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ISRAEL AND SYRIA SEEM TO BE INCHING TOWARD A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE MISSILE CRISIS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA) -- Israel and Syria appear to be inching toward a peaceful solution of the missile crisis in Lebanon in response to the efforts of U.S. special envoy Philip Habib who is expected to continue his two-week-old round of shuttle diplomacy. Behind the bitter rhetorical exchanges yesterday between Premier Menachem Begin and President Hafez Assad, observers here detected signals from both sides of a willingness to compromise.

The first verbal shot came from Damascus where Assad told reporters that Habib had brought Syria no proposals -- only demands by Israel. That was "absolutely not true," Begin fired back after a meeting with Habib last night. He said there was indeed an American proposal which called for a return to the status quo ante in Lebanon. It means, Begin said, withdrawal of Syrian anti-aircraft missiles from the Beka valley in eastern Lebanon and the withdrawal of Syrian troops from the strategic Sannine mountain range.

Begin called Assad's remarks "very extremist" and therefore he could not say "if I am optimistic or pessimistic" that "there will be a peaceful solution." Habib, for his part, told reporters after meeting with Begin that "the diplomatic efforts continue."

But Assad, talking to American reporters in Damascus, seemed to hint that Syria could back down on the missiles issue without losing face. He stressed that the SAM-6 batteries were in Lebanon solely to defend Syrian troops who are in that country under a mandate from the Arab League given in 1976. He noted that during those five years, Syria had not deployed missiles in Lebanon and brought them in only after Israeli planes shot down two Syrian helicopters on April 28.

'A Unique Act' To Rescue Christians

Begin told reporters that the downing of the helicopters was "a unique act" to rescue Christian forces in Lebanon "from the danger of being overwhelmed" by Syrian arms. "We don't attack Syrian troops at all," he added. Taken together, the remarks of Assad and Begin appeared to open the way to a tacit understanding.

Israel was signaling that it will not fly attack missions against Syrian troops. If that is the case, Assad, by his own logic, would be able to pull back the missiles on grounds that the threat to his forces no longer existed.

Begin also backed away somewhat from his bitter criticism two days ago of American approaches to Saudi Arabia for help in defusing the missile crisis. He conceded yesterday that the Saudis had offered "ideas" and "proposals, especially during the last 24 hours." When Habib visited Riyadh over the weekend, Begin denounced the Saudis as "corrupt," "unstable" and "incapable of contributing positively" to the situation.

Assad, for his part, said Syria was satisfied with the support it has been receiving from Saudi Arabia. He said he expected the Saudis to play a key role in the Arab League Foreign Ministers meeting in Tunis tomorrow which will deal with the Lebanon crisis.

ISRAEL'S NEW ENVOY TO EGYPT GETS AN ALL-OUT OFFICIAL WELCOME

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 21 (JTA) -- Moshe Sasson, Israel's new Ambassador to Egypt -- its second since diplomatic relations were established in 1979 -- presented his credentials to President Anwar Sadat today. The formal, ordinarily routine diplomatic ritual was conducted in a manner, and with media coverage, that indicated to Israeli Embassy sources in Cairo that Sadat went out of his way to demonstrate his commitment to the normalization of relations with Israel, despite the current tension between Israel and Syria.

Sadat received the new envoy only three days after his arrival in Cairo--much sooner than is usual --and Sasson was given a private audience. Customarily, Sadat receives several new ambassadors at a time, as was the case with Sasson's predecessor, Eliahu Ben-Elissar.

His meeting with Sasson lasted 40 minutes, twice the usual time, and was attended by Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali. The three engaged in lively conversation in Arabic, a language in which Sasson is fluent. The Israeli and Egyptian anthems were played.

Cairo radio stations led off their noon news bulletins with an account of the reception. Immediately afterwards, Sasson performed his first mission, which was to escort visiting Israeli Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon. Sadat was to receive Sharon at Mit Abul Qam, the Nile delta village where the Egyptian leader was born. Sharon was reportedly bringing a message from Premier Menachem Begin. Its contents are not known.

