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ISRAEL SAYS FAHD'S MIDEAST PLAN IS A PROGRAM FOR DESTROYING ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- Israel today rejected outright the Saudi Arabian peace plan for the Middle East conflict as "a phased program for the destruction of Israel." Reacting to Saudi Crown Prince Fahd's proposals, which he outlined in an interview with the official Saudi News Agency, official circles in Jerusalem said the phases of dismemberment, under the Saudi plan, were:

Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied areas; handing over the areas to the United Nations under a trusteeship plan; establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital; the right of two million Palestinians to "repatriation" or compensation for those who do not wish to return.

The Israeli officials said that the thrust of this plan, if realized, would mean an attack by the Arab states on Israel with the Palestinian state acting as the "spearhead." The officials emphasized that it was therefore "deliberately misleading" for the Saudi plan to speak of recognizing Israel by implication in calling for guaranteeing the right of all states in the area to "live in peace." In addition, the officials noted that the plan contravenes the peace process contained in the Camp David agreements.

Differing Reactions Noted

This reaction was issued some 12 hours after the Saudi plan first hit the news wires. The initial Israeli reaction was not so clear-cut. While Foreign Ministry spokesmen were quoted as "rejecting" the Saudi Prince's proposals as "totally unacceptable," unnamed "Cabinet Ministers" were quoted by Israel TV as seeing the Saudi move as a significant development, even a "turning point."

These more favorable reactions dwelt particularly on Prince Fahd's specific reference to the right of states in the area "to live in peace." Political observers in Jerusalem saw the Saudi move at this time as designed to impact upon American public and congressional opinion just as the Reagan Administration is preparing to submit the AWACS sale proposal to Congress, and to resume the autonomy talks with Israel and Egypt.

Fahd himself is due in Washington during the fall, following Premier Menachem Begin's visit in September. Some Israeli observers speculated that Fahd's pronouncement at this time was coordinated with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, who has been in the U.S. these past few days making the point that the Palestinian issue must now become top priority.

The eight-point plan calls for: Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories; removal of all Israeli settlements from the territories; guaranteed freedom of worship for all religions; recognition of Palestinian right to repatriation or compensation (for those who do not wish to be repatriated); a UN trusteeship over the West Bank and Gaza for a few months; establishment of a Palestinian state there with Arab Jerusalem as its

capital; guaranteeing the right of all states in the area to "live in peace"; guaranteeing the agreement by "the UN or some of its members," presumably the superpowers. The plan, as reported in the media, made no mention of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

SADAT SAYS THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN FAHD'S PLAN AND URGES SAUDIS TO JOIN EGYPTIAN, U.S. EFFORTS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- Egyptian President Anwar Sadat said today that there was "nothing new" in the peace plan proposed by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Fahd and that Saudi Arabia should "contribute" to Middle East peace efforts by joining the efforts now going on by the United States and Egypt.

"It will be the most easy thing for me, for instance, to sit in Cairo and say, well the United States has to do so and so, Mr. (Menachem) Begin ought to do so and so," Sadat said in answering questions on Fahd's eight-point proposal on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press." Sadat said that it was "not at all" true as Fahd said that the Camp David peace process was a failure and urged Fahd to join in the peace process.

The Egyptian President also rejected news reports that Fahd's proposal was the first time Saudi Arabia had offered to recognize Israel. "This is not the first time," Sadat said. He noted that when Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries met in Baghdad after the Camp David agreements in 1979 to plan efforts to "choke" Egypt economically, they offered to recognize Israel at that time under certain conditions. Sadat also noted that Fahd had rejected the Camp David agreements "even before the text" was made public.

Praises Saudi, U.S. Role In Cease-Fire

However, Sadat praised Saudi Arabia as well as the United States for their efforts in obtaining the "cease-fire" across the Israeli-Lebanese border. He repeated what he said throughout his six-day visit to the U.S. that the cease-fire was the first step in Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization recognizing each other and that the U.S. should drop its 1975 promise to Israel not to deal with the PLO.

But he noted that he did not expect "an immediate answer" from President Reagan and said he thought it was "fair" to wait until Reagan meets with Begin in September and Fahd and King Hussein of Jordan this fall.

