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CABINET REITERATES "NATIONAL CONSENSUS" ON JERUSALEM

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 6 (JTA) — The Cabinet today formally recorded expressions of "displeasure" by several ministers with the U.S. abstention in the United Nations Security Council's June 30 vote on a resolution condemning Israel's practices in Jerusalem. There was no official Cabinet resolution on the subject.

Cabinet Secretary Arye Nair told reporters afterwards, "I am authorized to reiterate the Israel Government's position, which is based on the national consensus on Jerusalem — namely the city of Jerusalem, which was reunited in a legal act of national self-defense, will remain forever one city, indivisible evermore, and will forever be the capital of Israel as of right."

The Cabinet today also heard a report sent by Israel's chief negotiator in the autonomy talks, Interior Minister Yosef Burg, on his meetings in Washington last week which resulted in an agreement with the Egyptian chief negotiator, Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and U.S. special Ambassador Sol Linowitz to resume the negotiations in Cairo, beginning July 10 (See separate story.)

Burg indicated that President Carter and his Administration are pressing for substantial progress soon but that Egypt, it appears to the Israeli negotiators, would prefer the talks to drag on until after the American Presidential elections in November. Burg wrote that Carter had suggested that the three parties compile a new framework agreement for autonomy that would highlight areas of accord and play down those of discord. But both Israel and Egypt rejected the idea.

Ministers Differ On Jerusalem Bill

The Cabinet discussed the controversial Knesset bill affirming United Jerusalem as Israel's capital, an issue that split hardliners and moderates among the ministers. The bill was submitted in May by Gula Cohen of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction and referred to the Knesset's legal committee. Last week, in a move which coincided with the Security Council's resolution on Jerusalem, the committee approved the measure and sent it to the Knesset for a first reading.

At today's Cabinet meeting, Transport Minister Haim Landau of Herut demanded that the government support the bill. Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich of the Liberal Party was opposed. He said that if the bill had come before the Cabinet he would have voted against it. "Cohen succeeded in maneuvering the government to dance to her tune," Ehrlich said.

AUTONOMY TALKS TO RESUME THIS WEEK WITHOUT DEADLINE FOR AGREEMENT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, July 6 (JTA) — Egypt, Israel and the United States will resume negotiations on autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, probably this Thursday, July 10, in Cairo. But there will be no deadline to achieve agreement. The negotiations were suspended in May by

President Anwar Sadat because of lack of progress. The announcement that the three parties have set a date for their resumption was made at the State Department Thursday following a series of meetings between President Carter, U.S. special Ambassador Sol Linowitz, and the chief negotiators of Israel and Egypt, Interior Minister Yosef Burg and Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali. There were no indications that Carter offered any special inducement to revive the stalled talks.

Linowitz said at a press conference that the agreement to resume negotiations "does not mean differences have been overcome" but "resolution of the differences can best be achieved within the context of negotiations." He said the U.S. has not offered a "draft" plan but that "we put ideas." He did not elaborate. He emphasized that "today we know both parties are determined to go forward," a "mechanism is set up" and issues are being "ventilated." When Burg was asked about a deadline for agreement, he replied, "We have a target but not a target date." He said Israel wanted the discussions to go on until an agreement is achieved.

Egyptian Explains Position

Asked what altered Egypt's position since it was Sadat who suspended the talks, Ali said, "We agreed everything is negotiable" and "we have to negotiate and have to come to a conclusion on every point. I hope by the Camp David agreements we will come to good conclusions for every part of the area and a comprehensive peace." Asked if Jerusalem is now on "up front issue," Ali said "There is no priority" of negotiating issues. He emphasized that "everything is to be negotiated under the Camp David accords and implement (United Nations Security Council Resolution) 242."

Ali also said "Both of us (he and Burg) agree publicly to keep the tone down and not explore issues not under discussion." He made that remark when questioned by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency about a statement made a day earlier by Osama el Baz, a member of the Egyptian negotiating team. Baz said on the ABC television program "Good Morning America" that Israel should refrain from actions that "poison the atmosphere of the negotiations." He mentioned in that connection "Jerusalem and the settlements."

