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VANCE TELLS SENATE HEARING THAT ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT COMPLETELY DISAVOW UN ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION

Says Carter's Repudiation Is Sufficient

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, March 20 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Cyrus Vance told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today that the Carter Administration would not disavow completely the anti-Israel resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council on March 1 and refused to say that the Administration would not support another resolution of a similar nature in September when the matter of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories comes up again.

Vance, appearing alone, again accepted full responsibility for the "foul-up" in communications that led to U.S. support for the resolution and its subsequent repudiation by President Carter. He insisted that the President's repudiation two days after the vote was sufficient and that the Administration will not present that repudiation to the Security Council.

Vance said that East Jerusalem "is occupied territory" and that the use of the word "Palestine" in reference to people and territories in the resolution was merely "demographic" and had been used before in UN resolutions.

Sen. Frank Church (D., Idaho), chairman of the committee, indicated displeasure at the absence of Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs Harold Saunders and UN Ambassador Donald McHenry, who had been invited by the committee to testify. He commended Vance, however, as having been "very helpful in clearing the air." But he said the committee "reserves its option to call witnesses and make decisions after receiving your testimony" and regarding "any further hearings."

Says U.S. Vote Was 'Signal' To Israel

Vance, in a prepared statement to the committee, emphasized the approaching meetings in Washington next month between Carter and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and separately between Carter and Premier Menachem Begin of Israel. He reiterated that "negotiations are necessary for the purpose of carrying out all the provisions and principles" of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

However, Vance made it plain that the intention of the U.S. in supporting the March 1 Security Council resolution was to "signal" the government of Israel to halt new settlements in the occupied territories. He said that this issue had been discussed "many times" with the Israelis and that "there are a number of people in Israel who believe we should express our views." He did not identify them. Vance said it was "not true" that the President's repudiation of the resolution resulted from domestic political pressure.

Intense Questioning By Senators

Vance was questioned intensely by Sens. Jacob Javits (R., NY) and Richard Stone (D., Fla.), both of whom urged that the Administration repudiate the resolution completely. Javits told Vance, "As a trained diplomat and lawyer, you know that every word in this (resolution) has meaning. If it

is only past policy, why repeat it? Why not disavow the whole thing? Why don't we have a clear break?"

Vance replied that the references to Jerusalem and the occupied territories as Palestinian or Arab territory in the text of the resolution "has no meaning at all regarding sovereignty." Javits replied, "That's not satisfactory." He added, "It only spells more trouble in days ahead because it (the resolution) is unnecessary and raises suspicions. You leave us no choice. We hope you will consider this. Let's clean the decks. Give us a chance to forget it."

Stone pointed out that the resolution is not solely "recommendatory" and "not binding" as Vance had testified. He noted that the resolution calls for the UN Commission to report back to the Security Council in September on whether Israel has indeed dismantled the settlements in East Jerusalem and elsewhere as the resolution states. He asked whether "We will veto it if it becomes binding in September." He also asked if "some" of the resolution could be binding in September.

Vance declined to give a specific response. "It would depend on what will be put before the UN in September," he said. He acknowledged that "I did not envisage some items" regarding the settlements that the Carter Administration did approve. Stone, his voice rising, said, "We'll be right back in the soup with communications and words."

Pressed On East Jerusalem

Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D., Md.) asked if East Jerusalem is occupied territory, to which Vance replied, "Yes." Sarbanes asked, "That is the position of our government?" Vance nodded affirmatively. Sarbanes asked, "Do you believe that Jews can live on the West Bank?" Vance replied, "That is to be negotiated between the parties. I hope they will have a chance to do that." He told Sarbanes that he could not speak for the President on the question of whether he had read the resolution before the vote was taken, but declared, "I certainly did" read it.

Stone asked why the U.S. does not present the U.S. position, including the President's statement, to the Security Council. Vance said it could be done. "Then why not do it?" Stone pressed. Vance replied that "The President speaks to the whole world, including the Security Council."

Sen. Joseph Biden (D., Del.) declared that Begin "seriously underestimates the resentment of the American people over new settlements" and "the Begin government is dead wrong in establishing new settlements." But, he pointed out, "Israel is in the U.S. security interest" and Israel, "free, strong and un intimidated is a strategic asset of the U.S." He asked Vance "What is Israel's role in our security position regarding the Persian Gulf" oilfields?

