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BEGIN IN LETTER TO MUSKIE PROTESTS U.S. ABSTENTION IN UN COUNCIL VOTE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 27 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin has written to U.S. Secretary of State Edmund Muskie to protest the U.S. abstention in the United Nations Security Council last week on the resolution censuring Israel for the Jerusalem law and calling on countries with embassies in Jerusalem to move them. Government sources would not divulge the contents of the letter but said it was a strongly worded rejection of the U.S. claim that the Jerusalem law was a unilateral move which harmed the Middle East peace process.

Israel last week denounced the Security Council resolution and said it was "categorically rejecting it." At the Cabinet meeting last Sunday, Begin said the resolution was passed because the U.S. had abstained. He described the resolution and the abstention as "surrender to blackmail by the oil monsters."

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry took issue with the U.S. State Department for denying the validity of a sentence in a statement by the Cabinet last Sunday that said "there are clear pledges in the U.S. to transfer the American embassy from the plain (Tel-Aviv) to Jerusalem." The Foreign Ministry statement, which was apparently inspired by Begin personally, said "the official denial is mistaken."

It pointed out that the Cabinet had not claimed such a pledge was made by the U.S. but had deliberately used the phrase "in the U.S." The reference was to the Democratic Party platforms of both 1976 and 1980, which the Ministry quoted. The Ministry's statement concluded: "Have there not been 'clear pledges' in the U.S. to transfer the American embassy from the plain to Jerusalem? The answer lies in the question." (See related story, P. 3.)

GRAVEL BLAMES HIS DEFEAT IN ALASKA DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ON CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS OPPONENT.

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27 (JTA) — U.S. Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska), who intimated that Jews from outside Alaska were opposing his reelection, apparently lost his bid yesterday for a third term. Reports from Juneau, Alaska's capital, said Gravel was decisively defeated by Anchorage lawyer Clark Gruening, in a Democratic primary election. With 387 of the state's 421 precincts reporting, Gruening had 33,698 votes to 26,789 for Gravel.

In Washington, Gravel's office refused to concede defeat. It told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that 34 precincts in which Gravel usually held majorities have yet to report results.

Gruening, 34, a former state legislator, is a grandson of the late Ernest Gruening, one of Alaska's first two Senators. Gravel unseated him in 1968 and has been in the Senate for 12 years. The elder Gruening was born in New York of Jewish parents who joined the Ethical Culture Society, he told the JTA, a few months before his death here.

Gravel accused Clark Gruening of receiving campaign contributions from a "special interest group" — Jews. He accused Gruening of breaking a pledge not to accept money from special interest groups by soliciting contributions from Jews living outside Alaska. "There is no question," Gravel charged last week, "that the funds are coming from a special interest group" that seeks to "influence the foreign policy of the United States."

Says Charge Borders On Slander

Gruening described Gravel's charge as "bordering on outright slander." All of his approximately 1,600 contributions, totalling about \$230,000, reported by Gruening, have come from individuals. About three out of four of them live in Alaska.

"Not a penny has come from special interest groups," Gruening said. "Undoubtedly some Jewish individuals contributed. So did Protestants." Of the \$540,000 Gravel has reported spending in the campaign, the political action committee contributions make up more than \$230,000, according to reports from Anchorage.

Among contributors to Gruening's campaign was Bernie Gottstein, an Anchorage businessman and former Democratic national committeeman from Alaska. He was once a fund raiser for Gravel. Gottstein cooled toward Gravel after the Senator backed a package deal in 1978 of warplanes for Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel and made remarks about the "Jewish influence."

Referring to the package deal, Gravel declared on May 15, 1978 that its approval by the Senate marked "a watershed year of Jewish influence in this country." Gravel said "win or lose on this issue, the Israeli community and the Jewish community in the United States will lose."

In the primary campaign, Gottstein mailed to potential contributors a Middle East position paper written by Gruening. He also formed a "Friends of Alaska" committee which sponsored advertisements critical of Gravel, including his handling of the Alaska lands bill. Gruening declared Gravel had a poor attendance record in the Senate and his handling of the lands bill alienated other Senators.