Burg was asked if Jerusalem would be discussed. He replied, "It will be discussed but not negotiated." He explained that discussion meant "clarifying our points" but insisted that "Jerusalem is the indivisible capital of Israel." When Ali was asked about Jerusalem, he replied, "We are negotiating everything. We are not against unity" for the city but Egypt will discuss its final status "with others."

Burg agreed with Ali that the Israeli government is "very much interested" in having the Palestinian Arabs join the talks as provided for at Camp David.

RELIGIOUS, SECULAR JEWS

BRAWL IN NEGEV TOWN

By Yitzhak Shargil

NETIVOT, July 6 (JTA) — A simmering "kulturokrop" between secular Jews and the Orthodox majority in this normally quiet Negev townships erupted into angry demonstrations and

street brawls over the weekend requiring intervention by police. There were some minor injuries but no arrests reported. The police estimated that at least 4000 of the town's 10,000 population participated in the melee which began Friday night and continued intermittently through Saturday. The town was quiet today but police patrolled the streets.

The basic issue is the insistence by the Orthodox that the growing secular community conform to their way of life. The non-observant charge religious coercion by the municipal leaders who are Orthodox. The immediate cause of the disturbances was the municipal swimming pool which is open six days a week — three days for men and three days for women. The secular community has not demanded that the pool be kept open on the Sabbath but they insist that it be open to men and women on the same days so that families can enjoy the facility together.

The Orthodox will not tolerate mixed swimming. The Orthodox also force all children in the town to attend a religious school — the only one in Netivot. The non-religious population has demanded its right to a secular, co-educational school. Otherwise, they are forced to send their youngsters to schools in other communities which poses problems and expenses in addition to the taxes they pay in Netivot.

These conflicts came to a head Friday night when secular Jews demonstrated in protest against the local authorities and were confronted by large numbers of yeshiva students. Fist-fights broke out on the main street. Police restored order but the brawls erupted again on Saturday.

U.S.-ISRAEL OIL TALKS END WITHOUT AGREEMENT

By David Landau and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, July 6 (JTA) — The talks between Israel and the U.S. over the latter's commitment to supply Israel with oil in an emergency, which ended inconclusively last week was discussed at today's Cabinet session.

Energy Minister Yitzhak Mordechai reported what he characterized as the "tough" position taken by the American delegation, headed by Assistant Secretary of State Dean Hinton. The main difference between the two countries apparently is over what constitutes an "emergency." The Americans say they are committed to supply Israel with oil if Israel cannot obtain supplies sufficient for its needs from other sources.

According to Mordechai, the agreement was intended to apply to any emergency such as the present situation in which Israel is forced to buy one-third of its oil on the spot market at exorbitant prices. The agreement has a life time of 15 years.

When the talks ended last Wednesday, Israel and the U.S. issued a joint statement saying that some progress had been made. The discussions are expected to be resumed in Washington in the near future.

U.S. NAVY MARKS 4TH OF JULY AT ASHDOD

By Yitzhak Shargil

ASHDOD, July 6 (JTA) — The USS Richard E. Byrd, a destroyer attached to the Sixth Fleet, fired a 21 gun salute here Friday to mark the 204th anniversary of American independence. Israeli Navy missile boats fired a return salute.

The Byrd and her sistership, USS Bromley

were in port to celebrate the Fourth of July and provide shore leave for their crews, a total of 610 officers and men. Both American ships were decorated with flags from stem to stern. Their crews stood at attention on deck as the salutes were fired.

Last week, an Israeli military spokesman denied a report in the Evening Standard of London that the Sixth Fleet was planning joint exercises with the Israeli Navy. According to the report from the Standard's Washington bureau, the U.S. is preparing plans for American forces to cooperate with friendly countries outside the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in case of emergency. The newspaper said the American-Israeli naval exercises would include cooperative flights by U.S. carrier-based aircraft and planes of the Israel Air Force. The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv refused to comment.

