

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Vol. LVIII - 63rd Year

Friday, March 28, 1980

No. 62

BEGIN WILL INSIST ON ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO SETTLEMENTS WHEN HE MEETS CARTER

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 27 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin took a tough line toward President Carter on the settlements issue and defied his critics at home in a television interview yesterday in which he declared that his government would complete its present term of office and that he would stand for reelection afterwards.

Begin, who will meet with Carter in Washington next month, said: "If President Carter asks me to freeze the settlements I shall tell him this is our right, this is our duty and it is an integral part of our national security and we must settle." He said he and Carter had been at odds over the settlements since their first meeting in July, 1977.

The Premier flatly rejected the latest American proposal this week that Israel freeze settlements until May 26, the target date for completion of the autonomy talks with Egypt. The U.S. cited as a precedent the three-month freeze during the peace treaty negotiations with Egypt. But Begin said, "Even then it was not really a freeze, since we continued to strengthen existing settlements. That undertaking expired a long time ago and if it were renewed there would never be an end to it."

Correcting An Historic Wrong

Although last Sunday's Cabinet decision to establish Jewish religious institutions in the heart of the West Bank Arab town of Hebron polarized opinion in Israel and has drawn criticism from many of Israel's friends abroad, Begin was adamant on the subject. He said it was not a political decision but merely the "correction" of an historic wrong when Hebron Jews were killed by Arabs in the 1929 uprising.

Begin said the fact that the Cabinet's decision was adopted by a narrow margin made it no less valid. "Even a majority of one is a majority," he said. He said he was confident that the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee would reject the Democratic Movement's appeal against the Hebron decision.

Begin said his government would continue to rule as long as it has a Knesset majority "and all of the peace-loving demonstrators will not help." He said he had no intention of resigning "even if 50,000 people demonstrated because they do not constitute more than 2 1/2 mandates in the Knesset." He said most of his fellow ministers felt the government should serve out its term "in view of the progress made in various fields." He said he would run in the next elections but would retire from politics when he turns 70 three years from now.

With respect to Defense Minister Ezer Weizman's recent hints that he might resign because of his conflicts with government policies, Begin said "It happened before that a minister resigned and the government did not fall."

Reacting to the Begin interview, the opposition Labor Party said it proved that the Premier is not living in the real world and does not understand what is happening around him. "The time has passed when Begin could appear on the (TV) screen and try to mislead the people that the economic situation is improving and the international situation is better than ever," a Labor spokesman said.

VANCE EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF RESOLVING ISRAELI-ARAB CONFLICT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 27 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Cyrus Vance presented the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today with an "overall U.S. foreign policy" in which he listed the achievement of a comprehensive peace agreement in the Middle East among four primary problems in the world today, all of them centering on that region.

He emphasized the importance of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and noted that "immediate attention" is being given to the autonomy negotiations between Israel, Egypt and the U.S. He said the parties are now discussing "substantive issues like security, water and land."

The primary problems Vance referred to included the fate of the American hostages in Iran, safeguarding the Persian Gulf region and the potential for instability within nations and between nations in that region in which the Soviet Union is interested.

Vance said a comprehensive peace agreement "would strengthen Israel to which we are unshakably committed" and "strengthen its neighbors." He warned that "regional conflicts pose the danger of wider conflagration" and stressed the need for "peaceful resolution of disputes in troubled regions of the world."

The Secretary of State referred to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty as "an historic breakthrough" and called the Camp David accords on which the treaty is based "the best process in 30 years to bring peace and security to Israel, Egypt and their neighbors." He added, "We cannot let it slip away."

Without mentioning the names of countries, Vance spoke of "sensible military assistance" to America's "friends" so that "local security balance can be preserved." His main thrust was the Soviet challenge to the U.S. for world leadership. He noted that the Carter Administration was presenting large programs of military assistance and cautioned that "If we change our military assistance now, we'll be short-changing our own future safety."