Sadat also repeated his remarks that the "PLO is not the sole representative of the Palestinians." He noted that the mayors elected in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are all PLO members and that talks could begin with them. He added that "unfortunately," Egypt has no relations with the PLO at present since the PLO is constantly attacking Egypt.

Sadat said that he had achieved the most important aim of his visit, which was to establish friendly relations with the U.S. He was pleased that the Administration was committed to continuing the Camp David process and considered Egypt "a full partner" in these efforts.

Sadat said that in his meetings with members of the Senate and the House, he had urged them to sup-

port the Reagan Administration's proposal to sell five AWACS reconnaissance planes to Saudi Arabia. He said that the Middle East region is the "most explosive in the whole world" and the AWACS are needed to safeguard not only Saudi Arabia, but other friendly countries in the area.

He revealed that because of the threat that Egypt feels from the 60 Soviet-made MIG-25s in Libya, the U.S. provided one of the four AWACS now stationed in Saudi Arabia to safeguard his recent visit to the Sudan.

But Sadat said that Egypt will not allow the U.S. to use the two air bases Israel is vacating in the Sinai although it has offered the U.S. the use of bases all over Egypt. He said the reason is that "I don't want any shade of doubt" that the Sinai is being turned over to Egypt. He denied that he had any apprehension that Israel might not complete its final withdrawal from the Sinai by next April.

Sadat denied that he had asked the Reagan Administration for more economic and military aid for Egypt. He said in his talks with members of the Senate and House, he had asked for "equal treatment" with Israel, although not necessarily the same volume of aid.

SADAT AND JEWISH LEADERS DISAGREE ON ROLE OF PLO

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and a delegation of 13 Jewish leaders, who met last Friday afternoon at the residence of Egypt's Ambassador to the United Nations, Dr. Ahmed Abdel Meguid, disagreed on the issue of Palestine Liberation Organization recognition.

Following the 70-minute meeting, Howard Squadron, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, told reporters that the Egyptian President said that the cease-fire between Israel and Palestinians in Lebanon was "a turning point" and a clear indication that the Palestinian movement has decided to accept responsibility and move in a new direction.

Squadron said that Sadat urged that Israel and the United States should build on the cease-fire in Lebanon and deal directly with the PLO. "We told him," Squadron said, "that the PLO is a terrorist organization bent on the destruction of Israel and that it should recognize Israel's right to exist first."

The delegation, which was headed by Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, and Squadron, also discussed with Sadat the issues of autonomy and the AWACS sale by the United States to Saudi Arabia.

Squadron said that Sadat agreed with the Jewish leaders that the conclusion of the autonomy talks for the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is essential to the progress of peace in the region and it should be concluded as soon as possible. Sadat, Squadron said, also agreed that Jerusalem was a separate issue that should be dealt with on a separate basis and not as part of the autonomy negotiations.

Differ On Sale Of AWACS

The Jewish leaders told Sadat of their strong opposition to the sale of AWACS reconnaissance planes to Saudi Arabia, explaining that Saudi Arabia is against the Camp David peace process and is one of the major supporters of the PLO. The meeting between the Jewish leaders and Sad-

at, which was also attended by Egyptian Ambassador to the United States, Ashraf Ghorbal, was described as "cordial and warm." It lasted 25 minutes more than originally planned. Before the meeting, Sadat met privately with Bronfman and Squadron and invited them to pay an official visit to Egypt later this fall. The two Jewish leaders accepted the invitation.

Following his meeting with the Jewish leaders, Sadat was the guest of honor at a reception attended by more than 600 people at the Temple Of Dendur at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Sackler Wing. During the reception, Mayor Edward Koch presented Sadat with New York City's highest honor, the Gold Medal. About 100 pro-Palestinian demonstrators, chanting "Down With Sadat," gathered in front of the museum during the ceremony.

