambassadors on Feb. 27. But the Israeli Embassy will be opened officially in Cairo tomorrow by an Israeli team headed by Dr. Yossef Hadass, deputy to Ambassador Eliahu Ben-Elissar. It will be located at the

Cairo Hilton Hotel until proper quarters can be found in the Egyptian capital for the permanent embassy and the Ambassador's residence.

There were other manifestations of normal relations today. Postal and telephonic communications were opened between Israel and Egypt. The first mail bag to Egypt was on its way this afternoon. The Post Office in Beersheba stamped the mail with a special postmark proclaiming that "Today normal relations have been instituted between Israel and Egypt." Egyptian newspapers have been arriving in Israel directly for the past two weeks and distributors report they are in heavy demand.

The international telephone operator in Tel Aviv inaugurated two direct lines to Cairo today. Both were reported heavily booked as of early this morning. There was a 1-2 hour wait for calls to Cairo. At a later stage it will be possible to direct-dial numbers in each country. Telex and cable communications have also been established.

Direct civilian flights between Israel and Egypt are not expected to begin for several weeks. The two countries have yet to complete negotiations on various civil aviation agreements. Under terms of their peace treaty, flights were to be established only a year after normalization took effect. However, Begin and Sadat agreed to speed up the process at their summit-meeting in Aswan earlier this month. Nevertheless, air mail will have to await the inauguration of scheduled flights. For the time being air letters between the two countries will be carried via Europe.

But as of today, ships of Israeli and Egyptian registry may call freely at each other's ports with passengers and cargo.

Joint Projects Announced

Trade, economic and cultural ties can be initiated privately. Official negotiations relating to those matters are scheduled to begin on Feb. 15, much earlier than the date set in the peace treaty. This was initiated by Sadat in a special order to his ministers. It was seen here as another indication that Egypt will not link the process of normalization to progress in the autonomy talks.

Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon told Kol Israel Radio in an interview from West Germany today that six Israeli agricultural experts are conducting a water resources survey in Egypt. He said that other joint projects will include packaging and sorting stations for agricultural products to be exchanged between Israel and Egypt.

The semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram said today that Sadat will announce publicly tomorrow counter-measures against Arab countries opposed to the peace treaty with Israel. Sadat's speech will coincide with the Moslem summit conference taking place in Islamabad, Pakistan. The participants are considering measures to oppose both the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the normalization process between Egypt and Israel.

Meanwhile, residents of the West Bank held a general strike yesterday to protest the new

relationship between Egypt and Israel. The strike was fatal but no disturbances were reported. Violence erupted in Gaza yesterday although there was no strike. Ten local Arabs were wounded when a hand grenade tossed at a passing Israeli vehicle missed its mark.

On the West Bank, the National Guidance Committee, a pro-Palestine Liberation Organization body, ordered a ban on any Arab meeting with U.S. special Ambassador Sol Linowitz who is due in Israel later this week to participate in the next round of autonomy talks at Herzliya. The committee claimed that all West Bank residents reject the autonomy plan.

The military ceremonies at Refidim Friday followed a routine that has become familiar since Israel handed back other areas of Sinai last year. Gen. Dan Shomron, commander of Israeli forces in Sinai, spoke of hopes for true peace. Army bands played Hatikva and the Egyptian national anthem. The Israeli flag was lowered and the Egyptian colors were raised. Gen. Abed Rabel Hafez, chief of Egyptian army operations spoke briefly. Defense Minister Hassan Ali of Egypt and the commanders of the Egyptian Second and Third armies saluted and Refidim reverted to its old name, Bir Gafgafa.

Mounting Concern About Syria

As peace came to Israel's southern borders, Israelis were looking to the north with mounting concern. Syria has been bringing armed units into Lebanon, including rocket launchers with a 12-mile range. It has concentrated infantry units south of Beirut. Israeli leaders warned two weeks ago of Syrian preparations for a possible move against Israel, backed by Soviet arms and advisors. The Israelis take a serious view of the latest Syrian troop movements because they coincide with President Hafez Assad's visit to Saudi Arabia yesterday and the scheduled arrival in Damascus today of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

HADDAD WARNS OF 5000-MAN CONTINGENT OF THE PLA IN LEBANON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- Maj. Saad Haddad, the leader of the Christian militia in South Lebanon, warned today that a 5000-man contingent of the "Palestine Liberation Army" has just recently taken up a position between Beirut and the Litani River. Haddad claimed the force was armed with tanks and heavy artillery and that its deployment was undertaken in coordination with the Syrian command in Lebanon.

