LINOWITZ SEES "REAL PROGRESS" IN AUTONOMY TALKS; ISRAEL, MEANWHILE, REBUTS EGYPTIAN AUTONOMY PROPOSALS

By David Landau and Gil Seden

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Sol Linowitz, President Carter's special ambassador to the Middle East, arrived in Israel from Egypt today and declared he sees "real progress" being made in the autonomy talks.

Linowitz, who is scheduled to represent the U.S. at the next round of negotiations between the Israel and Egyptian ministerial teams to be held at Herzliya Thursday and Friday, "is trying to bridge the gap between the Israeli and Egyptian blueprints for autonomy on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip." 

The American envoy conferred in Cairo over the weekend with President Anwar Sadat, Egyptian Prime Minister, Mustapha Khalil and Defense Minister Kamal Hasan Ali; He met in London last Saturday with King Hussein of Jordan but was apparently unable to persuade him to join in any talks based on the Camp David accords.

Linowitz was scheduled to meet tonight with Interior Minister Yosef Burg, head of the Israeli negotiating team, and tomorrow morning with: Premier Menachem Begin. Earlier today in Cairo, an American official reportedly said the U.S. was beginning to play a more active role in the negotiations and was advocating its own ideas for Egypt and Israel. It was time for the "necessary political decision," the official was reported as saying.

Point-By-Point Rebuttal

Meanwhile, the Israeli working group on autonomy occupied today drafting a point-by-point rebuttal to the Egyptian autonomy proposals submitted last night by Ezzat Abdul-Latif, head of the Egyptian working group. The Israeli team is headed by Haim Kubersky, Director-General of the Interior Ministry, and Ruth Lipidot, legal advisor to the Foreign Ministry.

While rejecting the Egyptian blueprint, the Israeli team has avoided the totally negative language that characterized Egypt's rejection of Israel's autonomy "model" last week. Their chief argument is that the Egyptian proposals deviate sharply from the Camp David framework, and, in several aspects, endanger Israel's security.

The Egyptian plan calls for an autonomous authority composed of legislative, executive and judiciary branches. Israel regards these as essential attributes of a sovereign state for the Palestinians which it categorically rejects. The Israeli autonomy scheme calls for an administrative council with strictly limited functions and no parliamentary type body.

Elements of Egyptian Plan

The plan submitted by Egypt would require the Israeli army to obtain permission from the autonomous authority to move troops into the autonomous territory, or from the "specified security locations" into which the Israeli forces must withdraw under the Camp David framework. Egypt also demands the immediate annulment of Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem which, it insists, must serve as the "seat" of the autonomous institutions.

The proposal leaves no "residual" powers to the Israelis. State lands and water resources would be administered by the autonomous authority. The Egyptian plan implies that foreign policy for the territories would not be controlled by the autonomous authority but neither would it be controlled exclusively by Israel. The autonomous regions would have no defense forces but would command a police force solely responsible for internal security.

Abdul-Latif said in an interview that Egypt took for granted that there would be coordination between Israel and the autonomous authority in many areas such as water resources; but this would have to be determined through negotiations, not by dictation, he said.

Under the Israeli model, Israel would retain exclusive control of defense, security, foreign policy, state lands, natural resources, currency, postage and telecommunications, radio and television. The use of water resources would be a "shared" responsibility under the Israeli plan.

Position On Jewish Settlements

The Egyptian plan calls for the eventual dismemberment of Jewish settlement in the territories within the context of a final settlement. In the interim, the Egyptians want a freeze on new settlements and insist that existing settlements and their inhabitants must come under the jurisdiction of the autonomous authority. The Israeli scheme specifically excludes the settlements from any but Israeli jurisdiction.

Abdul-Latif acknowledged that the differences between the Egyptian and Israeli proposals are vast but said making them public in advance of the next round of talks "would only lead to "articulating and clarifying" the areas of dispute. He said it will be up to American diplomats to seek a common ground. But he seemed to feel that a summit-level input by Sadat and Begin will be necessary if the logjam is to be broken.