Vance replied, "We have not changed our policy. Israel has a very important strategic role in the area and it is in our national interest." He added, "The role Israel has to play is as a force for stability" and that "progress in the West Bank and Gaza negotiations will help produce greater stability."

However, Vance indicated that Israel must make concessions in the interest of stability in the Middle East.

Vance said later that the U.S. policy is for Israel to be "strong and stable." Asked by Church if he was expressing the view of the President, the Secretary of State replied, "Yes, indeed." When asked by Church if the views of others in the State Depart-

ment are reflected in that policy, Vance replied, "The policy of this Administration is what I have just said — speaking for myself." Later he said his subordinates supported his policy.

In opening the Senate hearing, Church pointed out that he is "baffled" by the "two sets of documents" that are "clearly inconsistent." He said the March 1 Security Council resolution is inconsistent with the text of the Camp David accords as well as with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 "which together have represented the very cornerstone of United States policy in the Middle East."

Vance is scheduled to testify tomorrow before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in response to demands from Reps. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-NY) and Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) for an explanation of the U.S. vote in the Security Council.

BEGIN MEETS WITH U.S. ENVOY FOR PRELIMINARY TALKS ON CARTER MEETING By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 20 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin met with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis here today for preliminary discussions on the meeting set with President Carter next month. No precise date for the meeting has yet been announced in Jerusalem.

Officials here had expected a summit initiative from Carter sooner or later. But the President's invitation had not been expected to come exactly when and how it did, and it took Jerusalem off guard.

Interior Minister Yosef Burg, Israel's chief negotiator in the autonomy talks, has been consulting with Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil and U.S. special Ambassador Sol Linowitz on ways to speed up the talks, but his efforts have now been overshadowed by the forthcoming talks in Washington. Linowitz's visit here and to Egypt next week is seen as preparatory to the Washington talks.

There is some apprehension apparent in government circles here in the face of the Carter-Begin meeting. U.S. policy on autonomy, it is felt, is a good deal closer to the Egyptian outlook than to that of Israel. Therefore, the President will lean on Begin harder than he will on Sadat, it is expected here.

Carter's success so far in the U.S. Presidential primaries will also give him freedom to press Israel for concessions, it is felt here. The invitation to Begin and Sadat is expected to boost the President's standing among the Jewish Democrats in advance of the important New York primary next week.

Begin is not expected to take with him Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir or Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, although the arrangements are still tentative and could change.

Factors Complicating The Situation

Complicating Israel-U.S. relations at this delicate juncture, in addition to the still undecided issue of Hebron, is a report from Yediot Achronot's Washington correspondent today not denied here, that Israel intends to ask the U.S. to begin implementing its undertaking to supply Israel with oil for a period of 15 years.

The undertaking was part of the bilateral agreements accompanying the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. It provides that the U.S. must respond if Israel cannot obtain the oil it needs through regular channels. Yediot Achronot, citing

U.S. government sources for the story, said Washington was hoping Israel would think again and would not press for the oil-supply clause to go into effect since it might well be unpopular with American public opinion. U.S. sources were quoted in the story as saying that Israel could in fact cover its oil needs without difficulty from Mexico, Egypt and on the spot market.

LEWIS URGES ISRAEL TO BECOME LESS ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT ON THE U.S.

TEL AVIV, March 20 (JTA) — U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis told a group of businessmen here that "Israel today is far too dependent on the United States for Israel's own good and for the good of the U.S." He observed that "Your leaders have recently been saying that it is crucial to regain your economic independence so that you are not subject to the vagaries of American policymakers," and added, "I could not agree more."

Lewis spoke at a Rotary Club luncheon today on some aspects of American-Israeli relations. He suggested that one way for Israel to move toward economic independence would be to try to reduce its huge trade deficit with the U.S.

