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ISRAEL PREPARING RESPONSE TO SADAT; RESPONSE DUE FOR DELIVERY TUESDAY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4 (JTA) — A special Cabinet meeting today, which was devoted to a discussion of the letter President Anwar Sadat of Egypt sent to Premier Menachem Begin yesterday asking for Israeli "clarifications" which would enable the autonomy talks to resume, decided to have a special ministerial-committee draft Israel's response to Sadat. The response is due to be delivered to Sadat tomorrow.

While the contents of the letter were not publicly disclosed, it was understood that Sadat asked Begin for private assurances that despite the Knesset action last Thursday making united Jerusalem the capital of Israel, Jerusalem is still subject to negotiations within the context of the autonomy talks. According to reports from Cairo, Sadat's letter also stated that it was up to Israel when talks on autonomy would resume.

At a meeting with reporters in Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali said that Sadat in his letter urged Begin "to shoulder his commitments under the Camp David agreements and not put obstacles in the way of peace." Asked when the talks might resume, Ali said "It is not our problem now. It is up to Israel to decide the way." He added that the Knesset legislation on Jerusalem was illegal and contrary to the Camp David accords.

Political circles in Jerusalem observed that Jerusalem is not mentioned in the accords but is the subject of accompanying side letters in which each of the parties — Egypt, Israel and the United States — set down their positions on Jerusalem. In Israel's view, these circles said, the new law on Jerusalem "does not deviate from the position expressed by Premier Begin in his letter to President Carter and therefore there is no place for a new Egyptian reaction."

See Stall Till U.S. Presidential Election

The feeling in Jerusalem is that the Egyptians want to postpone the autonomy talks until after the Presidential election in the U.S. Anger is also being expressed over the frequent difficulties the Egyptians have created in resuming the talks. Begin said yesterday that if Sadat wanted the negotiations to resume he should do so "in consultation with all the parties, and not only when the Egyptian President wants to do it."

Interior Minister Yosef Burg, who is also the head of Israel's autonomy negotiating team, said: "We don't stand there waiting for someone to blow the whistle to come. Of course, such interruptions do not help the negotiations."

Iran Denounces Israel

Meanwhile, according to reports from Teheran, Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr said today that Israel had committed an act of aggression by declaring that united Jerusalem is Israel's capital. Charging that Israel was entirely dependent on the United States, he was quoted by the official Pars news agency as stating: "We must free the Arabs and Jews from this [Israel] puppet government of America before the Israeli generals are able to plan and implement a coup in

Iran." He also urged Islamic movements throughout the world to "join hands in liberating all Islamic and non-Islamic lands from the domination of the super powers," meaning the U.S. and Israel.

In Vienna, King Hussein of Jordan, who paid a three-day informal visit to Austria where he met with Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and President Rudolf Kirchschloeger, said the Jerusalem law is an insurmountable obstacle to peace in the Middle East. He termed the Knesset action "the gravest recent development" of the Israeli government. Hussein warned governments who might be thinking about moving their embassies to Jerusalem that Arab countries as well as the whole Islamic world might break off diplomatic relations with them. (Washington reaction, P. 3.)

BEGIN REVERSES HIS VIEW ON HOLDING EARLY ELECTIONS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin today reversed his stand on early elections. His office issued a statement saying that there was no need to hold the elections for the 10th Knesset earlier than their legal date — November, 1981.

The statement was in contrast to remarks made by Begin during the Cabinet session yesterday in favor of early elections, next May or June. Those remarks were quickly interpreted by political analysts as the first shot in the 1981 elections, and caused an immediate general stirring in the political community.

Although Begin's statement came a propos consultations with Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich — it now seems that they were not sufficiently thought out. Influentials at the Likud argued that agreeing to hold early elections — as the opposition has demanded for some time — the Likud actually admitted its own weakness.

Begin's statement at the Cabinet meeting was made in passing, although Ehrlich said after the Cabinet session that he and Begin decided on that direction a few weeks ago in discussions they held. According to Ehrlich, a member of the Liberal Party, Begin and he felt that the Likud coalition would do better to seize the initiative and schedule an election on its terms rather than wait to face defections by members of small coalition factions and no-confidence motions by the Labor Alignment opposition.

