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PERES REJECTS VIEW THAT CARTER LEANS TOWARD SADAT ON AUTONOMY ISSUE; SAYS CARTER IS SEEKING 'A MIDDLE ROAD'

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, April 24 (JTA) — Shimon Peres, chairman of Israel's Labor Party, turned down suggestions that President Carter leans toward the views of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt in the autonomy negotiations with Israel and said here today that the President's "main interest is to maintain the momentum of peace in the Middle East" and is seeking "a middle road" on "full autonomy" for the West Bank and Gaza.

Peres, the first leader of an Israeli opposition party ever invited to the White House, met with Carter privately for a half-hour today and later for an additional 15 minutes in company with Vice President Walter Mondale, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Israel's Ambassador Ephraim Evron.

When he emerged from the White House, with Mondale bidding him farewell, Peres was asked if he thought Carter takes sides with Sadat and against Israel in view of his statements that Jewish settlements on the West Bank are illegal and an obstacle to peace and his emphasis on "full autonomy" for the Palestinians within the meaning of what one reporter called "dictionary" terms.

"I think the President is sincerely interested in peace in the Middle East," Peres responded. "I think this is his major consideration rather than any particular solution. His main interest is to maintain the momentum of peace in the Middle East — an area that is today loaded with pressing and dangerous issues. I am referring to the Russian thrust, the future of the Persian Gulf, the very extreme religious streaks that have emerged recently in some of the countries."

Carter's Four Basic Points

Asked about Carter's views on settlements and "full autonomy," Peres said "The Begin government — all of us — agree with the Camp David language on full autonomy. Autonomy is less than independence and more than the present situation. But where exactly is the middle? It is about this point that we are now negotiating."

Peres was asked if Carter is closer to Sadat than to Premier Menachem Begin on autonomy. He replied, "If I understood correctly what he (Carter) told me, he is looking for a middle way between the two positions." Peres said Carter stated four "basic points." He said these were a united Jerusalem; no Palestinian state; no negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization; and keeping the "spirit" of the Camp David agreements.

Asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency if he had any indication of the views of Carter or others on sovereignty over all of Jerusalem, he answered, "no."

Favor Participation By Jordan

The Israeli Labor Party leader explained that "the majority" of his party has "some differences" with the Begin government about the West Bank, "namely, that we would like to see the Jordanians coming in and partaking in the negotiations

on the Palestinian issue and the West Bank so to build a Jordanian-Palestinian framework in which the Palestinian issue can find its fair solution in the future."

Asked about Carter's response to this, Peres said "He was very interested in it." He added, laughing, "I don't think he became a member of the Labor Party or Likud. I gathered from him he is not taking part in Israeli politics or vice versa."

The Bible And The West Bank

Peres was questioned about the view that "the Bible deeds the occupied territories to the Jews," an apparent reference by the reporter to the views expressed to Begin here last week by a group of Evangelical Christian ministers supporting Israel. Peres said, "The Bible is a document that deals with wider issues than just territories. I believe that Judaism is basically a moral commitment based on a homeland and that the Bible calls for peace, not just for territory."

"There is no doubt," he added, "that we have the right on the land. But we cannot deal just on historical assumptions. We have to look to the future and see how to guarantee the Jewish character of the State of Israel which is not just a numerical commitment but moral as well, and how to make peace with our neighbors. There is nothing in the Bible that forbids it."

Asked if the settlements issue is making the peace process more difficult, Peres said "I don't think the settlements as such are the issue. It is the future of the West Bank from which the settlement policy results. We have to decide the basic framework over the West Bank and then the settlement issue will become a matter of secondary nature."

An aide to Peres told the JTA that when Peres addressed an Israel Bonds rally in Baltimore last night, he warned that should a territorial compromise be reached with new borders between Israel and a "Jordanian-Palestinian state," Jewish settlements would be under foreign, Jordanian sovereignty.