Syria itself confirmed over the weekend that it has strengthened its troop concentration in Lebanon. Israel had reported such a buildup last week. Cabinet Secretary Arye Nbar said today after a Cabinet Defense Committee meeting that Israel is watching the situation along its northern borders carefully "and with great interest."

Observers here noted that the stepped-up Syrian military activity coincides with President Hafez Assad's visit to Saudi Arabia and the arrival in Damascus today of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. They also noted that it coincides with the formalization of normal relations between Egypt and Israel.

EGYPT PLANS NEW AIRLINE TO FLY BETWEEN CAIRO AND TEL AVIV

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- Premier

Menachem Begin disclosed today that Egypt plans to establish a new airline to fly between Cairo and Tel Aviv. He told an Israel Army Radio reporter that President Anwar Sadat had informed him of this at their summit meeting in Aswan earlier this month.

Israeli observers had expected such a move. Egypair, the Egyptian national air line, flies to many Arab capitals and might have been in danger of losing that business were it to inaugurate flights to Israel. Begin intimated, however, it may take some time before civilian flights between Israel and Egypt are begun by El Al and the new Egyptian carrier.

Although he had announced after the Aswan meeting that such flights would begin on Jan. 26, Begin noted today that Israeli and Egyptian civil aviation authorities have to complete their negotiations over landing rights and other technical matters. He expressed satisfaction with the atmosphere existing between Israel and Egypt and said he was convinced that normalization would proceed at a normal pace without undue haste or foot-dragging by either side.

U.S. SINAI FIELD MISSION

MOVES TO NEW SINAI LOCATION

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- The United States Sinai field mission ceased operations Friday as an early warning system in the western Sinai which was established at the request of the Israeli and Egyptian governments with the return of the area to the Egyptians.

The field mission, the State Department said Friday will take up its new verification responsibilities on Feb. 1 in the western two-thirds of Sinai on the basis of the tri-lateral talks here last September. Under the security arrangements agreed upon at that time by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Egyptian Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, the mission will verify the provisions of the treaty that relate to military force levels, fortifications and installations.

The United States agreed to increase current photo surveillance flights to one a week, verify force levels through on-the-ground inspection at least twice a month, perform additional verifications at the request of either Egypt or Israel and promptly report the results of these verifications to both parties.

The State Department's report on the mission also said that the mission will conduct on-site inspections within the designated zones and because of the large geographic area of responsibility -- about two-thirds of the Sinai -- the mission will make extensive use of helicopters. The mission is expected to be engaged in its new operations until April 25, 1982.

The State Department also said that the mission will be staffed only by U.S. civilians, including helicopter flight and maintenance personnel. An estimated 142 Americans will staff the new operation at a cost of \$16 million.

Asked whether the United Nations would have a role in the Sinai, the State Department said "the United States has assumed full responsibility for verification of forces and armaments limitation in zones A and B and inspection of the Israeli technical installations in the buffer zone. We nevertheless believe a continuing United Nations presence will be useful. The precise role the United Nations will have is still a subject of discussion" between the U.S. and the UN.

LINOWITZ UNDER PRESSURE FROM BRITAIN TO SPEED UP TALKS ON AUTONOMY

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- Sol Linowitz, President Carter's special Ambassador for Middle East negotiations, came under pressure from British officials to speed up the talks on Palestinian autonomy. At the same time, Linowitz, who met with King Hussein of Jordan here yesterday was unable to get a commitment from Hussein to join the Egyptian-Israeli talks.

Hussein's refusal to join the autonomy talks was announced by a spokesman for the King after Hussein held an hour-long talk with Linowitz. "Anything related to the Camp David agreements cannot be accepted by Jordan or any Arab country," the spokesman said.

Linowitz is believed to have heard blunt talk from Lord Carrington, Britain's Foreign Minister, when the two met at the Foreign Office for an hour Friday. Carrington is believed to have placed the blame for the delay on the Israeli government and to have encouraged Linowitz to impress on Premier Menachem Begin the damage which Britain feels the failure to solve the Palestinian issue will cause the West in the current international climate. Linowitz stopped in London on the way to the Mideast where he will visit Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Morocco.