Leading Likud members, however, argued today that agreeing to hold early elections, as the opposition has demanded for some time, would be tantamount to having the Likud admit that it was in a weak position.

Background Of Begin's Remarks

Begin's remarks yesterday were originally understood as an attempt to prevent the downfall of the government due to an offensive by the Alignment. The government now has a narrow majority of two in the 120-member Knesset. The Democratic Movement is scheduled to convene later this week, following the resignation last week of Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir, with renewed demands to quit the coalition, which could bring the government down. In the National Religious Party there are also strong voices in favor of early elections. Thus, there was a growing feeling in government circles that the crisis could come at any minute — and this was the background of the discussions between Begin and Ehrlich, and last weekend with NRP leader Interior Minister Yosef Burg.

There is a growing support for early elections

in the NRP due to the bitter rivalry between Labor Party leaders Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin. Originally, the NRP refrained from pushing toward early elections for fear the Alignment might win a total majority in the elections and would no longer need the NRP to form a coalition. However, the general assumption in the NRP now is that due to the Peres-Rabin rivalry, the Alignment would not be able to form the next Cabinet without the support of the NRP.

ITALIAN JEWS CONCERNED OVER TERRORIST ATTACK IN ANTWERP

By Lisa Palmieri Billigg

ROME, Aug. 4 (JTA) — The terrorist attack on a group of Jewish youths in Antwerp July 27, which resulted in the death of 15-year-old David Kohane, and injuries to 20 other persons, has shocked Italian Jews. After the Syrian-born killer, 25-year-old Abdel Wahid, revealed that he had left for his mission from Rome and was due to return here, concern spread in the Jewish community.

Jews want additional safety measures to be adopted when the large Jewish school on the Tiber reopens in September. For several years, parents of the 700-800 children from nursery to high school age attending the school, have organized a "father patrol" on constant guard outside the building. Obviously, however, additional security measures are needed to prevent a repetition of the Antwerp tragedy.

After that demonstration that defenseless Jewish children can become targets of Arab terrorism, said one Jewish shopowner in the center of Rome, "we have to double their protection wherever groups of Jewish youngsters gather."

Roman Jews have been prone to quick reactions of anxiety in the post-war years, a direct aftermath of the SS roundups directed by Marshal Kesselring and SS Col. Herbert Kappler in 1943, in which nearly 2000 Roman Jews lost their lives in concentration camps. The Antwerp tragedy confirmed their worst fears.

Italy Is Starting Point For Terrorists

Rome, and Italy in general, are often chosen by Arab terrorist groups as starting points for their actions. Over a year ago a representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Italy was arrested along with three Italian collaborators for having received and transported on Italian territory two Strela ground-to-air missiles of the same type that were used by a group of Palestinian terrorists several years earlier in an attempt to down an El Al plane in Fiumicino.

The Italian Jewish community is anxiously waiting to hear what concrete support was offered to the Antwerp terrorist in Rome, and what measures will be taken in Belgium and in Italy to prevent repetitions of similar tragedies. Most certainly Italian Jews will demand some kind of increased protection, especially to avoid scenes of panic when the schools reopen.

Solidarity Campaign Organized

Meanwhile, in developments related to the terrorist bombing in Antwerp, a group of Dutch Jewish women in Amsterdam have formed a committee, Mothers Help Jewish Children, to organize a solidarity campaign and raise funds for those who were wounded in the attack. The money collected will be donated to the Agudat Israel in Antwerp, of which the victims were members, to

enable those who were wounded to have a holiday after having recovered.

In Paris, Zionist militants tried to occupy the local Palestine Liberation Organization office in protest against what they called the "Antwerp bloodbath" but were prevented from doing so by the police. The militants said in a statement that the attack in Antwerp was the work of the PLO and that they could not tolerate the presence of a PLO office in Paris.

PALESTINIAN GROUP ACCEPTED INTO INTERNATIONAL VOLLEYBALL FEDERATION

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Aug. 4 (JTA) — Two Israeli delegates attending the International Volleyball Federation in Moscow sent a cable to Israel saying that they were unable to prevent the acceptance of a Palestinian group, Falastin, into the federation. "Our opposition was hardly heard," the cable stated. "We were happy that we were not ousted from the European group. Falastin was able to muster a strong majority." Israel, as a member of the European group, had already been invited to take part in the European volleyball championship game in Finland next year.