Peres, who has also spoken in Miami, will be in New York over the weekend and will speak in Philadelphia and Boston next week before returning to Israel, the aide said. In addition to his meeting at the White House today, Peres met separately with Vance at the State Department. He was a guest at a breakfast at the Cosmos Club, arranged by Max Kampelman, a Washington lawyer who was a political supporter of the late Sen. Hubert Humphrey. Sens. Henry Jackson (D.Wash.) and Richard Stone (D.Fla.) were also at the breakfast. Peres is also scheduled to meet with Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker (R.Tenn.), and with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

ISRAEL VIEWS WITH GRAVE SERIOUSNESS RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 24 (JTA) — Israel today expressed the "grave seriousness" with which it views the Council of Europe's resolution adopted yesterday in Strasbourg, France calling for an amendment of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, recognizing Palestinian "right to self-determination" and condemning Israel for its settlement policy.

"Not only is this not a contribution to peace,"

a Foreign Ministry statement issued here said, "it is one of a number of recent moves that actually harm the ongoing peace process." The Camp David accords, the statement noted, were based on Resolution 242 and therefore "any attempt today to undermine the basis of the peace treaty cannot but be interpreted as a desire to damage the peace process itself." The statement also noted the failure of the Council resolution to condemn recent terrorist acts by the Palestine Liberation Organization such as the attack on Kibbutz Misgav Am April 7 and the attempt this week to blow up an El Al jumbo jet at the Zurich Airport.

The role of PLO terrorism was brought up yesterday by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir in his meeting here with the Ambassadors of the nine European Economic Community nations. He told them that the PLO was responsible for the deaths of at least 20 of the 40 soldiers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) who have been killed since the UN force was established two years ago.

Shamir observed that "People in Israel ask themselves why" the killings by Shi'ite villagers of two Irish soldiers serving with UNIFIL "seems to elicit much more interest and sympathy abroad than the killings of UNIFIL soldiers by the PLO."

According to Shamir, the "basic situation" in Lebanon is that it is not a free and independent country. "It is occupied by some 30,000 Syrian soldiers and by 15,000 assorted PLO terrorists. The Lebanese government cannot exercise control over these elements who wage their battle against Israel from Lebanese soil," he said. "This must be taken into account when the periodic violence in that country is assessed."

It was reported from Dublin, meanwhile, that 10 countries which contribute troops to UNIFIL have agreed in principle to a request by Ireland for an urgent meeting to discuss the situation in south Lebanon. It was not indicated when or where the meeting would be held. The 10 are Fiji, Ghana, Ireland, France, Norway, Holland, Nigeria, Nepal, Senegal and Italy.

UN COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON VIOLENCE IN LEBANON SINGLES OUT ISRAEL By Yitzhak Rabin

UNITED NATIONS, April 24 (JTA) — The Security Council voted 12-0 with three abstentions today to adopt a resolution deploring acts of violence and intervention in Lebanon but only Israel was singled out for blame. The United States, the Soviet Union and East Germany abstained. The Council action culminated a debate on the situation in Lebanon that began April 13 at the request of Lebanon.

Speaking directly after the vote, Israel's Ambassador to the UN Yehuda Blum, declared that the resolution and the Security Council's debate which led up to it were "marked by a striking lack of balance and also by selective conscience."

Privately, Israeli sources expressed "surprise" that the U.S. had only abstained in what they felt was a one-sided resolution singling out Israel for censure. They pointed out that the resolution failed to mention the terrorist attack on Kibbutz Misgav Am on April 7 which originated in Lebanon and was the reason for the incursion of Israeli forces into south Lebanon two days later. The resolution also did not mention the various terrorist groups of the Palestine Liberation Organization active in Lebanon.

U.S. Ambassador Donald McHenry said the U.S. abstained because the resolution is "unbal-

anced" inasmuch as it failed to mention the use of Lebanese territory to perpetrate acts of violence against Israel.

The resolution stated, in part, that the Security Council strongly deplores "any violation of Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity; Israeli military intervention into Lebanon; all acts of violence in violation of the general armistice agreement between Israel and Lebanon; provision of military assistance to the so-called 'de facto' forces." The de facto forces is the UN term for the Christian militia led by Maj. Saad Haddad.

The resolution also deplored "all acts of interference with the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization; all acts of hostility against UNIFIL or in or through the UNIFIL area of operations as inconsistent with Security Council resolutions" and "obstructions of UNIFIL's ability to confirm the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon."

Statement By The U.S.