BEGIN PASSES CRITICAL PERIOD

JERUSALEM, July 6 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin passed the critical 72 hour period following his "mild heart attack" last Monday and his doctor is satisfied with his progress, according to a report from Hadassah Hospital Friday. Dr. Mervyn Gottesman, who is treating Begin, told reporters that his prognosis is good but he will have to remain in the hospital for 2-3 weeks and in the intensive care unit for several more days.

Gottesman said the latter was not "medically necessary" but advisable because the staff of the unit knows the Premier and the care and monitoring there is especially good.

BRAZILIAN JEWS ASK POPE FOR VATICAN SUPPORT OF UNITED JERUSALEM

By David Marcus

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 6 (JTA) — A 12-member delegation representing Brazil's Jewish community met with Pope John Paul II at the Santo America Catholic College in Sao Paulo Thursday night at the Pontiff's request. They delivered a memorandum asking for a Vatican pronouncement in favor of an undivided Jerusalem as Israel's capital and presented the Pope with a silver menorah as a gift on the occasion of his visit to Brazil.

The memorandum also called on the Vatican to support secure and recognized borders for Israel and to pronounce against the persecution of Jews in the Soviet Union and in Arab countries. The Pope, in the course of a 400-word statement, told the delegation, "It is a very happy occasion for me to manifest and tighten the bonds uniting the Catholic Church with Judaism, thus reaffirming the importance of the relations developing between us also in Brazil." He called on Jews and Christians "to increase the value of our common heritage in solving the problems afflicting present day society."

The delegation was headed by Isaac Schiffnagel, vice president of the Brazilian Jewish Confederation. It included one rabbi, Fritz Pinkus, chairman of the Committee for Jewish-Christian Fraternity in Sao Paulo. Others included the chairmen of the Brazilian B'nai B'rith and of the local Jewish federations in Rio de Janeiro, Porto Alegre, Belo Horizonte, Bahia, Belem and Recife.

The menorah presented to the Pope as a "symbol of life and light," was crafted by the noted Brazilian-Jewish sculptor, Livio Levy.

JEWISH AGENCY TO CONSOLIDATE WORK ON "PROJECT RENEWAL"

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 6 (JTA) — The Jewish Agency Assembly has decided to combine all units of the Jewish Agency dealing with "Project Renewal" into a single, full scale department within the Agency as a means of resolving many of the problems which have bedeviled the massive slum clearance and social rehabilitation project which Israel has undertaken in partnership with world Jewry.

The plan, proposed by Swiss millionaire Nissim Gaon, head of the World Sephardi Federation and supported by Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, was adopted Thursday, the final day of the Assembly's annual session here. The Assembly also called for "streamlining and simplifying" the bureaucratic procedures involved in "Project Renewal." Observers predicted intense rivalry over the chairmanship of the new department.

Earlier, Dulzin proposed a separation of powers between the government and the Jewish Agency with respect to "Project Renewal" as a way to overcome the bureaucratic obstacles which have caused delay. He explained, in an interview, that this could be achieved two ways: The Agency could take over exclusive responsibility for a proportion of the 160 slum communities targeted for renewal, including everything from building and rebuilding homes and public institutions to establishing or improving social welfare and community services; or the government could be responsible solely for the building work in the targeted neighborhoods while the Agency would take care of the social and community facilities.

Dulzin Proposal Opposed By Yadin

Dulzin said the proposal was his own at the moment but he was sure it would be endorsed — enthusiastically — by the Jewish Agency and the United Jewish Appeal-United Israel Appeal leaderships.

It was promptly and flatly rejected however by Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin who is the top government official in the sphere of social improvements and rehabilitation. An aide to Yadin said that the present arrangement whereby the Jewish Agency and the various relevant government ministries co-operated under a roof committee was "the best possible" and that Yadin, leader of the Democratic Movement in Premier Menachem Begin's coalition government, "would under no circumstances" agree to Dulzin's plan. The Deputy Premier expressed "surprise" that Dulzin had not consulted with him before unveiling his plan publicly.

Dulzin, for his part, stressed that world Jewry's commitment to "Project Renewal" — a commitment which, in practical terms, calls for an expenditure of \$600 million over the next five years — remains firm and unshaken. He said however that the project could not, as had first been thought, produce results within five years. "It is a task for this whole decade," he said.

Dulzin made his proposal for separate functions against the background of growing unrest among overseas Jewish leaders and communities at the slow progress of "Project Renewal." This was manifested during the Jewish Agency Assembly. Gaon was especially scathing in his attack on the government's bureaucracy which he felt was holding up the project. Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem spoke in a similar vein although he subsequently modified his criticism of the government in

a letter published in the Jerusalem Post. Gaon recommended the separate department. Kollek, for his part, urged that local authorities be given a much greater role in implementing the project as opposed to the government and the Jewish Agency.

Dulzin said in his interview that he favored the separate department idea. "But that would not tackle the basic problem," he contended. He noted that there was a bureaucracy in both the government and the Jewish Agency and that, when they were required to cooperate closely, as they are under the present framework for "Project Renewal," the bureaucracy is not merely doubled but increased "tenfold." He said it was for that reason that he proposed a separation of functions.

Cites Agency's Successes

He said he was confident that he could cut through the bureaucracy at the Agency. "I assemble my department heads around this table and we thrash out the issues," he told reporters in his office. In the government, on the other hand, there are questions of prestige among the ministers and their ministries which only add to the difficulties, he said.

Dulzin said the Jewish Agency had amply demonstrated over the past few years that it was capable of undertaking a project of this scope. He noted that in a number of towns — Ofakim, Nahariya, Kiryat Matzkin, Netivot and elsewhere — the Agency's housing company, Amigur, had transformed local neighborhoods from run-down slums into "quality of life" suburbs. He said the Agency's approach was comprehensive, refurbishing homes, establishing community centers, health centers and other communal services.

In contrast, he claimed, it took a full year for diaspora leaders, those from the U.S. in particular, to persuade the Israeli government that "Project Renewal" was not merely a matter of housing but a comprehensive rehabilitation effort in which the local people must be given a participatory role from the very start and in which every facet of living must be dealt with.

Dulzin argued that the Jewish Agency was thoroughly experienced in the building field, having built some 700 schools around the country through the Education Fund. The actual work is let on contracts which are bid for, and this is how the Agency would approach the building challenges of "Project Renewal" if it were given "say 50" renewal neighborhoods to deal with from start to finish, he said.

Project "Alive And Well"

The chairman of Project Renewal's international committee, Jerold Hoffberger, assured reporters last week that the project was "alive and well" despite the bad press it has received. Hoffberger attributed some of the delays to the need to involve local people from the target neighborhoods in the planning and early execution stages. He stressed that this was a vital and positive need but time-consuming.

The debates over Project Renewal at the Assembly attracted groups of demonstrators from the "Ohalim" (tent-dwellers) movement — slum families, mainly Jews of Oriental origin — who have been erecting tent cities on State-owned land to protest the government's failure to provide them with decent, affordable housing.

MAX FISHER CALLS FOR END TO PARTY STRUCTURE IN WZO, SAYS IT INTERFERES WITH "EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING"

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 6 (JTA) — In a series of hard-hitting speeches here last week and an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the veteran American Jewish leader Max Fisher of Detroit, called on the World Zionist Organization to overhaul its structure which is based on political parties. Fisher, who is chairman of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors, attended the Agency's annual Assembly here and also addressed the meeting of the Zionist General Council which preceded it.

Fisher claimed that the party system is an anachronism which has repeatedly proven detrimental to the Jewish Agency. "We have seen how party politics can interfere with the effective functioning of the WZO and the Jewish Agency," Fisher said in a speech to the Council. Leon Dulzin, chairman of the WZO and Jewish Agency Executives, proposed a "retreat" next fall where all of the 62 members of the Agency's Board of Governors would study the issue in depth. Fisher said he was encouraged by that response.

Says Politics Exclude Men Of "Excellence"

The Jewish Agency was reconstituted in 1970 under Fisher and the late Louis Pincus. Its Executive is divided evenly between WZO representatives and representatives of the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal. The Board of Governors is similarly divided, but the Agency Executive has a slight preponderance of WZO people and, most important, its departments are headed by WZO party nominees.