KNESSET CALLS ON PARLIAMENTS TO ACT AGAINST SAKHAROV'S EXILE

By Gil Seden

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- The Knesset called today on other national parliaments to join in action against the exile of Soviet civil rights leader Andrei Sakharov. All factions—with the obvious exception of the Communists—voted in favor of the resolution.

The speakers sharply criticized the USSR for having exiled Sakharov. They also discussed the issue of a possible boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow. Likud Knessetman Bnuni Miko compared the Moscow games to those of Berlin in 1936, which was designed to glorify the Nazi regime.

Labor Knessetman Knessetman Lili Berenstein noted that Sakharov himself called on countries of the free world to boycott the Olympics. The call was also shared by Shlomo Glass of the Aguda and Gela Cohen of the nationalist Tehiya movement. However, Cohen expressed disappointment that Israel was actually following an American initiative. Instead, she said, it was Israel which should have
initiated the boycott in protest against the repression of human rights in the Soviet Union.

ONE KILLED, SEVEN WOUNDED IN BOMBING OF SYRIAN EMBASSY

By Edwin Eyeton

PARIS, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Two powerful bombs ripped through the Syrian Embassy here today killing a Syrian diplomat and seriously wounding eight people, seven of them women. The explosion occurred less than an hour before Syrian Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam arrived in France for talks with French officials and to address the Council of Europe plenary in Strasbourg today this week.

An anonymous caller told French radio stations that the attack was carried out by a Lebanese underground organization to protest the continued presence of Syrian troops in Lebanon.

The two bombs went off shortly before noon in the Embassy's Consular section which was crowded with Consular officials and people on business. The Ambassador's office, located above the Consulate, was severely damaged but the Ambassador himself was unhurt.

Police identified the dead man as Third Secretary Manwan Mamamy, 34, and the wounded as seven women working in the Consular section, two Syrians and five French, and a French passerby. Four of the wounded are reported in serious condition.

The Embassy is guarded by Syrian security agents and French police but none of the foreigners noticed any possible suspect. The Police Commissioner's of Police is personally supervising the investigation but police officials say they have no clues as yet as to the identity of the assailants.

Previous Killings Recalled

Less than two weeks ago, a pro-Palestinian activist was shot to death in central Paris. Palestinian extremists reportedly assumed responsibility for the killings. The head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's military department, Zahair Mahisen, was shot to death last summer while vacationing on the Riviera in the south of France.

In neither of these killings has the police managed to identify or arrest the culprits.

Halim Khaddam is due to meet tomorrow with his French counterpart, Jean Francois-Poncet, and with other top French officials. Syria is one of the handful of Asian countries which did not attend the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference in Islamabad, Pakistan, and which continues to defend the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan.

SCHINDLER ENDORSES KENNEDY FOR PRES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, today became the first national Jewish leader to endorse a Presidential candidate when he announced his support for Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.).

Asserting that Kennedy "recognizes Israel as a strategic asset to our country," Schindler told a news conference the Senator's "unwavering support for Israel attests to the security and depth of his convictions.

The rabbi, in a prepared statement, said that his support "is personal, not organizational; the Union of American Hebrew Congregations never makes partisan endorsements. Our members hold diverse views, but I am not constrained from expressing my own convictions, and I do so now with pride."

Schindler said that on the Middle East, Kennedy "recognizes Israel as a strategic asset to our country and a strategic ally, bound to us by a mutuality of national interest—no less than of ideals, the very cornerstone of our national defense in that critical region. "Schindler also lauded Kennedy's domestic position as "compassionate and cognizant with the ideals of our faith."

ECONOMISTS FOR IDA NUDEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Two nationally renowned economists, Drs. Robert Lekachman and Herbert Bienstock have announced the formation of "Economists for Idi Nudel," a professional coalition of some 20 prominent peers of the Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience. Ms. Nudel, who was imprisoned in June 1978, is serving a four-year sentence of exile in Siberia.