McHenry, in his statement explaining why the U.S. abstained, said: "In this situation, the United States regards this resolution as an unbalanced and inadequate response to the problem. The important objective is to agree on practical measures to improve the conditions for UNIFIL's operations and to assure full cooperation with UNIFIL. At the same time, the resolution does not directly acknowledge the fact of cross-border terrorism against Israel which is one of the essential elements of the threat to peace in the region. Tragedies like that at Misgav Am are not referred to even by reference. We will therefore abstain."

EL AL PERSONNEL PRAISED FOR FOILING TERRORIST ATTEMPT

ZURICH, April 24 (JTA) — A Swiss police spokesman praised the vigilance of El Al personnel at Zurich Airport today for foiling an attempt to blow up a Tel Aviv-bound Israeli airliner with 47 aboard on Monday. The spokesman, Ulrich Hubacher, referred to the insistence by El Al employees that the suitcase of a suspected bomb-carrier be inspected a second time after an initial police search found nothing.

The suspect, who was carrying a forged passport, was identified as Andreas Roak, 26, a West German who is well-known to both German and Swiss police, having served 31 months in prison in Berlin for bank robbery. Roak was booked on the El Al flight but his nervous manner aroused the suspicion of a clerk at the check-in counter.

El Al security officers asked the police to search his suitcase because El Al is not equipped with an X-ray machine in Zurich. The second search, in which the lining was ripped out, yielded a powerful bomb attached to a device that would have detonated it when the plane reached a certain altitude.

According to initial press reports Roak was carrying a bomb and detonator taped to his body. Roak claimed after his arrest that he did not know he was carrying a bomb. The police have established that he was given the suitcase, the passport and money by a former convict, Uwe Rabe, 32, who he knew in prison. They are searching for Rabe who is believed to know the identity of a third man involved in the plot. Israeli intelligence claims the third man is a Palestinian.

CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 24 (JTA) — An organization calling itself the North American Coalition for Women in Israel has been established to deal with what it terms the grim reality of the lives of women

in Israel. The founding national conference took place here last week and for two-and-a-half days explored the personal, professional and religious status of Israeli women, according to Ellen Bob, editor of *The Journal*, the publication of the North Shore Jewish community in Salem, Mass., who will emigrate to Israel in 1981.

The declaration of principles adopted by the 200 women attending the conference stated that "we support the struggle for equality of Israeli women through our activism. We recognize that the preliminary basis of this activism is aliya, thereby sharing the responsibility of improving Israeli society."

The declaration called on the Knesset and government of Israel "to allow secular solutions for secular people and we demand full expression and legal recognition to all branches of Judaism. We call on the Orthodox rabbinate to increase their sensitivity to women's issues and to direct steps towards redressing sexual equality."

Cites Power Of Rabbinate

Lesley Hazelton, author of "Israeli Women: The Reality Behind the Myth," told the conference that despite Israel's Declaration of Independence's guarantee of equality irrespective of religion, race or sex, Israeli women face many legal and social obstacles to achieving equal rights, Ms. Bob reported. Primary among these, Hazelton said, is the absolute power vested in the Orthodox rabbinate by the Knesset in all matters of personal law. If feminism is to be achieved, she said, "there must be a separation of synagogue and state.... The real issue is the political establishment of Orthodox Judaism."

Shulamit Aloni, Civil Rights Party Knesset member, warned that the power of the rabbinate in areas of marriage and divorce mitigate against democracy. "What makes (Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shlomo) Goren's interpretations any better than mine?" she asked the audience. "The only place for imposed unity in a democracy is in the army."

Tamar Avidar, Attache for Women's Affairs of the Israeli Embassy, said that women's issues were not among the top priorities of the government of Premier Menachem Begin. The 92-member Commission on the Status of Women appointed during the government of Premier Yitzhak Rabin examined all aspects of Israeli life. It presented 241 recommendations to the Knesset last year, Avidar noted. The Begin government, however, has yet to take action on a single one of them, she said.

This is but one indication of the widespread belief that women's issues are secondary to "the better of the nation," according to Yoella Harsheli, author of the recently published "Behind the Goggles: Women activists are often told that their criticism is ill-timed and could only hurt Israel's public image, she stated.

Harsheli, who declines to call herself a feminist along with many of the other Israeli participants, disagrees. "To say there is a wrong time to criticize is a vote of non-confidence in Israel," she said. "Israel must not put up with anything that opposes our rights as human beings."