BOMB EXPLODES AT EL AL'S OFFICE AT ROME'S AIRPORT

ROME, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- A bomb exploded today at the El Al office at Rome's Fiumicino's Airport, slightly injuring two persons. But the device severely damaged the El Al administrative office on the first floor of the airport terminal building and broke windows of the neighboring Air France office. An Italian employe of El Al, Gaston Prosperi, suffered a number of cuts. An unidentified woman passenger was treated for shock. Authorities said no group immediately claimed responsibility for the blast.

TISHA B'AV MARRED BY TWO INCIDENTS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- Two incidents marred the Tisha B'Av fast in Jerusalem this year: the annual effort -- foiled by police -- by young ultra-nationalists to pray on the Temple Mount, and the daubing -- apparently by ultra-Orthodox youth -- of the graves of Theodor Herzl and of former President Yitzhak Ben-Zvi.

The daubings, in black and red paint, all referred to the controversial archaeological digs at the City of David and called on Prof. Yigal Shiloh, leader of the dig, to cease his operations. Orthodox spokesmen in the Mea Shearim quarter condemned the daubings and insisted that they and their people had had nothing to do with it.

In the effort to pray on the Temple Mount, police arrested several of the would-be prayers. Other than that, Tisha B'Av passed quietly in fairly cool temperatures. A congregation of many thousands more visited the Tomb of Rachel in Bethlehem and the Cave of Machpela in Hebron today.

GOREN TAKES HARD LINE ON DIGS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren says he is prepared to shut down archaeology in Israel completely if there is a possibility that ancient Jewish graves may be disturbed. Police were forced to use tear gas last week to break up a demonstration by ultra-Orthodox Jews trying to disrupt a dig at the City of David site in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Goren said in an interview with Israel Radio, recorded Friday and broadcast yesterday, that he had not yet met an Israeli archaeologist who showed any sensitivity towards Jewish law and respect for the Jewish dead. Prof. Yigal Shilo, of the Hebrew University who is in charge of the City of David dig, angrily charged Goren and the religious establishment with using the matter for political purposes.

Goren said: "They don't care about the bones -- they care only about archaeology -- if they can learn something about ancient times. But they do

not care about Jewish law about those graves." Shilo rejected this charge as an unwarranted slur on the entire profession. "Do you think we are really grave robbers? Do you think we are just excavating grounds like these just to find bones and throw them to the dogs?" he asked. "If we find human bones, we deal with them according to law, but just because you might find bones, not to excavate at all?" The Department of Antiquities confirms that human bones found are always passed on to the religious authorities for reburial.

Goren says he stopped work at the City of David site because Shilo had broken a promise to have a rabbinical supervisor constantly at the site, even though he knew all bones had been removed from the area decades ago by other non-Israeli archaeologists. He said he feared that present work might spill over to a new site where graves might be found.

Shilo responded by saying he could not carry on his research work under such conditions. "An archaeological dig or site is not like a kosher hotel or restaurant, with a mashgiach," he said. Shilo said he would continue his work at the site, for which he has received full government approval, and charged Goren with "ulterior motives" in trying to stop the work. "They have their own reasons for declaring this site as a cemetery. They are using a religious pretext to move in a political way," Shilo said.

Asked if this might not mean the end of archaeological research in Israel, Goren replied, "This is their problem. A place where there is a chance of finding Jewish graves will not be touched without our orders -- our regulations ... even if this means stopping digging in Israel altogether."

HADASSAH BREAKS A PRECEDENT: PRESENTS HENRIETTA SZOLD AWARD TO POC IDA NUDEL IN ABSENTIA

NEW YORK, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- Hadassah broke a precedent today at the opening of its 67th annual convention at the New York Hilton by awarding its highest honor, the Henrietta Szold Award, in absentia to Ida Nudel. The Prisoner of Conscience was exiled to Siberia three years ago on charges of "malicious hooliganism" for asking the Soviet authorities to "give me my visa" to go to Israel on a hand-lettered window poster in her Moscow apartment after all of her formal applications were rebuffed.

In presenting the award to Elena Fridman, Nudel's sister who came to the United States from Israel at the invitation of Hadassah, Rose Matzkin, chairman of Hadassah's award committee and a former president of Hadassah, said the precedent of presenting the award in absentia was taken because Nudel "is special."