"Dependence produces frustration," the American envoy said, "frustration here because it is contradictory to the feeling of independence and achievements; frustration in the United States because human beings, being what they are, an American can easily believe that because we help Israel so much, Israel should do what we think best, and Israel frequently doesn't, and we get frustrated." He said economic independence could not be achieved "if your requirements depend on the good will of another nation, be it as friendly as mine." (By Yitzhak Shargil)

HIAS REPORTS ON JEWS IT AIDED IN 1979

NEW YORK, March 20 (JTA) — Gaynor Jacobson, executive vice president of HIAS, reported that during 1979 the worldwide Jewish migration agency assisted 31,928 Soviet Jews of whom 28,791 decided to come to the United States. His report Tuesday to the membership of HIAS, Jacobson said an additional 3137 were aided by HIAS last year in migrating to North and South America, Australia, and Europe. The 1979 total, he stated, shows a marked increase compared with the overall figure of 14,001 resettled in 1978.

Jacobson also stated that, in cooperation with the United States government, HIAS will resettle 6000 Indochinese refugees in 1980. During 1979, HIAS was instrumental in assisting 3889 of these stateless wanderers in their search for new homes, he said.

Jacobson, looking to the future, said: "Many thousands of Jews are still living in areas of threat, peril and oppression. Therefore the mission of HIAS to assist in rescue, reunion of families, and resettlement must continue. We must push on in fulfilling our responsibilities on behalf of the organized American Jewish community in assisting Jews in peril throughout the world."

Edwin Shapiro, president of HIAS, said "It is my strong conviction that, more and more, as time goes on, HIAS increases its posture as a strong and vital integrated member of the world community of charitable Jewish organizations." The meeting, passed resolutions urging the Soviet Union and Syria to allow emigration of Jews and expressing appreciation to all who made the HIAS program possible.

REAGAN MEETS WITH INFLUENTIAL N.Y.C. JEWS FOR A DIALOGUE

By William Saphire

NEW YORK, March 20 (JTA) — Former Gov. Ronald Reagan of California met privately yesterday with a group of Jewish influential in business and community circles here. According to John Loeb, a New York investment banker, who was present, Reagan, a candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination, characterized the meeting as the "beginning" of a dialogue he intends to pursue with Jewish communities in the course of his campaign. The meeting was closed to the press.

Loeb told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the meeting, held at the New York Stock Exchange building on Wall Street, was attended by 25-30 people and lasted "15-20 minutes." He said it was "not a definitive examination" of Reagan's positions but a "way of receiving impressions" of his views by the Jewish community. He said Reagan responded to questions "primarily" about Israel and was "very favorable, very positive, in no case (responding) negatively."

Loeb said that Maxwell Raab, president of Temple Emanu-El, played a prominent part in arranging the meeting. Raab, who is active in the Reagan campaign, served during the Eisenhower Administration as Secretary to the Cabinet. Loeb told the JTA that among those present were Albert Spiegel, a Los Angeles attorney who is vice chairman of the Reagan campaign and the candidate's advisor on Jewish affairs; Laurence Tisch, the New York realtor; Ivan Navick, president of the Zionist Organization of America; Eugene Gold, Brooklyn District Attorney; and Mordechai Hacohen, vice president of the Bank Leumi in New York. Gold told the JTA today that although he is a Democrat he participated in the meeting because he thought it was "important" to hear the view of the major GOP Presidential candidate.

Reagan Favors United Jerusalem

Loeb said that Reagan made it clear that he strongly favored a united Jerusalem and "when pressed" said he supported a united Jerusalem under "Israeli sovereignty."

Loeb said that the former Governor was "not as clear cut" as to whether he would, if he were President, move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem but indicated that he would consult with Jewish leaders on such a move. He said Reagan was not questioned about the settlements issue or about U.S. economic and military aid to Israel under a Reagan Administration but was firm in the view that the U.S. should "help its friends."

Loeb said that Reagan was unequivocally opposed to the United Nations Security Council's anti-Israel resolution of March 1. He said Reagan supported the Camp David accords but maintained that they should be implemented by the two parties — Israel and Egypt — with "minimal interference" from the U.S.

On another matter of Jewish concern, Reagan said he was for "affirmative action" to help minorities but not the way it has been "distorted." He cited the record of his administration when he was Governor of California. He said he was opposed to quotas. Loeb told the JTA.