ISRAELIS CHARGE EGYPTIANS WITH BLOCKING PROGRESS IN AUTONOMY TALKS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 27 (JTA) -- The latest round in the autonomy talks began in Alexandria at the top negotiating level today amid charges by Israeli ministers that the Egyptians were deliberately blocking progress. Israel's Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir was scheduled to have his first meeting with Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil, head of the Egyptian negotiating team. Interior Minister Yosef Burg, head of the Israeli delegation, met with U.S. special Ambassador Sol Linowitz. But a three-party meeting scheduled for this morning was postponed until later in the day.

Government sources in Cairo predicted that little or no progress would be made. Israeli ministers were quoted as saying that the Egyptians were holding back the talks and that the recent attacks on Israel in the Egyptian media were an attempt to conceal this. According to the Israelis, the Egyptian tactic ever since the autonomy talks began was to bring up subjects for discussion but then switch to other issues as soon as some progress was made on the first subjects.

UN COUNCIL TO MEET MONDAY TO CONSIDER DRAFT RESOLUTION ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS; U.S. VETO SEEN

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 27 (JTA) — Despite an American veto threat, the Palestine Liberation Organization and its supporters went ahead today with their request for a Security Council meeting on Palestinian rights. The Council is scheduled to meet Monday.

According to diplomatic sources, the American veto was almost certain in view of the draft resolution circulated here among the 15-member Council, calling for the affirmation of the Palestinian people's right to "self-determination, including the right to establish an independent state in Palestine."

The draft resolution, which was circulated in three slightly differing versions, also calls for Israeli withdrawal from "all the Arab territories occupied since June 1967," and deplores the Israeli occupation of these territories, "including Jerusalem." The Security Council will meet Monday morning to accommodate an Israeli request not to hold the meeting Monday evening, which is the first night of Passover.

Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Yehuda Blum, met today with Ambassador William van den Heuvel of the United States to discuss the upcoming Security Council debate. United States Ambassador Donald McHenry is presently out of town.

PLO Seen As Testing The West

Blum told Israeli reporters today, in a briefing at the Israeli UN Mission here, upon his arrival from Israel this morning, that it seems that the PLO insisted on the meeting at this point because of the scheduled meetings between President Carter and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Premier Menachem Begin of Israel.

"They would do whatever they can to sabotage these talks out of fear that the autonomy talks will succeed," Blum said. The Israeli envoy also suggested that the PLO, by insisting on holding the debate although they cannot expect that its extreme resolution will be adopted, is trying to "embarrass" and "put the U.S. on the spot." They also intend to test the attitude of the West Europeans, who recently indicated a shift in policy toward supporting a Palestinian state.

The vote on the pro-Palestinian draft resolution is likely to take place at the end of next week, after at least four sessions of the Council, Blum said.

ISRAELI NATIONALISTS TO SEEK SUPPORT IN U.S. FOR GOVERNMENT POSITIONS

TEL AVIV, March 27 (JTA) — The ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction announced yesterday that it plans to send a delegation to the U.S. next month to rally its supporters in favor of Israel's position on the administered territories so that it can withstand expected pressure from Washington after the 1980 Presidential elections.

Tehiya, comprising disaffected Herut members and religious militants who oppose the peace treaty with Egypt and demand that Israel annex the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights, is regarded as Premier Menachem Begin's opposition to the right. But according to its leader, Tel Aviv University Prof. Yuval Ne'eman, its delegates will go to the U.S. to create an atmosphere in support of Begin's stand against American pressure

for concessions by Israel.

Ne'eman told a press conference here that "In Israel we are seeking to topple Begin's government but abroad we shall do everything to support Israeli positions which the government believes too are right." He will head the delegation accompanied by MKs Geula Cohen and Moshe Tamir, former Herut members who now represent Tehiya in the Knesset. He indicated that they will be in Washington during President Carter's meetings with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Carter's meeting with Begin later in the month.

Some of Tehiya's aims are to freeze Israel's withdrawal from Sinai which is to be completed by the end of next year under the terms of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty; review the Camp David accords; scrap the present autonomy plan for the West Bank and Gaza; and eliminate Egypt from any negotiating role with respect to those territories.

(In Washington, State Department spokesman Hodding Carter was asked whether the Tehiya lobbying effort in the U.S. for Israeli positions was "compatible with conduct" in the American Presidential elections. He replied that "I've observed a notable lack of reluctance for interference in the political process of the U.S." However, he said in reply to questions that the Administration would do "nothing" about it.)

INDIA'S GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES PLO

LONDON, March 27 (JTA) — The government of India yesterday became the first government to extend full diplomatic recognition to the Palestine Liberation Organization. According to reports, PLO chief Yasser Arafat is due in New Delhi tomorrow for a two-day visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao, in announcing the decision, which upgrades the PLO office in New Delhi to the status of an embassy, said no comprehensive settlement of the Middle East deadlock was possible without participation of the PLO as an equal partner in peace talks. The Foreign Minister also said the visit by Arafat symbolized not only Indo-Palestinian friendship but also Indo-Arab solidarity. India, which extended formal recognition to Israel in 1950, has allowed the PLO to maintain an office in New Delhi since 1975.

160 SOVIET REFUGEES ARRIVE IN U.S.

NEW YORK, March 27 (JTA) — Some 160 refugees from the Soviet Union were scheduled to arrive at Kennedy Airport today and be greeted by HIAS representatives who will distribute matzah and other Passover articles to "symbolize the new life they are about to begin following their own exodus," Gaynor Jacobson, executive vice president of HIAS, said. The more than 160 men, women and children are due to arrive on two flights from Rome. They will be settled in Jewish communities across the country, including Boston, Chicago, Buffalo, Pittsburgh and St. Paul. Approximately half of the 160 persons will take up residence in New York with the assistance of the New York Association for New Americans.

NEW YORK (JTA) — The JWB has sent solo seders to the U.S. Embassy in Teheran for possible use by the hostages, it was reported Thursday by Robert Adler, JWB president. Each solo seder has enough food for one person and includes chicken, gefilte fish, matzah and macaroons. The solo seders were flown from the United States to Teheran.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT UNIT TO APPEAL RULING BY JUDGE ON WAR CRIMINAL

By Rachelle Saidel Wolk

ALBANY, N.Y., March 27 (JTA) — The Office of Special Investigation (OSI) of the Justice Department will appeal Judge Anthony DeGaeto's denial of its case against accused Nazi war criminal Vilis Hazners. According to Allan Ryan Jr., Deputy Director of the OSI, a notice of appeal has been filed and the appeal brief is due April 10 at the Board of Immigration Appeals in Washington.

The Justice Department had asked DeGaeto, who is an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) judge, to disqualify himself from the case last fall after a Jewish Telegraphic Agency report last Aug. 24 revealed that two years earlier he had remarked from the bench that Jews always answer questions with questions. DeGaeto did not choose this option.

DeGaeto ruled on Feb. 27 that INS could not deport Hazners, a 74-year-old resident of Dresden, N.Y., because the government had failed to prove that he had concealed his participation in the Holocaust. The judge told the JTA his ruling was mailed on that date from his New York City office to Ivars Berzins, Hazner's attorney, and the OSI.

Ryan acknowledged to the JTA that he received notice of the decision on Feb. 29, but the press was not apprised of the situation. An inquiry from The Knickerbocker News, an Albany newspaper, brought the decision to light.

History Of The Case

The case against the native of Latvia began here in January, 1977, and the following fall the INS brought some eight Israeli witnesses, all survivors of the Riga ghetto, to testify that Hazners had committed Nazi atrocities while serving as a Latvian police officer and member of the Latvian Waffen SS. Hazners denied these charges.

In the spring of 1978, the hearing was postponed to arrange for testimony from defense witnesses who were unable to travel from such locations as Chicago, Stockholm, Sweden and Australia. The following spring, the government was granted one postponement to bring a West German expert on Latvian war crimes to testify on its behalf. When the expert could not appear as scheduled because he was working on another Nazi case in Europe, a second postponement request was denied.

The case was closed in May, 1979, and the government filed its brief with DeGaeto in June. Berzins, of Babylon, N.Y., then had 30 days to file his brief on behalf of Hazners. He was granted an extension of several weeks by the judge, but by August both briefs were in DeGaeto's hands. A decision was anticipated from two to six months after that date.

In his Feb. 27 decision, the judge was critical of the work of the INS attorneys and questioned the credibility of the Israeli witnesses, according to Ryan.

Other Setbacks In Government's Efforts

The Hazners decision followed three other February setbacks in the government's efforts to denaturalize and deport Nazi war criminals. In Baltimore, the government lost its deportation case against Karlis Detlavs, an admitted member of the Latvian SS who is a friend of Hazners and

also represented by Berzins. Ryan said his office had filed a notice to appeal the Detlavs decision, with an April 4 deadline to present the brief to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

In addition, the Supreme Court granted a petition for certiorari to Feodor Fedorenko of Florida, an admitted Treblinka SS guard, and the Court of Appeals reversed and remanded a decision against alleged Nazi war criminal Frank Walus of Chicago. The Fedorenko case, which was decided against the defendant when the Court of Appeals overruled a lower court decision, will now be reviewed by the Supreme Court. The Walus case will have to be retried.

With the Hazners case decided, there is now no active Nazi war criminal case in a U.S. court. Of the 16 cases currently under litigation, all are either in pre-trial discovery or in various stages of appeal. The OSI is investigating the files of some 400 alleged Nazi war criminals to determine whether they are triable.

UN UNIT VOTES FINANCIAL AID TO PLO

By Tamir Levy

GENEVA, March 27 (JTA) — The board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) adopted a resolution today that would provide financial help for the Palestine Liberation Organization. It was promptly denounced by the Israeli delegate to UNCTAD, Israel Eliashiv.

The resolution, adopted by a vote of 63-13 with 14 abstentions, was submitted on behalf of the Group of 77, an alignment of Third World nations. A similar resolution was adopted at the Manila conference last summer when it was opposed by Australia, New Zealand and Norway. This time, those countries abstained.

Eliashiv said: "It is no secret that parts of that resolution as well as of the resolution before us were initiated and inspired by the so-called PLO We strongly oppose any kind of assistance which might be implied to the PLO, an organization which makes no secret of its avowed objectives, set forth in its covenant, of destroying Israel, a member state of the United Nations."

The resolution states that the United Nations system, including the UN Development Plan, should, during the Third Development Decade, mobilize adequate resources for providing assistance to national liberation movements recognized by regional inter-governmental organizations and the people under colonial domination and foreign occupation.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee held its first meeting Thursday on the Hebron issue but avoided its substance and concentrated on procedures. It set no date for a vote on the issue itself. The discussion centered on whether the various factions could replace their members on the committee before it votes on the Cabinet's decision to establish a Jewish presence in the West Bank Arab town. The issue was raised after the Likud Knesset faction decided Wednesday to replace Amnon Lin, who opposes the Cabinet's decision with Yigal Cohen who favors it. The Labor Alignment, for its part, wants to replace three of its members who may be abroad when the matter comes up for a vote. The three Liberal Party members of the committee said that they were opposed to the decision and would vote against it.

REMINDER: There will be no Bulletins dated April 1 and 2 due to the Passover holiday.

ANTI-SEMITIC SERMONS EVOKE SHOCK, ANGER FROM JEWS AND CHRISTIANS

MINNEAPOLIS, March 27 (JTA) — A local preacher who delivered a series of what is regarded as blatantly anti-Semitic sermons three months ago, claiming that the Holocaust was God's punishment of the Jews for their rejection of Jesus, drew expressions of shock and anger from Christian and Jewish groups that have not abated despite a recent disclaimer and charges of a "witch hunt" by the evangelist.

Rev. Ernest O'Neill, an Irish-born former Methodist minister who heads the non-denominational Campus Church here and a number of affiliated business enterprises, drew a sharp rebuke from the Council of Religious Advisors (CRA) of the University of Minnesota and a somewhat equivocal protest by the Minnesota Council of Churches which upheld his right to express his views although it disagreed with them.

The CRA is a group of 14 clergymen and church workers who serve the student body at the university. The Campus Church is in no way associated with that institution but many students attend its services.