In an address to the House of Lords last Thursday night, Lord Carrington made it clear he regarded a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict the single most important contribution to political stability in the Mideast where the West is trying to organize resistance to Soviet expansion following the invasion of Afghanistan.

Frustrated By Autonomy Deadlock

Britain is frustrated by the autonomy deadlock because it seems to be impeding British efforts to unify the Moslem and Arab worlds at a time when it is vital and possible to align them with the West against the Soviet Union. This was the view which Lord Carrington propounded to journalists during his recent visit to Turkey, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Since then, several British newspapers, including the normally pro-Israel Daily Telegraph, have amplified the official complaints about Israel while giving scant recognition of her major withdrawal from Sinai last week.

In the wake of the Foreign Office talks, some observers expect Britain to become even more active on the Middle East scene. They think it will become bolder in according some form of status to the Palestine Liberation Organization, whose "foreign minister," Farouk Kaddoumi met Sir Ian Gilmour, Britain's Deputy Foreign Minister, here last month.

A further echo of that encounter was heard Friday when British Foreign Office Minister of State Douglas Hurd lunched with Shazly Klibi, the Arab League's Secretary General. The two men last met here at the same gathering at which Gilmour met Kaddoumi. For the time being, though, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher remains opposed to granting respectability to an organization involved in terrorism.

IL 405 BILLION BUDGET APPROVED

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- The Cabinet, by majority vote, today approved Finance Minister

Yigal Hurwitz's IL 405 billion austerity budget for the new fiscal year beginning April 1. Three ministers dissented because of Hurwitz's declared intention to slash social services and housing.

Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, Minister of Social Bettement Yisrael Katz and Absorption and Housing Minister David Levy said they would continue to fight for the retention of these services. The IL 405 billion represents a framework within which the Treasury will have to bargain with individual ministries over their respective budgets.

Premier Menachem Begin announced after the six-hour session that Project Renewal, home building and child welfare payments would not be cut. Hurwitz had planned to prune IL 2 billion from child welfare. He said tonight that he would have to find those funds elsewhere. (By David Landau)

100,000 WORKERS STRIKE TO PROTEST THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA) -- Israelis could drive to Egypt for the first time today but they could not leave Israel by air or sea. Ben Gurion Airport and Israel's three seaports, Haifa, Eilat and Ashdod, were closed as some 100,000 public utility workers were out in a strike to protest the government's economic policies.

The strike, called by 12 major workers committees, included employees who service planes at Ben Gurion Airport; the seamen's union and dockworkers; postal and Israel Electric Co. workers; employees in X-ray departments and of the Dead Sea Works; and employees of Israel Aircraft Industries, the nation's largest employer.

As the strike continued, the Cabinet was meeting in a marathon session to debate the Finance Ministry's proposed budget for the 1980-81 fiscal year. The strikers were protesting the Treasury's cut in food subsidies and published intention to slash child allowances and freeze wages during the coming year. The workers also have strongly attacked the government's refusal to adjust income tax brackets more often so that the cost-of-living increases do not push people into higher tax brackets.

The Histadrut did not officially approve the strike but it has expressed its understanding of the cause. "This shows that our positions are actively endorsed by the country's workers," Histadrut deputy secretary general Yisrael Kessar said today. He was implicitly replying to charges by government officials that the Histadrut's fight against Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz's proposed budget cuts was not designed to protect workers but a political move aimed at toppling the Likud government.

Meanwhile, Ben Gurion Airport reopened tonight to accommodate arriving El Al planes from Europe and elsewhere. The company had begun making arrangements to land the planes at military fields. El Al chairman Abraham Shavit explained: it was too dangerous, from a security standpoint, to allow the planes to remain in European airports overnight -- especially today -- "Normalization Day."

Hurwitz called today's strike politically motivated. He declared it will not deter the Treasury from its policy of checking inflation, which ultimately will be beneficial to the nation's workers.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

WIZO TRYING TO SURMOUNT OBSTACLES

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 27 (JTA) — Raya Jaglom, president of the Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO), said that as a result of the continuing inflation and other problems of the Israeli economy, her organization, which provides social and educational services to women and children in Israel, will not be able to expand and undertake necessary development plans. "We will be operating on the current level, and for us it means that we will be lagging behind the growing needs," she said in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Jaglom, who stopped in New York for a brief visit on her way to Israel after attending a WIZO convention in Vancouver, Canada, where Myrial Small was elected president of the Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, succeeding Clara Balinsky, said that currently there are about 35,000 children in WIZO-operated day care centers and schools in Israel. "The inflation means that this year we are not going to build any new day care centers — as we normally do — and many applications to this valuable service to working mothers will be turned down," she said.