Lekachman, distinguished Professor of Economics of Lehman College and the Graduate School of the City University of New York, and Bienstock, former Regional Commissioner of Labor Statistics, noted that their efforts as co-chairmen of the committee and its sponsors, a concerted campaign to "keep human rights central to any U.S.-USSR priorities during these uncertain times." Economists for Nudel is an affiliated group of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Among the members of the committee are: Fritz Machlup, Princeton University; Solomon Fabrigan, National Bureau of Economic Research; Roy Helfgott, New Jersey Institute of Technology; William Hamovitch, Provost of Queens College; Robert Heilbroner, New School of Social Research; and Lazar Tepfer, director of research, International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Lekachman, affirming the economists' commitment to Ms. Nudel's cause, said "Ms. Nudel's courageous campaign has sought to secure a right to emigrate guaranteed by Soviet international law. Her profession has been used to deny this right on the specious ground of 'state security,' in a way which puns every professional or intellectual in jeopia. We cannot countenance this thrust in silence."

The economists noted that despite the recent chilling in U.S.-Soviet relations, "there is never a wrong time to speak out for individual rights and human freedoms. They expressed their hope that "Ms. Nudel will be freed by the Soviets as they attempt to prove their right to continue as a member of the international civilized community."

ORTHODOX RABBI DENOUNCES REFORM

RABBI'S PROPOSAL TO CHANGE HALACHA

ASBURY PARK, N. J., Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Rabbi Bernard Rosenweig, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, sharply denounced a recent proposal by Rabbi Alexander Schindler president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, that Jewish religious 'identity be extended to persons born of a non-Jewish mother if the father is Jewish.

Addressing the opening session yesterday of the mid-winter conference of the Rabbinical Council which represents more than 1,000 Orthodox rabbis in the U.S. and Canada, Rosenweig said these new guidelines proposed by Schindler "threaten the unity of the Jewish people and will have a disastrous and catastrophic impact upon
world Jewry," Roseneig warned that "to create a sect of pseudo Jews and to introduce such havoc and confusion into Jewish ranks is an act of wanna- ton irresponsibility which will inflict irreparable harm upon the Jewish people." He observed that "It is tragic and ironic that Reform leaders are seeking legitimacy and recognition in Israel precisely at a time when they are initiating this policy of destructiveness. Such contempt for Jewish unity and survival warrants our sharpest denunciation and we call upon the rank and file to protest sharply and to thwart the implementa- tion of a policy which can only cause confusion, hatred and intra-group hostility among the Jewish people," Roseneig said.

**EVACUATION OF ELON MOREH BEGINS**

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- The evacuation of Elon Moreh began today, more than three months after the Supreme Court declared the Gush Emunim settlement on the West Bank illegal and ordered its removal within 30 days. The first families were settled tonight in new, more spacious houses built for them by the government at Djeibl Kebir. The remainder are expected to move tomorrow. Four families refused to budge from Elon Moreh but indicated that they would not resist evacuation by force.

The new site at Djeibl Kebir is six miles from Elon Moreh but closer to Nablus, the largest Arab town on the West Bank. Benny Katzover, secretary of Elon Moreh, said he was satisfied with the new settlement on which the government reportedly spent more than $1 million to house 17 families. He added that he hoped that the abandoned site at Elon Moreh would eventually be resettled by Jews. The other settlers appeared gloomy and refused to be interviewed by the press.

The peaceful evacuation of Elon Moreh ended, for the time being, a bitter controversy that began when the Gush Emunim seized the site in the Samaria district of the West Bank last June, claiming it was part of Israel's Biblical heritage. The government justified the settlement on security grounds. But the Supreme Court, acting on an appeal by local Arabs whose lands were seized, ruled last Oct. 22 that there was no evidence to support the security argument.

Elon Moreh is the first Jewish settlement on the West Bank to be dismantled since Israel occupied the territory in 1967.

**MOFFETT TRACES SOURCE OF LEBANON'S CURRENT PROBLEMS**

By Joseph Palooka

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA) -- Rep. Toby Moffett (D. Conn.), told the House yesterday that Lebanon's "suffering began" after King Hussein of Jordan "expelled" a half million Palestinians who found haven in Lebanon. He also reported that on a recent Congressional fact-finding mission to the Middle East which he headed, he found some Palestinian mayors and professionals on the West Bank who would like to join in the Camp David peace process.