According to Ms. Bob, other speakers at the conference noted that among the obstacles to equality and the growth of the Israeli women's movement is traditionalism of Middle Eastern society, and the constant fear among women that their husbands, brothers and sons might be killed. The Declaration of Principles, in this regard,

stated that "peace in the Middle East will contribute to sexual equality in Israel. Jewish and Arab women working together can and should have an impact on solving the conflict."

The Coalition for Women in Israel was founded to support the efforts of the Israeli women's movement, to develop a support system for North American olim (women immigrants to Israel), and to provide education about the status of women in Israel, Ms. Bob reported.

These goals will be effected through the establishment of liaison in Israel; the development of a resource center; the publication of a newsletter, and the creation of local chugai nashim (women's groups).

The organization will be headquartered in New York and the organizers of the conference agreed to act as coordinators until elections could be held. The Israel Aliya Center and the North American Aliya Movement have been asked for organizational assistance, Ms. Bob stated. The conference was organized by an ad hoc group of New York feminist Zionists headed by Donna Nevel, co-director of the University Services Department of the American Zionist Youth Foundation. The conference was held in cooperation with more than 20 North American Jewish organizations and institutions.

NRP DECISION ON SETTLEMENTS

JERUSALEM, April 24 (JTA) — The executive of the National Religious Party announced a formal decision yesterday to require NRP Cabinet ministers and Knesset members to press for new legislation that would protect Jewish settlements on the West Bank from legal challenges in Israeli courts. The move is expected to end the month-long hunger strike by West Bank and Gaza Strip settlers who have been demanding a change in the legal status quo.

The firm language may satisfy the settlers, mostly Gush Emunim activists; but it amounts to less than an irrevocable commitment by the NRP. The religious party stated that an amendment to the existing laws was the "basis" for its participation in the coalition government. But it stopped short of stating that its future membership in the government depended on passage of the proposed legislation. At least some of the hunger strikers seemed prepared to end their demonstration after meeting with Premier Menachem Begin yesterday.

Although he gave them no assurances, he clearly sympathizes with their demands. The settlers stressed that their protest was not directed against Begin but against the moderate ministers who oppose any change in the legal status quo.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir presented the Cabinet with a list of legal options ranging from outright annexation of the West Bank to refutation of the status quo. Zamir himself offered no recommendation. Some sources said that "reading between the lines" of his presentation indicated that he personally favors the status quo.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Four Jewish militants were arrested Thursday after a night-long rampage through the West Bank Arab towns of Ramallah and El-Bireh in which the windows of at least 150 parked cars and many homes were smashed with hammers and rocks. No injuries were reported, but about 30 Ramallah residents have filed complaints with the local police. The militants are believed to be members of West Bank settlements who were retaliating for attacks on two Israeli buses in the Ramallah area earlier this week with rocks and, reportedly in one case, a hand grenade.

REPORT ON SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION

WASHINGTON, April 24 (JTA) -- Although 51,320 Jews left the USSR in 1979, a close analysis of the statistics and trends demonstrate that an evolving counter-trend was also taking form. In a report, "Jewish Emigration Trends from the USSR in 1979," released by the Soviet Jewry Research Bureau (SJRB) of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry at the organization's annual policy conference here, some time in the summer of 1979 a decision to cut down the rate of emigration was made in the highest Soviet circles.

Until the latter part of 1979, the exodus of Soviet Jews numbered approximately 4000 per month, the SJRB noted. However, the latter part of the year saw a steady decrease in the number of people actually leaving. Charlotte Jacobson, chairperson of the SJRB, said, "The number of visas issued by the Dutch Embassy in Moscow, representing Israel in the USSR, had decreased by November and December to 3600 and 3300, respectively. This sharp drop was later felt in Vienna with approximately 2800 arrivals in January and 3000 in February, representing a significant drop from the 1979 average."

SJRB director Elie Valk concluded that new restrictions, set in motion before the invasion of Afghanistan, have caused the fall-off. "While we cannot ignore the impact on emigration of the present international climate," said Valk, "the cutback should not be seen as a Soviet reaction to U.S. measures undertaken after the Afghanistan invasion."