She noted that although WIZO's 1980-81 budget is IL 1 billion, this seemingly high sum is nevertheless insufficient to allow any new undertakings because of the continuing devaluation of the Israeli Pound. Jaglom said that WIZO, which was founded in 1920, is now operating in Israel, 200 day care centers, 12 schools, 70 youth clubs, and 184 centers for women, including centers for women in nine Arab villages.

Jaglom said WIZO also provides assistance to more than 2600 war widows and takes special interest in the absorption and integration of women immigrants in Israel by offering special Hebrew courses, vocational training and social activities.

Status Of Women Still Unsatisfactory

Pointing out that WIZO is a non-political organization with no affiliation to any party in Israel, Jaglom said that the "status of Israeli women is a little bit better now than it used to be 10 years ago but it is still not satisfactory." She said the most evident example is in the realm of family law, in cases of marriage and divorce, where women still do not enjoy equality under the law. She said WIZO provides legal advice for women, seeing to it that women are protected and given their rights in cases involving divorce, child custody and alimony.

Jaglom said there are 80,000 members of WIZO in Israel. She said the WIZO federations around the world, which raises at least one-third of the organization's budget, get the opportunity to engage in "practical Zionism" by undertaking to sponsor special WIZO projects in Israel. This year's special projects, Jaglom said, are the building of new day care centers in the Israeli settlements of Gittit and Roie in the West Bank.

WIZO is accredited to the United Nations as a non-governmental organization, Jaglom said, noting that it is the only Zionist organization headquartered in Israel to be represented at the UN. Evelyn Sommer is WIZO's representative at the UN.

MERCZ 'ADOPTS' MSORATI MOVEMENT OF CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUES IN ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27 (JTA) — Mercz, the Zionist organization of Conservative Jews, held an extended board meeting here last week at which the 55 members in attendance decided to "adopt" the Msorati movement of Conservative synagogues in Israel, according to Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz, Mercz president.

The participants also decided to launch a massive membership drive on Tu B'Shvat, Arbor Day, which was chosen because it is a day when Jews celebrate the physical and spiritual centrality of Israel for Jews, Rabinowitz, a past president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis, said.

The Mercz board members also decided to help fund the Conservative movement in Israel, Rabinowitz said, adding that many Conservative synagogues in this country already do so.

Speakers at the board meeting included Yehuda Mohr of Tel Aviv, vice president of the Msorati movement, and Rabbi Yosef Green, rabbi of the Jerusalem Synagogue of the World Council of Synagogues.

Both Green and Mohr stressed the need for Mercz to support the movement in Israel, reporting that its 30 synagogues attracted more than 9000 worshippers for the High Holy Days in 1979. They reported that on Nov. 1 last year there was a dedication of the sanctuary of the large new Conservative synagogue in the French section of Jerusalem in memory of Rabbi Max Artz, who had been a vice chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Mercz, which was founded in November, 1978, now has more than 200 paid-up members, Rabinowitz said, and its application for membership in the American Zionist Federation is pending. Simon Schwartz, president of the United Synagogue of America, the association of Conservative congregations, presided at the board meeting.

WIDOW OF ISRAEL WAR HERO GETS GRANT

NEW YORK, Jan. 27 (JTA) — The Israel Consulate here reported Friday that the 74-year-old widow of Col. David Marcus, who was killed accidentally while he was commander of the Jerusalem front during the 1948 War of Independence, has been given a \$2000 grant by the Israel government and an offer to increase the \$1200 monthly pension it provided her after Marcus was killed.

Emma Marcus, who lives in Brooklyn, has been blind and ill for a number of years and had become hard-pressed to make ends meet as medical and household costs increased. Her brother, Alfred Chaison, said he recently contacted the Israeli Consul here about the problem. The Israel government actions followed. Chaison who also lives in Brooklyn, said he and his sister did not feel the Israel government had any legal obligation to take care of the widow "but you could say they are under a moral obligation" and "have been very considerate."

CORRECTION: Due to a typographical error in the Jan. 25 News Bulletin, President Carter was quoted as saying in his State of the Union message, "We are working with our allies to prevent conflict in the Middle East." It should have stated, correctly, "working with our allies . . ."