Moffett, who is himself of Lebanese descent, headed the first Congressional mission to the Middle East to focus on Lebanon's problems. The group visited Syria and Israel in addition to Lebanon. Describing the situation he found in Lebanon, Moffett said that Christian rule, mandated by the Lebanese constitution, "caused deep resentment in Lebanon's Moslem circles long before the current strife. Then," he added, "a half million Palestinians expelled by Jordan's King Hussein landed on Lebanon's doorstep. And the country's suffering began, the consequence of its own openness, its generosity and its free society."

The Congressman noted that "in 1975 the battles erupted, Palestinians against Christians. Then Syria sent in its 'peace-keeping force,' fighting first with the Palestinians and later with the Christians. So far it has cost more than 70,000 lives. Some of them, I found, were my relatives."

**COMMUNICATIONS GAP IN THE MIDEAST**

Moffett emphasized that a communications gap exists in the Middle East. "What is probably our most lasting impression," he said referring to his delegation's 16-day tour of Lebanon, Syria and Israel, "is the lack of communication. The isolation of one country from another -- not just geographically but leader-to-leader. The Syrians do not seem to realize the bitterness against them in Lebanon, the Israelis, leaders and citizens show incredible curiosity about Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasar Arafat. There is a wide gulf between the Palestinians and Israelis on the West Bank," he said.

Moffett said he believed that Israel Defense Minister Ezer Weizman would be willing to meet with President Elias Sarkis of Lebanon and President Hafez Assad of Syria "but he can't."

Moffett said that the Palestinians must stop their opposition to the Camp David process. "He said that "privately, some of the Palestinian mayors and professionals with whom we met on the West Bank hinted that they would like to join the process but feel too isolated." That finding contrasts with reports from the Middle East that there is solid opposition to the peace process on the part of West Bank politicians and others.

"Obviously, there's a great need for some basic groundwork," Moffett said. In addition to urging "the gradual withdrawal of Syrian forces" from Lebanon, "and some solution to the Palestinian question," he said, "and his 800 men's min- erence violence and recognize Israel's right to exist and there must begin a realistic dialogue within Lebanon itself, unhindered by outside elements."

**NEW YORK (JTA) -- One hundred twenty-two college students, representing 92 American campuses, climaxed the United Jewish Appeal December Students' Leadership Mission to Israel by pledging $13,117 to the UJA Campaign. Judy Flumenbaum, director of the UJA University Programs Department, said. This figure is the most ever pledged during a UJA Student Mission, included $2,848 for Project Renewal.**

**NEW YORK (JTA) -- A Columbia University's president-designate Michael Sovern has "most warmly" invited Andrei Sakharov, who was exiled last week from Moscow to Gorky in retaliation for his human rights advocacy, "to join this institution during the balance of 1980 as a Visiting Scholar." This was announced at a campus rally for the banned Nobel Peace Prize winner organized by the university's chapter of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.**

**CORRECTION:** The report on Mercuz in the Jan. 28 Bulletin listed its membership as over 200. The correct figure is over 2000.
BEHIND THE HEADLINES
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: A HAVEN FOR JEWISH REFUGEES FROM NAZISM
By Simeon Baker
(Part Two Of A Two-Part Series)

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA) — Erich Benja-
min, born in the formerly German city of Breslau
(now Wroclaw, in Poland), where he was a carpen-
ter and is now the owner of the 30-acre farm he
owns in the countryside, is the organizer of the
synagogue which was built shortly after the arrival
of the refugees in 1939. The $20,000 required for
this project will be raised in the Jewish community
of whose center Benjamin is the treasurer.

The special occasions during which the col-
onists gather in the synagogue are the Passover
sedarim, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and bar mitz-
vahs, which are observed even in intermarried
families. Although the remaining Jews in the area
are far from Orthodox, they use prayer books of
the Orthodox version. While in the synagogue, I
accidentally came across a slichot book (penitential
prayers), printed in the German city of Redel-
heim in 1863.