PROMINENT U.S. JEWS SAY JERUSALEM IS ETERNAL CAPITAL OF ISRAEL

Regret U.S. Failure To Cast Veto In UN

NEW YORK, Aug. 27 (JTA) — A group of 39 prominent American Jews who had joined last month in advocating territorial compromise and in criticizing extremists in Israel released a statement today to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency denouncing last week's United Nations Security Council resolution on Jerusalem and voicing "regret" that the United States did not cast a veto.

The statement was drafted and circulated by Leonard Fein of Boston, editor of the independent Jewish monthly, *Moment*, and signed by more than two-thirds of the 56 Jewish leaders whose public declaration on July 1 caused widespread controversy in the American Jewish community.

Signers of the statement included Theodore Mann and Rabbi Alexander Schindler, both former chairmen of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Stephen Shalom, past president of the New York United Jewish

Appeal—Federation of Jewish Philanthropies drive; Theodore Bikel, senior vice president of the American Jewish Congress; Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg and Sam Norich, vice presidents of the World Jewish Congress; and Arden Shenker and Fanny Schaenen, philanthropic leaders.

The statement said, in part:

"We believe that the United Nations has no moral authority to speak to the Jerusalem question. In a complex and anguished world, the UN and its member agencies have repeatedly behaved as if the Middle East were the only area of international crisis warranting their attention. This distortion has prevented the UN and its agencies from responding appropriately to a variety of other and not less vexing matters. Further, the UN's obsession with the Middle East has demonstrably failed to advance the cause of peace even in that troubled region. Citizens of the United States, and of the world, are forced to conclude that the United Nations has been taken hostage by the PLO, to no good purpose.

"We regret that the United States did not, in its vote, have the courage of the convictions it expressed in the course of the debate.

"We find it ironic that those who have insisted upon Israel's liquidation — upon the liquidation of a member state of the United Nations — and who have adopted international terrorism as their preferred method of behavior, should be treated with deference, while a member state which is governed by the rule of law is repeatedly vilified. Finally, we wish to make it absolutely clear that we regard Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Jewish State. Its integrity as a united city is beyond debate. Questions of boundaries, access and the status of the holy places may be the subject of negotiation. The status of Jerusalem as a united city, and as Israel's capital, is not."

Among the others who signed the statement were: Rabbi Joshua Haberman, Sylvia Hossenfeld, Leon Jick, Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, Ben Leuchter, Arthur Levine, Jacqueline Levine, Jacob Neusner, Rabbi David Polish and Albert Vorspan.

Fein, who had played a major role in preparing the earlier statement, said that many of the original 56 signers were on vacation and could not be reached. He said he circulated the new statement only among those who had associated themselves with the earlier declaration.

U.S. PLANS TO CONSTRUCT MILITARY AIRFIELD IN EGYPT FOR USE BY

THE U.S. RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27 (JTA) — Pentagon officials have confirmed that the Carter Administration plans to construct a first-class military airfield at Ras Banas on the Red Sea for use by the U.S. Rapid-Deployment Force (RDF) to accommodate a division of troops and a flotilla of long-range American bombers.

Ras Banas is in southeastern Egypt, not far from its border with Sudan and almost directly opposite the Saudi Arabian and Persian Gulf oil fields. The RDF is being formed to deal with volatile situations like those in the Middle East.

Pentagon sources have made it known that Oman, Somalia, Kenya, Diego Garcia and Israel also figure prominently in U.S. contingency plans to meet the Soviet threat to the West's oil lines. Somalia and Oman have already agreed to allow U.S. forces to use sites in their areas. British-controlled Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean also

is engaged for that purpose. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat had said the U.S. could use Egyptian facilities but not have a base on Egyptian soil. The arrangement for Ras Banas would be to provide a staging area for American forces. U.S. planes and troops would not be permanently stationed at Ras Banas but would fly there in periods of tension. A U.S. division comprises 18,000 men.

Airfield To Cost An Estimated \$400 Million

The airfield construction budget will be presented to Congress in January. While the facilities to modernize the now outmoded field at Ras Banas will reportedly cost about \$400 million, the Pentagon says this figure is incorrect, indicating it will be less.