Last night six Egyptian ministers attended a dinner in Sharon's honor at the Nile Hilton Hotel in Cairo. Earlier, the Israeli minister met for 90 minutes with Hassan Ali. Sharon is visiting Egypt at the invitation of Agriculture Minister Mohammad Daoud and their purpose is to discuss agricultural cooperation between the two countries. The two men toured a 12,000-acre area yesterday which is to be irrigated with Israeli technology. They have already agreed on a joint project to grow tomatoes in an area west of Alexandria.

INTERNATIONAL LAWYER SUGGESTS LEBANON BE CENTER OF MIDEAST TALKS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 21 (JTA) -- Richard Stone, a former Democratic Senator from Florida, who is now an international lawyer in Washington, proposed today that Lebanon be made the center of Middle East negotiations since all the "actors" in the Arab-Israeli conflict are already involved there. He said that Philip Habib, President Reagan's

an's envoy now in the Mideast, has been able to prevent a war from breaking out over Lebanon and should be put in charge of Mideast negotiations.

Stone made his suggestion for what he termed the "Habib option" while appearing on National Public Radio's "National Town Meeting." Also appearing on the program, which was broadcast live from Kennedy Center here, were James Akins, a former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, and Ghassan Tueni, Lebanon's Ambassador to the United Nations.

Tueni and Akins claimed that a settlement of the Palestinian problem is vital to settling all other problems in the Middle East. But Tueni noted that the presence of some 400,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon had created "a Lebanese question which has become as acute as the Palestinian question."

He said that Lebanon is a country where all other "external conflicts" in the Mideast are being played out and Lebanon has become a "sideshow, a convenient dumping ground for all other conflicts in the region."

Tueni noted that Israel and Syria had agreed to extend the mandate for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, which showed him that they wish to avoid a war across their common border. But, he said, the two countries are willing to fight in Lebanon.

Outline Steps Toward Peace

Stone said he agreed with the Reagan Administration's position which seeks to prevent the Soviet Union's further penetration in the Middle East. Akins said that while the Soviets pose a threat, the only dispute in the Middle East that actually endangers American interests is the threat of an Arab-Israeli war. Tueni said that when war comes to the Mideast, the Arabs draw closer to the Soviet Union but when peace is a better prospect, they move toward the United States.

Stone said Israel had proved its willingness to give up much for peace. He noted that, in the peace treaty with Egypt, Israel gave up all the land it held in Sinai, its air bases, and even the oil fields which could have left Israel energy-sufficient.

He said Israel is willing to return land on the West Bank in return for secure and recognized borders but not to the pre-1967 borders. But he said peace will not come until other Arab leaders take as bold a step as Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

Akins maintained that peace is possible if there is a change of attitude on both sides, including statements by the Palestine Liberation Organization. But he said the PLO and the Arab countries have already expressed their willingness to recognize Israel if Israel withdraws to its pre-1967 borders.

Tueni said that unless Israel showed a willingness to solve the Palestinian problem, then neither the Lebanese problem can be solved nor can Israel be secure. Stone said that if the PLO wants to demonstrate its willingness to live in a demilitarized state, it can start in Lebanon.

KIRKPATRICK: U.S. COMMITTED TO DIPLOMACY IN DEFENSE OF ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration is committed to "tough-minded diplomacy in defense of Israel and has resolved to bring an end to the obsessive scapegoating of Israel in the United Nations," Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick told the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations this week.

According to persons attending the meeting, the U.S. envoy to the UN, in her first appearance before the Conference, said she was "determined to resist challenges to Israel's rightful place among the family of nations."

The new U.S. position, she said, was now being supported by African countries that formerly followed the line of the Arab-Soviet bloc. Kirkpatrick noted, as an example, that recent Arab efforts to challenge Israel's recent presence at the World Health Organization conference in Geneva had come to naught and she praised the U.S. delegate to the UN Human Rights Commission, Michael Novak, for his "refusal to remain silent in the face of obscene anti-Semitism" expressed at the Commission.

"As long as I am at the United Nations, Israel will never face her enemies alone," Kirkpatrick said to rousing applause from some 150 representatives of Presidents Conference member organizations.