There are many more rare antique items in
this place than are congregants to appreciate them.
The president of the synagogue, Manfred Newman,
who is a lawyer and insurance agent, is more hope-
ful regarding the future of the community than are
the rest of the Jewish residents of Susa. He bases
his optimism on the fact that many of the younger
people are returning to the farms. He, his wife
and family came to Susa in 1954 from Israel,
where they resided for 20 years.

The Jewish leaders plan to erect a museum
near the synagogue that will depict and house the
story of the arrival and life of the Jewish refugees
in Susa. This will be accomplished through exhib-
its of photographs, machinery, as well as other
memorabilia. This museum will be to
portray the creativity and contribution of the
Jewish settlers to the Dominican Republic, as well as
to express their appreciation to their people and
government for the opportunities extended to them
in their hour of need.

According to an interview I had with Minis-
ter Víctor Cabral, former diplomat, present mem-
ber of the Cabinet and very prominent personality
of Santo Domingo, I was informed that the govern-
ment is highly in favor of the museum project
undertaken in Susa.

Santo Domingo. There I was informed that Philipp
came to Santo Domingo in 1939, before the outbreak
of World War II from Germany where he was a suc-
cessful banker. Shortly after his arrival in the Domini-
can Republic, he became the advisor to dictator
Rafael Trujillo on the institution of a viable bank
system in his new land.

Among the most highly esteemed and prominent
Jewish residents in this area is the industrialist,
Samuel Bilt, president of the Keren Hayesod for the
Dominican Republic; who is in constant touch with
Miami because of the important and vibrant activi-
ties of its Jewish residents in behalf of all vital
Jewish causes.

Excellent Relations Noted

The relationship between the Jewish commu-
nity and the government is excellent, as are the di-
plomatic relations between the Dominican Republic
and Israel. Unlike most foreign governments, whose
embassies are located in Tel Aviv, the Dominicans
have their embassy in Jerusalem. This republic’s
friendship towards Israel is often demonstrated by
its posture in the United Nations in its voting on
matters considered to the Jewish State.

The attitude of the entire Dominican society
is most friendly toward Israel and Jewry as a whole.
President Antonio Guzman is a staunch friend of
the Jewish people and his government is particularly
grateful to Israel for the help of its agricultural
experts, who have contributed much to its land
development. With very few exceptions, the Dominic-
ian Republic has no diplomatic relations with any of
the Communist or Arab countries.

Jordan has an honorary consul in Santo
Domingo and Lebanon is represented by its Ambas-
sador in Venezuela. At present there is an accord
with Egypt on being represented diplomatically by its
Venezuelan Ambassador. The Foreign Ministry
of Santo Domingo declared that in view of the new
developments between Egypt and Israel it, too, is
ready to resume friendly relations with that country.

The Santo Domingo telephone directory
abounds in Jewish names, such as Cohen and Levi.
However, none of these are names of Jews. They
are just the result of romantic involvements of
young Jewish men with Gentile women whose off-
spring carry the Jewish names.

PLO OFFICE IN ATHENS

PARS, Jan. 29 (JTA) — An agreement in
principle has been reached between the Palestine
Liberation Organization and the Greek govern-
ment to establish a PLO office in Athens, according to
reports reaching here. The announcement was made
after talks between Greek Foreign Minister George
Rallis and the head of the PLO’s political depart-
ment, Farouk Kaddoumi.

Further statements by the Greek government
said that although the exact nature of the PLO
office would be worked out later, to decide whether
it will be a diplomatic outpost or merely an informa-
tion bureau, Greek support for the national aspira-
tions of the Palestinian people was in line with
policies based on traditional Greek-Arab friendship.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Premier Menachem
Beg is expected to announce on Sunday the ap-
pointment of Knesset Speaker Yitzhak Shamir as
Foreign Minister. The post of the Foreign Minister
has been vacant for four months since the resigna-
tion of Moshe Dayan.