STRAUSS MEETS WITH JEWISH LEADERS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 20 (JTA) — Robert

Strauss, President Carter's election campaign manager, "blew his cool" last night at a fund-raising meeting with Jewish leaders and "stormed out of the room," according to Gerald Strober, member of the executive committee of Hentz U.S.A. and a member of the board of directors of the American Zionist Federation, who was present at the meeting.

Strauss refused to take or answer questions dealing with the Carter Administration's Mideast policy, Strober told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. The meeting, which was attended by some 50 Jewish leaders, was held at the Atrium Club here, a private club in midtown Manhattan. When Strauss was confronted with questions critical of the Administration's treatment of Israel, he reacted by describing these concerns as "emotional hysteria," Strober said.

Describing Strauss' response last night as a "cowardly performance," Strober said that he (Strauss) stormed out of the room when one of the Jewish leaders — whom Strober could not identify — asked why the President did not keep his promises to the Jewish voters.

Strober said he is "troubled by the fact that Carter keeps sending Jews who are in his Administration to talk to members of the Jewish community. I think Carter should face the Jewish community himself and tell us why he is so stridently anti-Israel." He added that the anti-Carter feeling in the Jewish community in the wake of the anti-Israel vote cast by the U.S. on March 1 in the Security Council is "almost unanimous."

Meanwhile, some 200 members of the Concerned Jewish Youth (CJY) demonstrated yesterday afternoon in front of the Carter-Mondale headquarters here. For an hour, they chanted anti-Carter slogans and carried placards denouncing the Administration's Mideast policy. Jay Spector, president of the CJY chapter at Queens College, said: "We will not stop until Mr. Carter is out of office." Spector said that while the CJY was not formally affiliated with Betar it was in general agreement with the Betar philosophy.

Vice President Walter Mondale, meanwhile, was scheduled to address a B'nai B'rith ceremony here this evening during which awards will be given to various organizations for their work on behalf of refugees around the world. A B'nai B'rith spokesman said Mondale would discuss the situation in the Middle East and the plight of Indo-China refugees.

SADAT ANXIOUS TO CONTINUE TALKS

TEL AVIV, March 20 (JTA) — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat confirmed today he had asked President Carter for urgent steps to prevent a deadlock on the autonomy talks for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The White House announced yesterday that President Carter will meet separately with Sadat and Premier Menachem Begin of Israel in Washington in April.

Sadat made the disclosure after a plenary session dealing with the autonomy talks at The Hague on Feb. 28-29 ended with no report of significant progress. Sadat expressed the hope that the separate meetings with Carter might lead to another summit meeting in which Carter, Sadat and Begin would participate. Sadat made the comments in talking to reporters in Cairo, which included the Israeli correspondents now reporting from Egypt. Maariv said Sadat told its reporter in Cairo that he was convinced no autonomy accord would be reached without new guidelines to him and Begin.

WARNINGS ON PASSOVER FOOD PRICES AND LABEL FIXING

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, March 20 (JTA) — The Rabbinical Alliance of America, an Orthodox group, declared today that "unscrupulous storekeepers" were charging "exorbitant prices" for Passover foods and urged Jewish housewives to warn such food merchants they would stop patronizing them both for Passover and year-around products if they continued "these unJewish and unkosher practices."

In a related statement, New York Governor Hugh Carey declared that the state's Kosher Law Enforcement Division was strictly enforcing state Kosher-For-Passover food labeling laws. He said the state had the nation's largest market for Passover products, with an estimated one million consumers of kosher products.

The Rabbinical Alliance statement was made by its president, Rabbi Abraham Hecht, who issued "a stern warning" to food merchants selling Passover products to "desist" from the practice "of raising the prices" of such products to "exaggerated" levels.

Hecht said that because the majority of observant Jewish shoppers are limited in their choice of products by adherence to "careful and exacting" standards in such purchases, "unscrupulous store keepers are charging exorbitant prices which cannot be economically justified since there is no appreciable additional expense involved in the handling of Kosher-For-Passover products."