COALITION FOR REAGAN-BUSH LEADERS AGREE TO CONTINUE AS ORGANIZATION OF JEWISH REPUBLICANS

DETROIT, May 21 (JTA) -- Thirty four leaders of the Coalition for Reagan-Bush met this week and agreed to continue as an organization of Jewish Republicans, it was announced by Max Fisher, who was unanimously elected at the meeting to be the Coalition's chairman. The purpose of the group, he said, will be to enlarge the base of the Jewish community within the Republican Party.

Also elected as executive committee members of the Coalition were: Richard Fox of Philadelphia, Gordon Zacks of Columbus, Ohio, George Klein of New York, Sylvia Hassenfeld of Providence, R.I., Ozzie Goren of Los Angeles, Norman Braman of Miami, and Albert Spiegel of Los Angeles.

The Coalition was formed last year during the election campaigns of Ronald Reagan and George Bush. The group was in the forefront of their efforts to win widespread support in the Jewish community and had predicted that a Reagan-Bush ticket would triumph in the national elections.

UNIONISTS OF SEVERAL JEWISH GROUPS MARCH IN SOLIDARITY WITH STRIKING ISRAEL BOND ORGANIZATION EMPLOYEES

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA) -- Members of union locals representing employees in several Jewish organizations marched for two hours today in front of the Israel Bond Organization headquarters in support of some 500 professional and clerical employees who have been on strike here and at 70 regional Israel Bond offices nationally since last Friday.

A spokesman for the Community and Social Employees Union, Local 107, District 1707 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said about 500 sympathizers joined the Israel Bond picket lines in response to an appeal by District 1707.

He said the sympathy pickets work at HIAS, New York Association for New Americans, the Council of Jewish Federations, the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, the Jewish Child Care Association, Hadassah, and the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services.

Negotiations for a contract to replace the pact which expired last Thursday night broke down early Monday after an all-night session and there are no indications as to when they will be resumed.

JEWISH LEADERS TO MEET SCHMIDT

WASHINGTON, May 21 (JTA) -- A seven-

member delegation of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations was scheduled to meet late this afternoon in Blair House with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany to express "dismay and indignation" at the German leader's policies and positions affecting Israel's security. Howard Squadron, Conference chairman and leader of the delegation, said prior to the meeting that three main issues would be raised:

Schmidt's leadership in the European initiative in the Middle East, which Squadron said "seeks to undermine the Camp David peace process by calling for a Middle East conference -- including the Palestine Liberation Organization to establish a Palestinian state, redive Jerusalem and require Israel to return to the 1967 border's; Schmidt's active support of the sale of German Leopard tanks to Saudi Arabia -- a sale he was forced to cancel because of strong opposition within the West German Bundestag -- and his publicly declared opinion of Saudi Arabia as a government that "acts wisely and moderately," and Schmidt's interview on German TV earlier this month, to which Squadron said American Jews responded with "shock and outrage."

In that interview, the Chancellor omitted any mention of Jews in listing the various victims of the Nazi regime and spoke of the "moral claims to self-determination of the Palestinian people" but not of the Jewish people.

MITTERRAND APPOINTS FRIEND OF ISRAEL AS NEW PRIME MINISTER

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 21 (JTA) -- Pierre Mauroy, a 53-year-old veteran Socialist leader and warm friend of Israel, was appointed today France's new Prime Minister. He was named minutes after Francois Mitterrand was inaugurated as France's 21st President, the sixth since the country's liberation from Nazi occupation.

Mauroy, who also serves as Mayor of Lille, has visited Israel on several occasions and is described by people who know him well as "emotionally deeply concerned with Israel's well being." This, does not prevent him from occasionally criticising certain aspects of Israeli policy.

He is particularly outspoken on what he terms "Palestinian rights" and on the need for "a global peace" in the Middle East. He publicly voiced these sentiments most recently during the visit by Israel's Ambassador to France, Meir Rosenne to Lille last year.

The head of that city's Jewish community, Melamed Beer, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Mauroy "has invariably tried to help whenever we asked for his assistance." Beer said that Mauroy raised the issue of imprisoned Soviet Jewish activists with Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev during his visit to the Soviet Union in 1973. As a result, two of the people on whose behalf he interceded were later released.

Spends Time With Wiesel, Miller

Another man described as a warm friend of Israel, Pierre Beregovoy, was appointed Elysee Palace Chief of Staff and Mitterrand's closest personal adviser. Beregovoy also visited Israel on several occasions and has often tried to intercede on behalf of imprisoned Soviet Jews.