Why the U.S. is prepared to spend this huge sum on Ras Banas, when Israeli air bases in Sinai, Etzion being among the world's best, are being passed up is a question that remains formally unanswered. Congress, however, is certain to require answers when the Pentagon presents the proposal to it for approval next winter. Another as yet unanswered query is whether the U.S. will be able to use the base to fly support to Israel in the event Israel comes under attack.

Political Problems Indicated

Policy planners recognize the virtues of both Israel's military prowess and the Sinai bases which Israel is to turn over to Egypt under the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. Political circumstances, however, stand in the way.

Administration sources say Washington foresees trouble with Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other Arab states if it includes Israel as a strategic asset to the United States. But no plans have been made known of Israeli-U.S. military cooperation in the event of trouble in the oil fields or even in Israel's defense.

"Arab governments would scream sky-high at American-Israeli military operations," a Congressional Mideast specialist noted. He observed that Sadat agreed to Ras Banas but refused Sinai sites to the U.S. because he wants Ras Banas built up as an Egyptian base. Egypt will have total access for its air force at Ras Banas and share its control with the U.S.

In the Sinai, Egypt might be in a position of sharing some authority with Israel under the Israeli-Egyptian treaty. More importantly, Egypt agreed to Ras Banas because of its distance from Israel. "In time of possible trouble with Israel, Egypt would have a modern base distant from Israel's fighter aircraft," it was noted.

The specialist mocked the figure of \$400 million. "That's much too low, he said. "For two bases in the Negev, near the center of large urban centers with transport and manpower available, Israel is spending \$2.2 billion. How can the U.S. build a base in such a remote spot like Ras Banas for \$400 million?"

NEW ORLEANS, La. (JTA) — The Jewish War Veterans concluded its 85th annual convention by reaffirming its position that an undivided and integrated Jerusalem remain, now and forever, the capital of Israel. "We decry the most recent abstention of the U.S. government in the United Nations Security Council, a resolution on this issue stated. It added that the resolution last week "clearly represents meddling in the internal affairs of a sovereign state."

30 CONGRESSMEN SEEK MEETING WITH MUSKIE TO DISCUSS THE UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27 (JTA) — Angered by the Carter Administration abstention on the United Nations Security Council resolution censuring Israel a week ago for its Jerusalem law, 30 Congressmen have asked Secretary of State Edmund Muskie to meet with them and discuss U.S. policy toward Israel.

Rep. Sidney Yates (D.Ill.), dean of the Jewish members of the House, has asked for the meeting on behalf of his colleagues to include Rep. Dante Passell (D.Fla.), Jonathan Bingham (D.N.Y.) and James Blanchard (D.Mich.). This development followed additional statements from top-level Republicans and Sen. Carl Levin (D.-Mich.) denouncing the U.S. abstention.

Former Tennessee Senator Bill Brock, chairman of the Republican national committee, described the Security Council censure as "another step" in the "vicious campaign which by its nature, is as much anti-American as anti-Israel."

Brock said that the "Palestine Liberation Organization, in concert with the Soviet Union and radical governments, have for months made clear and public their intent to expel Israel from the United Nations and to destroy the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty."

Brock said the Carter Administration's "failure to veto the resolution represented an abandonment of our commitment to the peace process, a contribution to the isolation of a democratically and friendly Israel, and a violation of the trust of the American people by a government elected to represent the best interests of our nation." He added: "The Administration's abstentions are repugnant; you cannot speak against a resolution and then refuse to vote against it. The action belies the words."

Abstention Does Not Serve U.S. Interests

Earlier, in another condemnation of the U.S. abstention, Sen. Jacob Javits (R.N.Y.) said "I appreciate the problems with other countries, but we have vetoed before. The abstention leaves the resolution as a valid Security Council resolution and that's the difference between day and night."

Levin told the Senate that the Administration's abstention was "a terrible mistake" and added: "The point that must be made — and made clearly — is that it does not serve our national interests to participate in and sanction a process which seeks to focus exclusive attention on the behavior of only one of the parties involved in this complex and sensitive situation. And it does not serve the interests of peace to participate in or sanction such a process."

Prior to the vote 18 members of the House telegraphed Muskie, urging him to veto the resolution. This message, signed by both Democrats and Republicans, was drafted by Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R.N.Y.).

Congressman Praises Muskie's Position

Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal, deputy majority leader in the House, who was one of the signers, sent a message to Muskie, following his address to the Security Council. In it, Rosenthal's office told Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Rosenthal wrote Muskie that he had listened to his remarks before the Council.

"I thought your statement," Rosenthal wrote to Muskie, "was as effective a presentation of American goals and strategy in mediating the Arab-Israeli conflict as any I have heard in the past 20 years. I would have preferred that the United States vote against the resolution but within the context of the constraints operating upon our foreign policy, I understand the decision to abstain."

Muskie Reiterates U.S. Position

Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Evron delivered a note yesterday from the Israeli government to Muskie, protesting the U.S. abstention. Muskie reiterated to Evron the U.S. position that Jerusalem's status should be negotiated in the final stage of a comprehensive settlement. The Israeli note reportedly was strongly worded and expressed "the various serious views in Israel" about the effects of the resolution.

The State Department holds the Security Council resolution as "not binding" in view of the abstention. But others note that some governments with embassies in Jerusalem are removing them because they do consider the resolution binding. The Netherlands government, in announcing it was moving its embassy to Tel Aviv, spoke of massive Arab pressure upon it and declared that ultimatums are unacceptable, but that, nevertheless, it has resolved to make the move in line with its policy of implementing UN Security Council resolutions.

MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD FOR YOUTH KILLED BY TERRORIST

BRUSSELS, Aug. 27 (JTA) — Hundreds of people attended a memorial service yesterday for David Kohane, 15, who was killed by a terrorist bomb last month in Antwerp. The ceremony was held to mark the 30th day of his death, and the boy's father recited kadish in the presence of senior government officials, representatives of the Israel Embassy and members of the Belgian Jewish community.

Two of the children wounded during the attack in front of an Agudat Israel Community Center, are still in the hospital, but are no longer on the danger list. Itzhak Abrahamowitz, 14, has already undergone two operations and doctors plan a third in the hope of saving his sight. Joshua Erlich, 13, who suffered severe head injuries, will be hospitalized for several more months. Doctors who examined him after the bomb explosion, said that close to 40 pieces of shrapnel appeared to have entered his brain.

During the attack close to 20 children and adults, mainly Orthodox Jews, who are members of Agudat Israel, were wounded as they stood near a bus that was about to take them to a summer camp.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Some 30 young men and women comprising the chorus and orchestra of the Jewish community in Rumania arrived Tuesday in Israel headed by Rumania's Chief Rabbi Moshe Rosen. The group, which was invited to Israel by the mayors of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and other cities, is the first from a Communist country to come to Israel to present Yiddish and Hebrew songs. Their 10-day visit to Israel was with the approval of the Rumanian government, according to a report from Bucharest.

REMINDER: There will be no News Bulletin dated September 1 due to Labor Day, a postal holiday.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES A DREAM IN THE MAKING

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Aug. 27 (JTA) -- Galloping oil prices, spurred by the Arab countries and others in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), have made feasible the plan for a canal from the Mediterranean to the Dead Sea envisioned by Theodor Herzl in his classic "Altneuland."

The \$700 million plan approved by the Cabinet is not as grandiose as that proposed by Herzl. It calls for a hydroelectric plant to be powered by the waterfall that would be created by the difference in the level of the Mediterranean coast and the Dead Sea area. But Herzl also saw the canal as a ship route to the Red Sea.

In fact, Laurance Oliphant, the British non-Jew who promoted Jewish immigration after a visit to Palestine in 1879 and who himself later settled in Haifa, proposed such a canal as an alternate to the Suez Canal.

Herzl's proposal was an adoption of a plan proposed earlier by Max Brocard, a Swiss engineer who later converted to Judaism. Although international politics rather than science prevented development of the plan, the canal has continued to be proposed over the years. In the 1950s, Prof. Walter Laudermilk, the American land conservation expert, suggested building the canal.

Evolution Of The Plan

Israeli scientists also proposed the canal. But all proposals were rejected because the cost was prohibitive. The price of oil was so cheap that the savings from a hydroelectric plant would not justify the cost of the canal. But now the situation has changed.

In 1977, Prof. Yuval Ne'eman, a noted physicist who formerly was president of Tel Aviv University, was named head of a committee to consider several routes proposed for a canal. The proposals had been made at a seminar on a canal at Ben Gurion University of the Negev at Beer-sheva earlier that year.

One plan proposed by Shlomo Gur, an engineer, and adopted by the late Yigal Allon, called for a route from Haifa to Beisan and then to the Dead Sea with an open canal along the Yisrael Valley. This plan would have helped implement the Allon Plan for Israeli security settlements in the Jordan Valley and was considered to be the least expensive route. But it was rejected because it would take too much land away from the fertile Yisrael Valley and would endanger Israel's limited water supply with salt water from the Mediterranean.

Three southern routes were proposed. One from just south of Tel Aviv through Beit Shemesh to the northern Dead Sea area was also rejected for fear of polluting drinking water. A second plan, running from Zikkim near Ashdod to Arad and the Dead Sea near Masada, was also rejected.

The plan which was approved runs from Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip to Arad and Masada and then to the Dead Sea. It is 62 miles long, about six miles longer than the other route to Masada.

Reasons For The Route Chosen

Ne'eman, who is also head of the ultranationalist Tehiya faction, told the Cabinet that the route chosen was selected because it would have

many byproducts in addition to the hydroelectric plan. He said the canal will provide special cooling lakes for the proposed nuclear power plant to be built in the Negev, there will be areas for sailing and fishing, and special pools could provide solar energy for the various factories along the canal, especially the Dead Sea's Potash Works. The power plant to be built would provide 10 percent of Israel's electricity by the 1990s.

Israel is expected to sound out Jordan before going ahead with the work but it will not ask for Jordan's approval, it was stressed. Gur, the engineer whose northern route was rejected, has charged that the proposed canal route would raise the level of the Dead Sea so much that it would flood a plant on the Jordanian side of the sea. Ne'eman described this view as "nonsense" and said the canal would not cause the sea to go up that high. He said the Jordanians would benefit from the increased water level of the Dead Sea.

The canal would take three years to design and twice that long to build. However, Haaretz has reported that Alvin Rosenberg, a Toronto lawyer, has organized a consortium of Jewish and non-Jewish investors from Canada, the United States, Britain and Israel, who are ready to invest in the project if they are given the concession to operate the hydroelectric plant. Rosenberg told the newspaper that the group was not only motivated by support for Israel but was convinced that the project is economically feasible.

MATTHEW ROSENHAUS DEAD AT 68

NEW YORK, Aug. 27 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held today for Matthew Rosenhaus, an honorary vice chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and vice president of the ADL Foundation, who died yesterday at the age of 68. A noted civic leader and philanthropist, he was president and chairman of the board of the J. B. Williams Company, Inc., vice chairman of the board and member of the executive committee of Nabisco, Inc., and chairman of the executive committee and a member of the board of Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc.

Leading by example, he rallied friends and associates to support ADL, Israel and other humanitarian causes with which he was associated. In addition to service in behalf of the Jewish community, he was active in the cause of peace. He was an organizer of the Inter-Religious Peace Colloquium under the aegis of the Synagogue Council of America and was active in the Fund for Peace. He was a member of Temple Emanuel of Miami Beach and the Fifth Avenue Synagogue in New York.

A native of Bayonne, N. J., Rosenhaus attended Rutgers University. He was a member of the board of governors of the Rutgers Foundation, a trustee of Delbarton School in Morristown, N. J., and a trustee of Florida Memorial College in Miami, Fla.

RABBIS URGED TO REMEMBER WALLEMBERG IN THEIR HIGH HOLY DAYS SERMONS

NEW YORK, Aug. 27 (JTA) -- Rabbi Morton N. Narme, chief rabbi of Stockholm, recently urged chief rabbis throughout the Western world to remember Raoul Wallenberg when they prepare their sermons for the High Holy Days. Wallenberg, who saved the lives of some 100,000 Jews in Budapest in 1944, is believed to be a prisoner in the Soviet Union.