She told the 3,000 delegates and guests that the check which usually accompanies the citation "will be waiting for Ida Nudel when she is released from a desolate hut in Siberia and permitted to realize her dream of aliya to Israel. It is singularly appropriate that Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, should give its highest award to Ida Nudel, who epitomizes human yearning for freedom and the Zionist aspiration to be with her own people in Israel."

When Mrs. Fridman accepted the Henrietta Szold Award, and earlier in the day in a press conference, she explained that Nudel is not a dissident, she simply wants to go to Israel to join her sister who is her only surviving relative.

Mrs. Fridman said that Nudel began exile at age 47; she is now 50. She said that Nudel is sus-

tained by her dedication to her dream -- to go to Israel -- and by the thousands of letters which have given her direct comfort as well as having enlisted Congressmen and Senators on her behalf.

In November, Mrs. Fridman attended the Helsinki Review Conference in Madrid where Max Kampelman, head of the U.S. delegation, made representations -- both public and private -- to the Russians. She said that she was "deeply impressed with the depth of U.S. commitment to help Ida." She added that "thanks to Hadassah's invitation," she and her husband, Aryeh, were able to come to the United States and will remain several weeks so that they can meet some of the people who have written to Nudel, as well as the many government officials who have expressed an interest in helping her sister.

The 3,000 delegates and guests rose and pledged to carry on the battle for freedom for Nudel, her fellow Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience, and for the human rights of all people -- individuals fighting for dignity, security and freedom.

JEWISH AGENCY TO AID KIRYAT SHEMONA By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- Jewish Agency Executive chairman Leon Dulzin told the Kiryat Shemona town council that the Agency would give a special grant of \$250,000 to the township to help it recover from the shelling and rocketing across the border last month by Palestinian terrorists.

Dulzin and the Jewish Agency Executive held a special meeting in Kiryat Shemona after touring the border region and holding special meetings with the Galilee regional council and the Kiryat Shemona council.

Dulzin and Agency treasurer Akiva Levinsky said the special grant would be in addition to funds already budgeted for special projects in the Galilee in general and Kiryat Shemona in particular. Agency members said after the tour that the main problem appeared to be no so much economic and financial as social.

Only about 10 percent of the Kiryat Shemona population had stayed in the township throughout the two weeks of shelling. Observers say the residents had not been sufficiently prepared in advance for the possible effects of Israel air raids against terrorist installations in Lebanon.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon is to go to Egypt Aug. 19 for a three-day official visit, his office said Sunday. It will be his first trip abroad as Defense Minister. Sharon will meet with President Anwar Sadat and Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali. He will presumably be discussing arrangements for Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai next April.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The Israel Air Force is conducting a careful examination of all the F-16 warplanes in its possession but has not grounded them completely as suggested by the American manufacturers and the American government. The grounding was ordered in the United States because the aircraft's most sophisticated navigational computer has been found to be malfunctioning. Air Force sources said similar examinations had been carried out in the past when requests were made to ground aircraft because of faults which had come to light. Meanwhile, the U.S. has not yet announced any decision on whether it will release for shipment the 10 F-16 jets whose delivery has been suspended.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**A PALPABLE SUCCESS**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9 (JTA) -- Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's six-day visit to the United States appears to have been a success both for the Egyptian leader and President Reagan. Whether this augurs well for Israel or not may depend on whether Israeli Premier Menachem Begin achieves the same success when he visits the White House after Labor Day.

For it is apparent that the most important achievement during the two days of talks between Reagan and Sadat last week was the establishment of a rapport between the two leaders who had never met before. In fact, Secretary of State Alexander Haig said this directly when he told a press conference that he thought the "rapport between the two men ... was the most important aspect of the visit itself."

It is too early to say whether Sadat will have the close personal relationship with Reagan that he had with former President Carter to whom he paid a courtesy call today in Plains, Ga., before returning to Cairo. Both Reagan and Sadat, in their public statements at the White House, stressed they have established a friendly relationship.

Haig summed up this aspect and perhaps the entire Reagan-Sadat meeting when in briefing reporters, he said: "President Reagan is a new player on the international scene. President Sadat is an experienced veteran who has seen a great deal and whose own international stature is perhaps unparalleled on the contemporary scene. He is viewed as a man of vision, a man of peace, and a man of courage. I know that President Reagan has looked forward with great anticipation to an exchange of views with him."