The two Israelis, Chaim Karpowski, of the Israel Sports Federation's volleyball committee, and Moshe Rash, of the federation's executive, were dispatched to Moscow last week where the 1980 Olympics was being held after a cable was received here warning that the International Volleyball Federation would discuss proposals to drop Israel from membership and coopt the Palestinian sports group.

Falastin is now a member of six international federations — volleyball, wrestling, handball, basketball, table tennis and weight lifting — and therefore qualified to apply for membership in the International Olympic Committee. A senior Palestine Liberation Organization delegate in Moscow has already announced that the PLO will apply to the committee so that the Falastin group may take part in the next Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1984.

WASHINGTON RESOLUTION TO HONOR SWEDE WHO HELPED SAVE MANY JEWS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 (JTA) — The only two European-born members of Congress are sponsoring a resolution to honor Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who is credited with saving some 90,000 Hungarian Jews from Nazi death camps during World War II. Rep. Ted Weiss (D-NY), who fled from Hungary with his family in 1938, and Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minn.), who was born in Berlin and left Germany with his family in 1936, have introduced identical resolutions in the House and Senate.

The resolution notes Wallenberg was sent by the Swedish government to Hungary in the summer of 1944 at the request of the American War Refugees Board, founded earlier that year to organize the rescue of persecuted individuals. In Nazi-occupied Budapest, he issued protective Swedish passports to 20,000 Hungarian Jews, giving them Swedish citizenship and assuring free passage out of Hungary. He assisted an additional 70,000 Jews through collaboration with other neutralist envoys in Hungary. Albert Einstein nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1949.

A statement by Weiss says that after Soviet forces defeated the Germans in Hungary in December, 1944, Soviet authorities, "apparently unaware of his true mission in Budapest," placed him in "protective custody." The Soviets "denied any knowledge of Wallenberg until 1957 when they reported that a prisoner known by that name had died in his cell 10 years earlier," Weiss said. "Periodic reports, how-

ever, have indicated that Wallenberg might be alive in the Soviet Union." The resolution directs the State Department to investigate this matter and seek his release if he is still incarcerated.

Noting that if Wallenberg is alive he would be 68 years old today, the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies at Yeshiva University in Los Angeles, issued a request to "all Americans to commemorate the legacy of this giant of humanity." Last January, the Swedish government released documents showing that its diplomatic efforts with the Soviet Union have not fully clarified Wallenberg's status.

Due to this uncertainty, a Free Raoul Wallenberg Committee has been formed by prominent Swedish and American citizens. The Swedish Raoul Wallenberg Association and the International Sakharov Committee will hold an informal hearing soon to analyze the information now known and decide on further action on Wallenberg's behalf.

U.S. STEERS MIDDLE COURSE BETWEEN ISRAEL, EGYPT ON THE JERUSALEM LAW

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 (JTA) — The United States today sought to steer a middle course between Israel's Jerusalem law and Egypt's contention that it was an obstacle to peace, and continued to suggest that the law should not block continuation of the West Bank-Gaza autonomy negotiations.

"I am not going to choose sides in a situation like this," the State Department chief spokesman, John Trottner, said. "We hope and expect the talks to go forward." He emphasized, "Right now we are watching and waiting," an allusion to Israel's pending response to President Anwar Sadat's letter to Premier Menachem Begin in which he alleged a law is "an obstacle" to the negotiations.

Indicating that the allegations by Sadat are not a threat to Egypt's suspension of the talks, as it had done last May, Trottner noted that Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali had said Egypt had not suspended the talks but rather delayed the opening of ministerial talks that had been scheduled today in Alexandria.

"We have made clear to Egypt we want the autonomy talks to continue, and, of course, the Israelis know that also," Trottner said. When asked if the U.S. is seeking to influence Sadat, he said "We are just where we were insofar as the status of the talks are concerned, but we are waiting for the other two parties to work out this difficulty."

Trottner seemed to agree with the Egyptian criticism of the Jerusalem law. Reiterating that it is "unhelpful," he again referred to it as "a unilateral action" to try to affect the status of Jerusalem "outside the framework of negotiations." But, he said, "We don't see it as an obstacle" to the talks. "We are making it clear to both sides we hope and expect these talks to go forward."