Meaning Of New Restrictions

The restrictive measures reflect the wide-scale use of a new requirement for the issuance of an exit visa, according to the SJRB. Used only sporadically in the past, the prerequisite stipulates an invitation (visov) from "close or first degree relatives." This invitation is the necessary first step for most people to leave the USSR, Valk explained.

"The broad application of the new requirement began in May 1979, in Odessa, and slowly spread to Kharkov and Kiev, then to Kishinev and Tashkent. By the first quarter of 1980 it had touched Minsk, to some extent Moscow and was announced in Leningrad at the end of February. Not only have exit visas been denied, but initial applications are increasingly rejected by clerks if the affidavit of invitation is signed by a relative other than spouse, parents, children or siblings. In Kiev, where the restrictions are most severe, only parents and children qualify."

The effect of the new wave of refusals has been felt by Jews in the USSR with the creation of a new category of "internal immigrants," Valk said. These are persons who, for the most part, were not involved in Jewish activities. "In general, they are not psychologically prepared for the life of a refusenik," he stated.

Increasing Demand For Affidavits

The number of affidavits sent annually from Israel has increased from 1977 through the first half of 1979, the SJRB reported. In 1974-1977 an average of 39,000 affidavits were sent; this figure soared to 107,212 in 1978. During the first eight months of 1979, 96,000 were sent. The change in number was largely a result of the authorities' demand for affidavits from close relatives. The approximate figure reported by the SJRB indicates that 128,000 such invitations were sent from Israel

in 1979.

The SJRB said the increasing demand can be attributed to: the sharp increase in all manifestations of anti-Semitism; worsening of USSR's economic conditions; widespread rumors which stated that because of the 1980 Olympic Games, applications will not be received after January, 1979; or generous assistance to Jewish immigrants in Western countries, especially the U.S., Canada or Australia.

The SJRB conducted its own study of affidavits sent to the USSR in the last 12 years and compared those figures with the results of the recently published Soviet census. SJRB's figures indicated that 598,100 Jews were sent invitations from Israel from 1968-1979, of whom 228,700 received exit visas and reached Vienna. The difference indicates that approximately 370,000 Jews in the USSR had considered emigration to the extent of seeking invitations from Israel.

According to the analysis, taking into account the official Jewish population figure of 1,811,000 according to the January 1979 census, there are approximately 1,760,000 remaining Soviet Jews. Approximately 20 percent of them have considered emigration. Some demographers estimate the number of Jews in the USSR as 2,200,000 in 1979, and 2,500,000 in 1970. Using this figure, 17.2 percent of the Soviet Jewish population asked for invitations at least once, with 9.0 percent having left since January 1970.

ARTHUR WILNER IS INTERN AT JTA

NEW YORK, April 24 (JTA) -- Arthur Wilner, a senior at the Ramaz School has begun a six-week internship at the Jewish Telegraphic Agency as part of Ramaz's work study project, a program in which senior students work in various job fields on a totally voluntary basis. Wilner specializes in creative writing but is also involved in the field of journalism, ranging from an extensive writing course he took last summer at Cornell University to the position he holds as contributing editor of his school's paper, "The Ram Page."

Wilner is engaged in many communal and scholastic activities. Among them, he is co-chairman of Ramaz's publicity committee, a member of the school's computer and current events clubs, and he is greatly dedicated to his synagogue's youth organization. However, his main interests lie in the realm of performing arts. He is an active member of his school's English Dramatics Society, and hopes to direct one of its productions by the end of the school year.

PLIGHT OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS

NEW YORK, April 24 (JTA) -- A scathing indictment of those leaders in Israel and in the World Zionist movement who fail to engage in vigorous action to rescue the remnants of the Falasha Jews in Ethiopia was made by Dr. Graenum Berger, founder and executive vice president of the American Association for Ethiopian (Falashas) Jews, who has recently brought to Israel 32 Falasha Jews with funds raised by his own organization.

Addressing a joint forum of the American Jewish League for Israel and Hadasah Associates, Berger asserted that after 32 years of existence Israel only has 370 Falasha Jews, an infinitesimal number considering that "tens of thousands of Falasha Jews have been slaughtered in recent years and many sold into slavery with more thousands languishing in prisons." He warned that unless drastic rescue efforts are launched, the estimated 20,000 remaining Falasha survivors will share the fate of their brethren.