He said the Rabbinical Alliance urged Jewish merchants "to conform to Jewish Law," which he said requires "that a fair price be charged and that no undue profit be made" from the sale of Kosher-For-Passover products, and not to cause "additional burdens" for the observant shopper.

State Regulations On Packaging

Carey said that the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, through its Kosher Law Enforcement Division, works to ensure that "unscrupulous entrepreneurs" do not misrepresent kosher products. Under state regulations, he said, any food commodity in packaged form marked "Kosher-For-Passover" cannot be offered for sale unless the producer registers the name of the certifying rabbi or organization with the department 30 days prior to marketing the product.

Carey said that only the manufacturer of such products may affix a Kosher-For-Passover label on the package. Storekeepers may not affix labels to Passover products. Loose Kosher-For-Passover labels in possession of any person or company other than the original manufacturer is a violation of state law.

The Governor also said that restaurants which display a matzah or offer a "Passover menu" must prepare their Passover food in accordance with Orthodox religious requirements for Passover. Any hotel or restaurant, in or outside New York State, which advertises "under rabbinical supervision" in the state must identify the certifying rabbi or organization.

Rabbi Schurlem Rubin, director of the Kosher Law Enforcement Division, said penalties for violation range up to \$200 for each misrepresented item. He added that his division is concerned with misrepresentation of products and does not certify the kashruth of any product.

BRONFMAN CALLS FOR NEW DIALOGUE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND DIASPORA JEWS

NEW YORK, March 20 (JTA) — Edgar Bronfman, chairman of the North American branch of the World Jewish Congress, has called for "a really new dialogue" between Israel and diaspora Jewry which, instead of focussing on Israel's "centrality in Jewish life," must be focussed on the "lifecycle of that centrality," meaning "the new relationship between Israel and Jews outside of Israel."

In a guest column in the current issue of the WJC News & Views, Bronfman, who is the convener of the WJC Presidium's Executive while WJC President Philip Klutznick, recently appointed U.S. Secretary of Commerce, is on leave of absence, was sharply critical of Israel's settlement policies and observed that while most diaspora Jews remain publicly uncritical of Israel, they are increasingly anxious and concerned by political, social and economic troubles in the Jewish State. "There is disappointment in a country which is less than what the original Zionists envisioned -- an Israel which we wanted to think of as the embodiment of Jewish ideals: fairness, justice, wisdom," Bronfman wrote.

Some of the troubling factors, according to the writer, are Israel's "rampant inflation, abysmal productivity and social services it cannot afford. Dissension exists over the handling of the West Bank and its one million plus Arabs and difficulties with the not quite half million 'resident' Arabs who are Israeli citizens. Israel has also dismally failed to deal adequately with its Sephardi population, some 60 percent of the Jews in Israel," Bronfman wrote.

Warns Of Consequences

This adds up to "trouble," Bronfman wrote. "It is an Israel which, largely because of its political system has been unable to become (the expectation is undoubtedly unfair, but it does exist) the repository of the Jewish ideal; a country which expects its fellow Jews living abroad, especially in the United States, to 'hold the line' for it no matter what; a country whose moral base is slowly eroding because of its inability to explain its 'expansionist' policies on the West Bank, let alone its ability to deal constructively and decently with many, too many, of its own citizens and its failure to be the embodiment of Jewish ideals."

Bronfman said that "Israel must learn to stop asking the unreasonable of American Jewry (English, French and others, too). It must stop sweeping its basic problems under the rug of capital infusion from 'Jews in exile' and must realize that, as long as it is willing to take our money, it must at least consult with us on the priorities."

He warned that "Young Jews, if they stay Jewish, are becoming less and less willing unquestioningly to say 'My Israel, right or wrong,' and so are their elders. Israel will reasonably soon have to stand on its own two feet, economically and politically. To do this, given its location, it will have to be both economically viable and morally impressive," he wrote. . . .

AMSTERDAM (JTA) — An international "Schcharansky Tribunal" will be held here May 12-13, it was announced by Labor parliamentarian Harry van den Bergh, chairman of "Friends of Anatoly Schcharansky Committee." The Tribunal, which was established in Holland last November, will be comprised of internationally famous personalities. The Tribunal is focusing on Schcharansky but will also deal with other human rights violations in the USSR.