Insofar as he knew, Trottner said, President Carter received a copy of Sadat's letter to Begin but no other message. He also said "plans are not changed" for U.S. special negotiator Sol Linowitz to go to Cairo about Aug. 15 to resume personal negotiations with Ali and his Israeli counterpart, Interior Minister Yosef Burg. He emphasized, "We don't intend to make a reply to the Sadat letter," and he declined to define the difference between "delay" and "suspension."

MEXICAN LEGISLATOR CRITICIZES HIS COUNTRY'S VOTE FOR UN RESOLUTION

By Chaim Lazdeiski

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 4 (JTA) — Mexico's vote for the United Nations General Assembly resolution demanding that Israel vacate all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, was sharply criticized last weekend by a leader of Mexico's Parliament, Gerardo Molina of the Accion Nacional Party. He said this was a wrong direction for Mexico to take and recalled that Mexico's vote for the Assembly's infamous Zionism equals racism resolution in 1975 sparked a great deal of criticism of President Luis Echeverria at the time.

The legislator said the better and more just policy would be for the Arab countries, which have so much land, to give part of their territories to the Palestinians so that they can establish a Palestinian entity.

Shaul Rosolio, Israel's Ambassador to Mexico, also denounced the Assembly vote of last week in a briefing with the Mexican press. He explained Israel's official rejection of a Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria as a threat to that country, noting that the Palestine Liberation Organization, the implacable enemy of Israel, would use that state as the base for trying to destroy Israel.

MEXICO CITY (JTA) — An Israeli team of agricultural experts and professors from universities in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv who attended a symposium here on problems of deserts and arid lands met with President Jose Lopez Portillo. The President praised the team for its contributions to the symposium. The Israelis were also the guests of prominent Mexican universities.

BUCHAREST (JTA) — Israel's Minister of Education, Zevulun Hammer, arrived here Sunday for an 11-day visit at the invitation of Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen. Hammer will visit the Jewish communities in Moldavia and Transylvania and will confer with Rosen and other Rumanian Jewish leaders on ways to help the religious and cultural needs of the 34,000 Jews in the country.

MEXICO CITY (JTA) — Elias Sourasky, a prominent Jewish banker and philanthropist, was honored here by Dr. Guillermo Soberon Acevedo, rector of Mexico's National University, on his 80th birthday last week and in gratitude for his work in establishing many important educational and cultural awards for Mexican writers, artists and scientists. Sourasky was born in Bjalystok and settled in Mexico some 60 years ago.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Yosef Tekoah, president of the Ben Gurion University of the Negev and former Ambassador to the Soviet Union and the United Nations, was elected president of the Soviet immigrants association in Israel by some 500 delegates attending the association's convention. He told the conclave that he will continue the struggle to ensure aliya from the Soviet Union and to help overcome absorption difficulties encountered in Israel by immigrants from the USSR.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Thousands of runners and joggers from Israel and around the world are expected to compete on Jan. 4, 1981 in Israel's Fourth International Sea of Galilee Marathon. The annual race is recognized by the International Amateur Athletics Federation and follows a standard 26-mile course along the scenic shores of the Sea of Galilee.

CONGRESS INITIATING LAW FOR A HOLOCAUST COUNCIL

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 (JTA) — A letter signed by eight Senators and 10 Representatives is being circulated in both Houses of Congress, urging their colleagues to join in co-sponsoring legislation to establish on a permanent basis "the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council which will have the responsibility to plan and carry out the recommendations of the President's Commission on the Holocaust."

The letter notes that the Commission was established on Nov. 1, 1978, by President Carter "to recommend a fitting memorial to all those who perished in the Nazi Holocaust as well as other victims of persecution." The Commission recommended to the President that "a permanent living memorial/museum to the victims of the Holocaust be established," the letter says. "In addition," the Commission recommended that one week each year would be designated as "Days of Remembrance" to be marked by a national, civic commemoration and appropriate private and public observances. "The museum will be in Washington."

Asserting that the costs to the government of the Council and memorial should be "minimal," the letter says the operating costs of the Council will be below \$750,000. "The cost of the memorial itself should be financed primarily through direct private contributions," the letter says. "There may be some need for public funds in the form of seed money at some future point, but we expect this also to be minimal. We are persuaded that all Americans, regardless of faith or national origin, will wish to be involved in the creation of this memorial."