Getting To Know Each Other

Reagan was, as Haig put it, in "a listening mode," as he took in Sadat's views on the history of the Middle East situation and how to proceed with the peace process.

Haig said he believed Sadat found in Reagan "an equally impressive, though a somewhat less experienced, counterpart; a man who sees the world from the same point of view as he; a man who believes that American commitments, American reliability, American consistency of policy, are the essential aspects of a successful American policy and will be the ingredient in the Middle East which will be the fundamental catalyst to a peace process in which all the parties can view the United States as a responsible partner that will meet its commitments" enabling all involved "to accept risks for peace."

This stress on the U.S. keeping its commitments was another major point of the Reagan-Sadat talks. Reagan assured Sadat that the U.S. is committed to the Camp David process and particularly to proceed with the next steps negotiations for autonomy for the Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Reagan Administration does not plan to make any proposals on how to proceed until Reagan meets with Begin, something to which Sadat agreed. He himself will be meeting with Begin in Alexandria this month.

The stress on the U.S. keeping its commitments also involves the Palestinian issue. News reports have stressed that Sadat failed to convince Reagan to end the 1975 U.S. commitment to Israel

and begin talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

A Push For A PLO Role

There is doubt that Sadat expected to be successful. He made the point that the acceptance of the cease-fire across the Israel-Lebanon border by the PLO and Israel was the first step in the recognition of each other, a suggestion that both the PLO and Israel reject. This is why Israel insists that there is no cease-fire but a "cessation of hostilities" and that it holds the government of Lebanon responsible for keeping things quiet on its side of the border.

Sadat's public support of the U.S. negotiating with the PLO may have been aimed at demonstrating to a hostile Arab world that he has not forgotten the Palestinians. While Reagan rejected the proposal, Sadat's efforts may also encourage further pressure from those within the Reagan Administration and other Americans who want the U.S. to deal with the PLO.

Haig, at his briefing, noted that when Reagan rejected dealing with the PLO he "emphasized his own personal conviction that American fidelity to all of its commitments -- whether they be to Israel, to Egypt, or to the other important friendly nations in the region -- are a fundamental aspect in our own hopes to achieve peace and stability in the area." The need to convince other nations that the U.S. is a reliable friend has been the keystone of the U.S. foreign policy enunciated by Haig and other Administration spokesmen since Reagan took office Jan. 20.

Haig went on to say at the briefing that advances toward Palestinian autonomy must be based on "realism" which he said was following a course that did not "derail" achievable "near-term progress" while aiming to achieve "long-term objectives." He seemed to imply that this could be done by continuing the autonomy talks between the U.S., Israel and Egypt.

Sadat seemed to accept this view, for at his press conference he noted that not all Palestinians were members of the PLO and that the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip are to be involved in the negotiations. Unfortunately, attempts by the U.S., Israel and Egypt to get West Bank and Gaza officials to participate have failed so far, principally because of fear of PLO reprisals.

Discussed Other Issues

The Sadat-Reagan talks were not confined to the Mideast peace process, although the two leaders devoted the lion's share of their conversations to this problem. Sadat, like Begin, accepts Reagan's concern over the threat to the Mideast and the Persian Gulf posed by the Soviet Union and its surrogates. In fact, Sadat, using maps, gave Reagan a 30-minute "overview" of the entire situation in the area.

Probably as important to Sadat were the discussions on bilateral problems which chiefly centered on U.S. economic and military aid. Haig said it was the U.S. "intention to maintain a rich level of security assistance support to Egypt because we feel this is in our vital American interest." Both Reagan and Sadat spoke of Sadat's efforts to improve the Egyptian economy. Sadat discussed aid programs with Administration officials and members of Congress. He made a strong pitch for private investment in Egypt in a talk before American businessmen.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- The most serious breach of the cease-fire on the Lebanese border was reported Saturday when Palestinians tried to storm a position held by Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian militia in south Lebanon. The militia repulsed the attack, Haddad's spokesmen said.