In his speech to the Council, Fisher spoke of "good men — men of high qualifications and excellence" who are excluded from key posts "because they are from the wrong party."

In an interview with the JTA, Fisher recalled the tough battles he and other UJA leaders had with the WZO establishment over the years on key appointments. Most recently, he and his close colleagues of the UJA vetoed two nominees of Premier Menachem Begin for the office of WZO Treasurer — Rafael Kottlowitz and Yoram Aridor. They held out for the appointment of Laborite Akiva Levinsky who, according to all accounts, has been a marked success in that post.

Similarly, Fisher disclosed that it was at his insistence that certain ranking Jewish Agency officials — among them Aliya Department director Yehuda Dominitz — retained their posts despite the wishes of the chairmen of their departments to replace them with political appointees. "I'm not so naive as to think you can sweep away 50 years of Zionist politics overnight," Fisher told the JTA. Overall, however, he said he was gratified by what has been achieved during the past ten years, since the Agency was reconstituted. He spoke of streamlining, efficiency and depoliticization. Politics, he noted, is the art of the possible.

There Are No "Non-Zionists" In Agency

"But the time has come to take a leap forward" to reduce the influence of the political party structure in Zionist affairs, he said. He has consistently played down the traditional differentiation between "Zionists" and "non-Zionists" within the Jewish Agency. "There are no non-Zionists in the Jewish Agency," he said in his

speech to the General Council. He explained that all the so-called "non-Zionists" believe equally with the Zionists in Jewish survival, in maintaining the Jewish heritage and in the centrality of Israel in Jewish life. Moreover, he said, the Jewish national and communal organizations in the diaspora, especially in North America, are engaged in "Zionist" work — building up young leadership; reaching out to the campuses, expanding Jewish education, and fostering aliya from the West — tasks also engaged in by the WZO.

Fisher observed in that connection that the anachronistic division between "Zionists" and "non-Zionists" made for "duplicated efforts, wasted opportunities and frequently the inability of one group to make use of the resources possessed by the other." According to Fisher, the so-called "non-Zionists" are really "new Zionists" and their work and efforts should be properly coordinated with those of the WZO.

In Accord With Dulzin

But party politics within the WZO sometimes seems to overshadow the actual Zionist goals of the organization and stand in the way of such coordination, Fisher said. "They sometimes put their party affiliation before the ideology they make speeches about," he told the JTA.

Fisher said he seems to have struck a responsive chord with Dulzin and therefore was hopeful that there would be progress toward a reassessment of the WZO structure. He said the "retreat" proposed by Dulzin could become a point of no return from which the participants would emerge committed to overhaul the WZO's antiquated party structure.

In his speech to the Council, Fisher posed these questions: "Does the present structure and political base of the WZO reflect the realities of present day Jewish life in the diaspora? Does this political base and structure operate against the WZO in implementing its programs in the free Jewish communities? Is it not time for a change?"

He added, "May I suggest that you give urgent consideration to restructuring and transforming the WZO in such a way that it does reflect present day Jewish realities!"

NAZI-HUNTER SAYS MENGELE CLOSE TO CAPTURE

VIENNA, July 6 (JTA) — Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal said that the notorious death camp doctor, Josef Mengele, is closer to capture than at any time in the past 35 years, despite his narrow escape in Bolivia a short time ago.

Wiesenthal, who heads the Nazi war crimes documentation center here, said, according to the weekly Allgemeine Juedische Wochenschau, that Mengele evaded being apprehended recently because the Bolivian police did not take the necessary measures. However, aides of the Nazi-hunter photographed Mengele's house, his car and his yacht and they know his present hiding place. Mengele, who was the doctor at Auschwitz, was responsible for selecting inmates for the gas chambers and performed inhuman medical experiments on Jews and other inmates resulting in their deaths or mutilation.

"Chances to catch him are now better than ever before," Wiesenthal said. He has offered a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the war criminal.