A copy of the letter, made available to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, shows the five Representatives and five Senators who were members of the original commission top the list of those who signed the letter being circulated. They are Reps. William Lehman (D.Fla.), James Blanchard (D.Mich.), William Green (R.N.Y.), Stephen Solarz (D.N.Y.) and Sidney Yates (D.Ill.) and Sens. John Danforth (R.Mo.), Henry Jackson (D.Wash.), Claiborne Pell (D.R.I.), Richard Stone (D.Fla.) and Rudy Boschwitz (R.Minn.).

In addition, the originators of the letter include Reps. Phillip Burton (D.Calif.), John Brademas (D.Ind.), James Wright (D.Tex.) and Robert Michel (R.Ill.). Additional Senators are Alan Cranston (D.Calif.), Howard Baker (R.Tenn.) and Ted Stevens (R.Alaska).

Due For Introduction Aug. 18

At the offices of Lehman and Danforth, which are coordinating the effort, the JTA was informed that the legislation will probably be introduced in both branches of Congress about Aug. 18 when they reconvene following the Democratic Convention in New York. The letter has drawn more than 75 co-sponsors in the House and 22 in the Senate since it began circulating last week.

The draft legislation attached to the letter calls for the Council to consist of 60 members appointed by the President and that those other than the 10 members of Congress shall serve five-year terms. The terms of the Congress members shall be coterminous with each term of Congress. The President will appoint the chairperson and vice chairperson of the Council which will have a director and a staff. The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Capital Planning Commission will "advise and assist the Coun-

cil in formulating and carrying out its recommendations," according to the draft legislation.

JEWISH GROUP WON'T MEET AT HILTON BECAUSE OF CHAIN'S SNUB TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Aug. 4 (JTA) — Nathaniel Saperstein, president of the National Council of Young Israel, has announced that the Council's committee considering bids for its national banquet in March, 1981 has rejected the bid submitted by the New York Hilton.

"The parent organization, Hilton International, does not include the Hilton hotels in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in its international listing," Saperstein explained. This blatant decision is "clearly designed to curry favor with the radical Arab nations which refuse to even recognize Israel's existence. Such a stand is totally unacceptable to us, and we have no alternative but to remove the New York Hilton from consideration."

The National Council of Young Israel, an organization comprising more than 160 Orthodox synagogues in 14 states and Canada as well as 28 synagogues in Israel, traditionally holds its annual banquet in March which is attended by some 1200 people from across the United States, Canada, Mexico and Israel.

The Council's action followed a report by Vidi Goldgar in the Southern Israelite, of which she is editor and publisher, and in the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on July 29 that Hilton International has omitted the Jerusalem Hilton and the Tel Aviv Hilton from its recently published Middle East edition of "Business Travelers Guide." Ms. Goldgar quoted Peter Mahler, Hilton International's director of marketing for the Middle East, that the omissions are "a must for doing business in the Arab countries. It wouldn't get into the countries otherwise."

AIPAC OFFICIAL RESIGNS TO WORK FOR ANDERSON

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 (JTA) — Aaron Rosenbaum, director of research for eight years for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in Washington, has been appointed national coordinator for the Jewish community in independent Presidential candidate John Anderson's campaign. He left his AIPAC post July 31 and took up his new duties the following day. His successor at AIPAC has not been named.

Michael MacLeod, Anderson's campaign director, said that Rosenbaum will coordinate work for Anderson in Jewish communities and speak on his behalf. Rosenbaum, who is 31, is a native of Detroit and a graduate of the University of Michigan where he was named a James Angell Scholar. He is the son of Rabbi and Mrs. Milton Rosenbaum of Royal Oak, Mich.

While at AIPAC, Rosenbaum wrote and spoke extensively on the Middle East, the Soviet Union and other international subjects. He has addressed numerous audiences throughout the United States, including national conventions of Jewish organizations. His memoranda on Congressional issues affecting Israel have received wide attention. He also has contributed frequently to the Near East Report, a weekly publication here and nationally distributed, and has contributed to books on the Middle East.

MEXICO CITY (JTA) — A delegation representing the Central Jewish Committee met with officials of the Venezuelan Embassy here who accepted a memorandum of protest regarding the decision of the Venezuelan Embassy in Israel to move its office from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv.