

## ISRAEL, EGYPT AND THE U.S. RESUME TALKS ON PALESTINIAN AUTONOMY

By David Landau

CAIRO, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- After an 18-month suspension, Israel, Egypt and the United States resumed negotiations today on Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The three delegations, meeting at the Mena House Hotel near Cairo, delivered brief opening statements in which they pledged good will and redoubled efforts to move the talks towards agreement.

The months of spasmodic negotiations in the aftermath of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, signed in early 1979, failed to achieve significant progress. But the head of the Egyptian delegation, Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, said in his opening remarks that "a new hope" had now arisen for the success of the talks "with the new American Administration and the recent elections in Israel."

The key figure on the Israeli team is the new Defense Minister, Ariel Sharon. His evolving new policies on the West Bank have aroused the interest of both the Egyptian and American delegations, which apparently share Sharon's intentions.

### Interest In Sharon's West Bank Plan

In recent weeks there has been a wave of reports in the Israeli media, inspired by Defense Ministry circles, to the effect that Sharon proposes to introduce major liberalizing measures on the West Bank with the avowed aim of wooing moderate local leaders into the peace process.

As the Israeli delegation left for Cairo last night, Israel radio and television elaborated on Sharon's plan to separate between purely military security affairs on the West Bank, which will remain in the hands of the army, and civilian control with as many as possible Palestinian civilians in high administrative positions.

Egypt's Minister of State, Butros Ghali, a key presence throughout the peace process with Israel, publicly welcomed Sharon's moves. In a statement last night, Ghali called on Israel to provide "confidence-building measures" that would "give hope" to the Palestinians and thereby improve the negotiating atmosphere.

Asked if such measures should include the return of the two exiled West Bank mayors, Mohamed Milhem of Halhoul and Fahd Kawasme of Hebron, to their homes, the Egyptian diplomat said this was "certainly" the kind of thing we had in mind.

### U.S. Is 'Full Partner' In The Peace Process

Speaking for the U.S. at the formal session today, Alfred Atherton, the U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, reemphasized "the commitment of the Reagan Administration to remain ... a full partner" in the peace process. "We are here to play a full role," he said, "to do all we can to help the process move forward."

His remarks apparently sought to allay concerns voiced in Israel over the fact that Secretary of State Alexander Haig neglected to refer to the

Camp David process in his address to the United Nations General Assembly earlier this week.

Atherton also sought to allay concerns -- felt both in Israel and Egypt -- that the U.S. had weakened its interest in the autonomy talks by not designating a special envoy to head its delegations, as was the case under the Carter Administration. He said that he and the Ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis, were co-chairmen of the U.S. team and this showed that "we are redoubling our efforts ... we're here with two heads of delegation ..."

The talks will continue through tomorrow afternoon, ending with a press conference. Earlier this week officials of the three sides worked out a schedule of fairly intensive negotiations on the working groups and the ministerial levels which will take the autonomy talks through to mid-January; by then the negotiators hope to be able to point to meaningful progress.

## FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS FOR THE PLO TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MIDEAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson called today for the inclusion of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Middle East peace negotiations. He reiterated the French position at a crowded press conference and afterwards in his address to the UN General Assembly.

Replying to questions at the press conference, Cheysson said "of course" when asked if his government still believes the PLO should be associated with the peace process. The PLO, he said, "represents the fight, the struggle of the Palestinian people" and as such should be part of the negotiations. At the same time, however, Cheysson emphasized that his government has never recognized the PLO as being the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

The French diplomat said that any final Middle East peace agreement should be left to the Arabs and Israel -- is themselves. Asked about the Saudi Arabian peace plan proposed by Crown Prince Fahd last month, Cheysson said Fahd's statements represent "a remarkable progress." He added, however, that the statement failed to mention "self-determination" which is an important aspect of any Middle East settlement as far as France is concerned.

Cheysson said that President Francois Mitterrand of France will visit Saudi Arabia this Saturday and therefore the Saudi peace initiative might come to attention once again.

### Pessimistic About Lebanon Situation

The French Foreign Minister was pessimistic about the situation in Lebanon which he said was extremely grave to the point of being "unbearable." He observed that Lebanon has "almost disappeared as a nation and as a state." He stressed the need for a peaceful solution to the Lebanese crisis, which, he said, could be found only by the parties involved. He said that France would participate in any plan to bring peace to Lebanon if asked to do so by the parties or by the UN.

In his speech to the General Assembly, Cheysson addressed the Middle East problem in more general terms, declaring that "negotiation involving all of the parties concerned is the only acceptable means" for



reaching a settlement in the region. He also warned that "Violation of the resolutions of this organization (UN) is not the way to ensure the necessary security for the countries, for all the countries in the Middle East, including Israel. War is not the way the peoples of this region, all the peoples, including the Palestinian people, will achieve their rights recognized, including the right to a homeland and a state," he said.

Cheysson declared that "Justice for people, security for states, respect for international decisions, negotiations -- these are the principles that will guide France in the position it takes in the Middle East and throughout the world."

The General Assembly was addressed last night by the Argentine Foreign Minister, Oscar Camilion, and Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda of Japan. Camilion said that one of the most serious cases of insecurity is the persistent delay in resolving the Palestinian problem and the non-recognition of Israel by most Arab countries. He also noted that Israel's occupation of territory since the 1967 war, its bombing of Iraq's nuclear installation last June and the recent attack on a synagogue in Vienna are all part of the same problems.

Sonoda said peace in the Middle East would be achieved through implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 and 338 and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination. He also said that it is necessary for a solution that Israel recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the Palestinians recognize Israel's right to exist. He called for participation by the PLO in the peace process.

#### Views Of West Germany and Italy

The Foreign Ministers of West Germany and Italy, Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Emilio Colombo, respectively, following the West European approach to a solution of the Middle East conflict, called today for mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestinians.

Genscher, addressing the General Assembly, said, "We have a vital interest of our own in a lasting comprehensive and equitable peace in the Middle East. Israel's right to live within secure and recognized boundaries is just as indispensable for such a peace as recognition of the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people," he said. Genscher called for intensified efforts to achieve a settlement.

Colombo also supported Palestinian rights, including a state of their own "if they so wish." He emphasized at the same time Israel's right to exist within secure and recognized boundaries.

#### FOUR FORMER U.S. ENVOYS TO SAUDI ARABIA ATTACK ISRAEL FOR HER OPPOSITION TO AWACS SALE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Four former United States Ambassadors to Saudi Arabia charged yesterday that Israel does not oppose the sale of five AWACS surveillance planes to Saudi Arabia because it threatens the Jewish State, but because Israel wants "to disrupt relations between the United States and this most important Arab country."

The four -- Robert Neumann, John West, James Akins and Parker Hart -- in a statement at a press conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, also declared that "the sale must proceed" because "the promises and credibility" of President Reagan and former President Carter "and the country are at stake."

The former four Ambassadors maintained they had called the press conference at their "own initiative." They denied they were acting at the behest of the White House or the State Department.

But their move came as the Reagan Administration appeared to be growing more concerned that the AWACS sale will be vetoed by the Republican-controlled Senate. Senate Majority leader Howard Baker (R. Tenn.) conceded today that there are enough votes in the Senate to reject the sale, although he believed that some minds could be changed. Reports are that the vote now is 63-12 against the sale, well over the 51-vote majority needed.

#### Rationale For Sale Of AWACS

In their prepared statement in which the four former Ambassadors said they had agreed upon, the former diplomats said they find the AWACS system "uniquely adapted to the defense to the oilfields of eastern Arabia. We see no way that the AWACS would be a danger to Israel unless Israel actually were to launch an airborne attack on the Arabian oilfields or oil installations."

The four saw three consequences if the sale was rejected. The first, they claimed, would be a Saudi interpretation of Congress "yielding to pressure from Israel." They said the Saudis would also review their oil policy which they said has "been immensely beneficial to the United States and the entire oil consuming world." They also predicted "a considerable scaling down of American military and economic presence in Saudi Arabia at immense cost to our economy."

When it was suggested that they were talking about "economic blackmail," Neumann denied this. But he said the U.S. and West Europe needed "Saudi oil and the jobs provided by investment in Saudi Arabia. Hart said that if the sale was rejected there would be a gradual "disintegration" of the American presence in Saudi Arabia as well as U.S. investments there.

The four strongly denied they had any economic interests in Saudi Arabia. Akins and Hart are consultants in international affairs. Neumann is a senior associate at Georgetown University's Center for Strategic Studies, and West is on the Board of Directors of the Southern Center for International Studies in Atlanta, Ga.

#### Charges Begin Is Cynical

At the press conference, Akins charged that Premier Menachem Begin of Israel was being "cynical" in his opposition to the AWACS sale. "If the deal goes through then he (Begin) can extract much greater aid from the United States, military aid and economic aid," Akins claimed. He said that if the deal is blocked, Begin will have demonstrated his "invulnerability." He did not explain whether he meant this in the area of domestic politics or foreign relations. Begin "is in a no-lose situation," Akins asserted.

Akins also charged that Israel was "not at all serious" in arguing that the AWACS threatened its security because it knew that Americans will have to fly these planes for their full life and American technicians will have to be in Saudi Arabia for the full life of the planes.

Neumann, who was Ambassador to Saudi Arabia for several weeks until he was fired by Secretary of State Alexander Haig in July, also said that Americans would have to be at least part of the flying crews of the AWACS planes and all of the ground crew at least till the end of the century.

Hart, who was envoy to Riyadh in 1961-65 and said his experience in Saudi Arabia goes back to 1944, rejected the claim that the Saudi Regime can be toppled as happened to the Shah in Iran. He said there is no "alternative" to the ruling family in Saudi Arabia.



## VIEWPOINT

## WHO HATES YA, BABY?

By Murray Zuckoff

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- One of the obscenities in American Jewish life is the spectacle of Jewish representatives flying down to Argentina to get the latest progress reports about the Jewish situation there from the government and the Jewish community leaders.

From the almost glowing reports they deliver upon their return to this country about the Jewish condition in Argentina, it would appear that these representatives go there less for the sake of assessing the real condition than to disprove the contention of Jacobo Timerman that Argentina is rife with anti-Semitism and manifestations of neo-Nazism. They return to proclaim that there is no Holocaust, that the regime is not a clone of Nazi Germany and that Jews are relatively safe and secure.

These representatives completely ignore or deny the massive violations not only of human rights generally in Argentina, but the violations of Jewish rights in particular. They return silent about the estimated 2,000 Jews who are among the 20,000 disappeared ones and about the countless numbers of Jews who are in prison and who undergo torture at the hands of the jailers and the security forces.

Organizing A Witch-Hunt

Another obscenity is that of Jewish and non-Jewish literary hacks staking out their claims as rabid witch-hunters and equal opportunity vilifiers of Timerman and of those who support his contentions about the rampant anti-Semitism in Argentina and the existence of Nazi-like prison camps such as La Perla.

This cabal, which includes Irving Kristol, Benno Weiser Varon, Mark Falcoff and William Buckley not only vilify Timerman by smearing him as a darling of the American left and as a former supporter of leftwing guerillas in Argentina, but also try to deny the validity of his suffering as a Jew while he was in jail which he described so poignantly in his book, "Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number."

The diatribes these hacks direct against the former publisher and editor of La Opinion are not so much for his criticism of the Argentine Jewish leaders for being silent about the tragedy which has befallen the Jews in their country, but more for his attacks against the Argentine junta and the Reagan Administration which seeks to bolster it as an ally.

To the extent that the American Jewish representatives and their poison-pen sidekicks acknowledge that there is anti-Semitism in Argentina they claim it is negligible and on an unofficial level, and take refuge in the argument that it has occurred before and that it went away, and if it is recurring again, this too shall pass. But at what cost in the meanwhile to the thousands of Jews caught in the vise of terror?

The 'Neo-Judenrat'

Who are these Jewish representatives and their sidekicks? For the most part they are the same ones who are silent about the plight of Ethiopian Jews; who insist that anti-Semitism in America is declining and is nothing worse than a 24-hour virus; who claim that the United States is immune to the historical laws governing the rise and institutionalization of Nazism; who kept silent when the young, brilliant Brazilian Jewish journalist,

Vladimir Herzog, was hounded, jailed and then found dead in his cell in Sao Paulo in 1975; and who support every reactionary regime in the world so long as they can characterize them as "authoritarian" and not "totalitarian."

These individuals and their ilk comprise a "neo-Judenrat." But this Judenrat is far more despicable than the Judenrate (Jewish councils) that were imposed upon the Jews by the Nazis in the European countries they occupied. Not all those Judenrate were the same; some actively collaborated with the Nazis, some refused to do their biddings, some looked the other way when Nazis murdered Jews, others helped Jews organize resistance against the Nazi hordes.

But all the European Judenrate operated under conditions of powerlessness; they had no choice; they were under the gun; and even the most benign were limited in what they could do to help save Jews. The neo-Judenrat, however, does not operate under conditions of powerlessness but under conditions where there are options. They can speak out and tell the truth about the plight of Argentine Jewry or they can keep silent or they can distort the reality which Timerman has described.

The neo-Judenrat has opted to create conditions of powerlessness for both the Jews of Argentina and the Jews of America by disseminating disinformation about the situation in Argentina. This Judenrat propounds the theme that Argentina is not a "gulag" for those Jews and non-Jews who are arrested, tortured or who disappear -- merely a slight deviation from the American form of democracy.

Thus, the Argentine regime is provided with a veneer of respectability and moral and legal authority in the court of American public opinion. American Jews are thereby dissuaded from trying to help Argentine Jewry and Argentine Jewry is left isolated from American Jewry. Worst of all, the voices of those Jews who are victims of the regime's repressions are muffled by the campaign of disinformation.

Other Sources Available

Timerman's account, the neo-Judenrat claims, is clouded by subjectivity, by his leftist political views, by his obsessive hatred of the Argentine government. His assessment of what is happening to Jewish and non-Jewish dissidents in Argentina is, therefore, according to this neo-Judenrat, suspect. But even if this were so -- and it isn't -- why the need for a witch-hunt, a smear campaign against Timerman?

But let's forget Timerman. Let's pretend he doesn't exist. Is the reality of pre-dawn kidnappings, indiscriminate jailings, torture and the disappearance of thousands changed in any way? Is the reality that Jews who are arrested are treated more brutally than non-Jews changed in any way? After all, the views, opinions and contentions of one person can neither create nor negate reality.

If one believes that the reality in Argentina is different than that described by Timerman, there are other sources to check; the mothers of the disappeared ones who gather weekly at the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires seeking to learn the whereabouts of their loved ones; Amnesty International; the Council on Hemispheric Affairs; the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, an agency of the Organization of American States.

Being Jewish Is Tantamount To Being Guilty

If these sources are also suspect, perhaps another source would be considered more objective and reliable: James Neilson, the editor of the English-language Buenos Aires Herald. Writing in the August-September issue of Hadassah Magazine, he states:

"Jews, it was generally believed ... received far harsher treatment from the military than Christians or



atheists did if captured by the security forces. Such reports as have leaked out from the military's half-hidden prison system make it plain that, as far as the army is concerned, being Jewish is tantamount to an admission of political guilt. Some people who were held for a time and then released have testified that they saw portraits of Hitler on the walls of the torture chambers and that one of the first questions they had to answer was, 'are you a Jew'?"

According to the neo-Judenrat, the security forces carry out extra-legal activities which are not authorized by the government. But if this is so, why aren't any of them arrested? Why don't the legal authorities end this reign of terror? But forces do not operate in a vacuum. They operate within the framework of a political system.

### The Root Of The Matter

What motivates the neo-Judenrat to deny the existence of anti-Semitism in Argentina? What motivates them to deny manifestations of neo-Nazism in that country? How do they rationalize their orchestrated attacks on Timerman? In addition to the fact that they accept the Reagan Administration's perception of Argentina as merely an "authoritarian" regime which is an invaluable ally in the fight against "totalitarian" regimes, there is a more fundamental reason.

The root of the matter is this: there is an attempt to deny the Jewish nature of the plight of those Jews who are victimized by the Argentine regime by denying that they are Jews or victimized as Jews. The neo-Judenrat identifies these victims in terms used by the regime: leftists, radicals, revolutionaries, dissidents and malcontents. They do not define who is a Jew in Argentina according to halacha but according to the government's charges.

This is truly a tragedy of great magnitude: Jews being denied their Jewish identity by other Jews only because the government has accused them, without due process of law, of being political opponents even though many of them have never even been politically involved. The victimized Argentine Jews suffer a double indignity -- they have been read out of the community as Jews at the same time that their tormentors insist on recognizing them as Jews and considering them guilty because they are Jews. Their identity as Jews and their suffering as Jews is erased by the neo-Judenrat -- and thus there is no Jewish problem in Argentina.

The tragedy in that country -- as in other South American countries -- is that aside from those who are known to have been jailed or who have disappeared there may be many more Jews who are in prisons, being tortured or killed without any one abroad knowing about it until it is too late to try to save them. And all this because the neo-Judenrat denies the reality of anti-Semitism and manifestations of Nazism in Argentina.

There may not be a Holocaust in Argentina at this time (and Timerman never said that there is). Perhaps there is not even a pogrom, if one accepts the verdict of the neo-Judenrat. But if world Jewry waits until there is another Kishinev or gas chambers or crematoria, it will be too late. Some 2,000 Jews have disappeared in Argentina, and the neo-Judenrat is silent about this, and so is world Jewry generally. What would world Jewry say and do if 2,000 Jews disappeared in the Soviet Union or in some Arab country? The answer is obvious. But there is only equivocation and prevarication about the plight of Argentine Jewry.

If Timerman does nothing else for the rest of his life, he has already left an indelible imprint on history by forcing world opinion to deal with the issue of the Jews in Argentina. Can the organized Jewish community in America do less?

### SOVIET JEWRY GROUP EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER POLICY ON NOSHRIM

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ) has expressed concern over the recently announced change in Soviet Jewish resettlement policy by the Jewish Agency. Under the agreement, the Jewish Agency would refer to HIAS for immigration assistance only those Jews leaving the Soviet Union for countries other than Israel who have parents, children or spouses in those countries. The others would be required to go to Israel or fend for themselves.

At the annual meeting of the grass-roots organization, which has 28 councils in 35 states, the UCSJ stressed that while it "actively encourages emigres to choose Israel as their final destination," it believes that "just as Soviet Jews should be free to emigrate from the USSR, so should they be free to resettle in the country of their choice."

A resolution adopted at the UCSJ meeting "urges HIAS to aid all Soviet Jews to resettle in the country of their choice" and called on the immigrant aid society to adopt this policy "before the change in policy made by the Jewish Agency leads to a decline in emigration" from the Soviet Union.

Lynn Singer, of East Meadows, N.Y., who was elected president of the UCSJ, reiterated that position. "I urge HIAS to aid all Soviet Jews to resettle in the country of their choice, not just those with immediate family members in countries other than Israel," she declared.

The UCSJ resolution also noted with "deep concern" that non-Jewish agencies and organizations will be helping those Soviet Jews excluded by the new Jewish Agency policy. It noted that "A valuable asset to the Jewish community might thus be lost." The UCSJ stressed that its "main objective is to maximize the number of Jews allowed to emigrate from the USSR while there is still a chance."

At a ceremony on Capitol Hill yesterday, the UCSJ honored five members of Congress who were especially active on behalf of Soviet Jews in 1981. The Congressmen, designated "Legislator of the Year" are Sens. Alan Cranston (D. Calif.) and Rudy Boschwitz (R. Minn.) and Reps. William Brodhead (D. Mich.); Lawrence Coughlin (R. Pa.) and Michael Barnes (D. Md.).

### FIVE PERSONS INJURED BY TERRORISTS

TEL AVIV, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Five employees of a Cypriot company which serves as agents for Israel's Zim Lines were injured today when hand grenades exploded in their office in Limassol, Cyprus. The assailant was caught by police after a running gun fight through streets of the seaport town. He was described as a Palestinian, though police said the man carried no identification papers. No Israelis are employed by the Cypriot firm, but a ZimLine official in Haifa said he would go to Cyprus today to assist in the investigation of the attack.

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BONN (JTA) -- Neo-Nazi friends of Germany's wartime flying ace, Hans-Ulrich Roedel, are minting a medal in gold and silver to honor him on the occasion of his 65th birthday. The medal will be distributed through the Munich-based National Zeitung, a neo-Nazi newspaper.