The new President pledged himself today, as guns boomed and flags were raised throughout the country, to govern with "justice and freedom." During a luncheon offered to his "personal friends,"

he spent several minutes with author Elie Wiesel. Later, Wiesel told the JTA, "I am convinced that he is a real friend of the Jewish people." American Jewish playwright Arthur Miller also attended the ceremonies as the new President's guest. Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat was present during the official ceremonies as representative of France's 700,000 Jews.

Clouds On The Horizon

Mitterrand was inaugurated today in an atmosphere of high optimism. Millions of Frenchmen watched the ceremonies on television; hundreds of thousands walked with him through the Latin Quarter.

But in spite of the elation, small clouds are already gathering at the horizon. Claude Cheysson, a 61-year-old diplomat and Common Market Commissioner, slated to become France's next Foreign Minister, said today that the new administration "will respect and fulfill all its obligations, including signed arms contracts."

The Brussels-based diplomat, who attended the inauguration ceremonies, refused to specify whether these include the Franco-Iraqi nuclear deal. He stressed that all "all signed contracts will be fulfilled." Cheysson, whose appointment is expected to be announced tomorrow, is a strong believer in the Europe-Arab dialogue and in the need to help Third World countries.

AMERICANS LIVING IN ISRAEL WILL BE ABLE TO VOTE IN JUNE ELECTIONS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 21 (JTA) -- Over 1,000 Americans who have been living in Israel for many years will this time be able to vote in the Israeli elections on June 30, for the first time, without losing their American citizenship. They are people who signed declarations opting out of Israeli citizenship at the time of their immigration to Israel, to avoid losing their U.S. citizenship under American law.

Under an arrangement reached after lengthy negotiations between the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel (AACI) and the Israeli and American authorities, they have now been able to "opt back in" to Israeli citizenship without jeopardizing their U.S. nationality.

Americans, who are not usually allowed to serve in foreign armies without losing citizenship, can also abide by both Israeli and U.S. regulations by formally protesting their induction into the Israel army when called up as citizens or residents under the army law. Their legal status is thus of men or women "impressed into service" rather than as volunteering.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Al-Jazzar mosque in Acre, built in 1781 by Ahmad Al-Jazzar (the butcher) Pasha and held to be the most beautiful in Israel, was re-opened yesterday after renovations paid for mainly by the government. The ceremony was attended by President Yitzhak Navon and hundreds of Jewish, Moslem, Christian and Druze spiritual leaders, judges and heads of Arab local councils. One of the most sacred relics held by the mosque and on display in a glass cabinet is a hair from the beard of the Prophet Mohammed.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Military Government of the West Bank expects some 120,000 Arab visitors from all parts of the Arab world will come to visit friends and relations in the region, crossing from Jordan during the summer visit season beginning next week. Visitors will be able to stay in the area for up to three months, and may tour Israel during their stay here.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**THE JEWS OF HAWAII**

By James Rice

HONOLULU, May 21 (JTA) -- The growth potential and growing pains of Sun Belt Jewish communities in Florida, the Southwest, and California are now familiar stories. But an American Jewish community with a South Seas motif -- that's a lesser known phenomenon.

Here, in this vacation mecca 2,400 miles from the West Coast, a growing community of 5,000 Jewish men, women and children is struggling to find its goals and direction. Like most of the "haoles," or Caucasians, the majority of Hawaiian Jews flocked to these sun-drenched islands in the last 10 to 15 years -- following Hawaii's admission as the 50th state in 1959.

Temple Emanuel, a Reform congregation, boasts about 350 members and is the only congregation able to maintain a full-time rabbi on the islands, Rabbi Arnold Magid. A Conservative congregation, Sof Ma'arav, which includes about 50 families, is self-directed except for the High Holidays, when Rabbi Melvin Libman of the National United Jewish Appeal comes to lead the services. Paradoxically, a small traditionally-oriented group uses the facilities made available to them by Temple Emanuel.

The community has organized the Hawaii Jewish Welfare Fund, whose primary aim is to aid Israel by allocating most of its funds to the United Jewish Appeal. The identification with Israel is also carried out by a subsidy for a shaliach sent by the Jewish Agency's American Zionist Youth Foundation, to work with Hawaiian Jewish youth. The need for developing more local services is being studied by a part-time, American-trained social worker.

Emulating The Non-Jewish Population

As is so often true, the Jewish community emulates the non-Jewish population in many respects. In this relatively open society, with its minority of Caucasians, there are many inter-racial marriages in which the non-Jewish partner may or may not convert. Members of the community earn their living in business, the media, the professions and academe.

The acting president is Dr. Jerrold Michael, Dean of the School of Public Health of the University of Hawaii. He reported to a community meeting on his recent attendance in Israel as official U.S. representative at an international conference on public health. He was immensely impressed by Israel's health achievements, which he learned about in meetings with Israeli colleagues, including those at Hebrew University and Hadassah Hospital.

Dr. Robert Littman is professor of Greek and Latin at the University of Hawaii, educated in the U.S., Great Britain, and Greece. His wife is a practicing attorney of British-Jewish origin. Deeply committed to Israel, Littman is the community's most effective fundraiser, and is an active representative of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

Trudy Wong, treasurer of the Welfare Fund, was recently selected as a member of the UJA National Women's Division Board. She is married to a Chinese-American businessman, who converted to Judaism and whose family has long been established in Honolulu. The Wongs are the parents of a 14-month-old son. Mrs. Wong, a dynamic young matron, is a stewardess on United Airlines, so that

her regular trips to the mainland facilitate her attendance at UJA meetings. She maintains a kosher home and, in fact, has perfected a kosher Chinese cuisine.

A Share Of Problems

Like other "island paradises" in this unstable world, the Hawaiian Jewish community has its share of problems. There is an unresolved issue concerning Welfare Fund subsidies and supervision for Jewish education. Fundraising has met with recent setbacks, partly because of economic problems, especially in Hawaii's tourist industry, and also because some major givers in Hawaii frequently shift their gifts to their hometowns on the mainland.

There is only a tenuous relationship with Jewish service men and women stationed in the Pearl Harbor area and other military bases in Hawaii, through the JWB assigned Chaplain Fred Natkin, but it has not been possible as yet to develop close ties with the members of the local community.

The executive director of the Welfare Fund for the past four years is Meyer Washofsky, a former U.S. military pilot during the Vietnam War. He is also associated with the University of Hawaii School of Business Administration, and has used his administrative skills to develop sophisticated computerization of the fundraising program.

To this observer, it seems clear that the geographic isolation from the mainland and from the mainstream of the American Jewish community -- even during the jet age -- is a major factor hampering the community's efforts to develop.

Impressive Variety Of Activities

Despite these handicaps, the community supports an impressive variety of activities, including an Hadassah chapter, B'nai B'rith lodge, "40-Plus Singles," Jewish Welfare Board, Jewish Seniors Council, a kosher co-op, a group for Soviet Jews, student chavurah, and Young Judea. The monthly "Hawaiian Jewish News," is a lively publication, crammed with local, national, and overseas news, and fascinating Hawaiian Jewish historical information.

What of the future? It is impossible to predict, but it is not unreasonable to anticipate that the many dedicated Jewish men and women of these seductively lovely semi-tropical islands will find a way to fulfill their ambitions, and make their rightful place among other American Jewish communities.

**CALL FOR SOLIDARITY WITH
JEWISH DISSIDENT WOMEN IN MOSCOW**

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA) -- Distressed by the Soviet Union's repression of Soviet Jews and suppression of their human rights, New York City Council President Carol Bellamy has called for solidarity with a group of Jewish dissident women in Moscow and imprisoned Soviet dissident Ida Nudel.

"What we intend to do is share the burden with these courageous people," Bellamy declared Tuesday, at the inaugural meeting of the New York Women's Group for Soviet Jewry which is co-chaired by Bellamy and Karen Burstein, Consumer Protection Board chair designate. "We want them to know -- and we want the world to know -- that they aren't alone in their frightening and frustrating struggle."

The New York group is composed of more than 50 prominent women drawn from the political, business and art worlds, and is an affiliate of The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. It will serve as a sister organization to the Moscow women's group, monitoring the plight of the Moscow women, providing moral support for them and appealing for their right to emigrate.