Morton Ryweck, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minneapolis and of the Anti-Defamation League of Minnesota and the Dakotas, saw O'Neill's sermons as a reminder "that theologically-based Christian anti-Semitism is still with us, notwithstanding the progress that has been made in recent decades in reforming church teaching and certain liturgical references about the Jews and Judaism."

Disavows Some Of His Remarks

O'Neill initially defended his invidious references to Jews on grounds that he was merely quoting Biblical verses about Jews to provide examples relevant to Christian living. Later he disavowed some of his more scurrilous remarks, claiming they were taken out of context and distorted by his critics. In a Jan. 27 sermon, he called the Jews a "reprobate" people who had spurned God's will and said that "the nation of Israel faces more contempt and more suspicion than any other nation."

According to the transcript of that sermon, O'Neill thanked the "Lord" for "the clear lesson from Israel, that if we go for our own material and financial prosperity, according to our own plans, we will never have enough money." With respect to the Holocaust, he said:

"I do believe that many of us are weak in our interpretation of why things like the Holocaust happen, and I do think that sometimes it's certainly good to blame the secondary causes. It is certainly good to blame the Germans or blame ourselves, but it is important to see what God's explanation is and it's Ezekiel 39 and verse 23: 'And the nations shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity because they dealt so treacherously with me that I hid my face from them and gave them into the hands of their adversaries.' According to O'Neill, the Germans did the damage but "God withdrew his protecting sword."

Statements By Christians

On Feb. 14, the CRA issued a statement signed by all members which called attention to O'Neill's sermons of Jan. 13, 20 and 27. "In our

estimation these sermons contain numerous overtly anti-Jewish statements. The CRA deplores and rejects these statements and expresses its willingness to meet with various Christian bodies to prepare an appropriate, studied response to the problem of anti-Semitic elements in Christian preaching."

On March 12, the Minnesota Council of Churches issued its own statement, signed by Monroe Bell, Interim Executive Director, which it said "reflects fairly the prevailing opinions among the leadership of 17 church bodies in the state of Minnesota with a total membership of about a million persons." The statement reaffirmed "our affection for the Jewish people and our gratitude for their cultural heritage which has enriched and ennobled human life for thousands of years"

With respect to O'Neill, the statement observed that "Our scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, call on us to be reticent in passing judgement. We affirm that the Rev. Mr. O'Neill is fully entitled to hold and express his opinions. He has declared that the opinions he expressed regarding the Jewish people are derived from the true reading of scripture and Christian faith. We disagree."

A statement issued by the Minnesota Inter-religious Committee on Christian Jewish Relations on March 12, commended the CRA, the Council of Churches "and other concerned Christians for their forthright criticism of Rev. Ernest O'Neill's recent anti-Semitic sermons."

In a sermon delivered at the Campus Church on March 16, O'Neill accused his critics of gross distortion and charged that they were trying to start a "witch hunt." He claimed "They took the transcripts (of the sermons) and distorted some of the phrases I am concerned for the Jewish friends who heard these lies and want you to know that they are lies," he said. He insisted that he has "no time" for those who believe the Holocaust was God's way of punishing Jews. Minneapolis has a Jewish population of 22,000.

RENEWED INTEREST IN SEPHARDIC STUDIES

JERUSALEM, March 27 (JTA) — The first group of Jewish students from Sephardic communities in the U.S. will arrive here next summer to take a three-week course in Sephardic heritage offered by the newly-created Educational Center for the Sephardic Community in Jerusalem. This visit was initiated by Dr. Joseph Nissim, an American gynecologist, of Beverly Hills, Calif., who is the chairman of the board of directors of the new institution. He believes that thousands of Sephardic Jews in the U.S. do not receive proper education in their Sephardic heritage.

The new center will offer young people between the ages of 18 and 25 intensive summer courses and tours which are jointly sponsored by the American Zionist Federation and the World Zionist Organization. The project is currently available only to English and Spanish speaking students, but will be expanded next year to include French speaking students. The first group of students will arrive in Jerusalem in time for the center's inauguration ceremony next July. The center is located in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem which was the spiritual center of Jerusalem's Sephardic community for many generations.

In a related development, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem recently opened a Center for Sephardic and Oriental Jewish Studies in its Humanities faculty.