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REAGAN, IN LETTER TO BEGIN, REAFFIRMS U.S. STRATEGIC COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- President Reagan has reaffirmed his commitment to go ahead with the strategic cooperation agreed between him and Premier Menachem Begin at their summit talks in Washington last month.

In a letter to Begin over the weekend the President wrote that the U.S. would fulfill its undertakings. Word of the letter was leaked here yesterday -- apparently to counter a report from Washington to the effect that the Pentagon is linking the strategic cooperation with Israel to the passage of the AWACS sale through the Senate.

Some observers here believe Reagan wrote the letter to help reassure pro-Israel Senators that the U.S.-Israel relationship would remain strong despite the AWACS sale.

Israeli sources said State Department Counsellor Robert MacFarlane would come to Israel later this week for talks with Begin and other officials on implementing the strategic cooperation.

Earlier this month, Israeli sources said Defense Minister Ariel Sharon had declined to consult with the U.S. on the pre-positioning of American military-medical facilities here, on the grounds that the strategic cooperation must be broad-based and not piecemeal.

SPECULATION RAISED THAT ARAB POLITICAL DEPORTEES FROM THE WEST BANK WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETURN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- The announcement that former Mayor Nadim Zarou of Ramallah, deported in 1969 for alleged subversive activities, will be allowed to return to the West Bank, has raised speculation here that more Arab political deportees will be allowed to return on condition that they do not engage in political activities.

This ties in with what has been characterized as a more liberal policy in the occupied territories undertaken by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. The return of Zarou is interpreted in some quarters as a sign that the gates will now be opened to exiled pro-Jordanian leaders as a counter-force to pro-Palestine Liberation Organization elements on the West Bank. Mentioned in that connection is the former Jordanian Governor of Jerusalem, Rouhi Al-Hatib who was deported to Jordan in 1967, shortly after the Six-Day War.

But military sources said yesterday that there is no new policy. They said each deportee requesting permission to return will be examined on the merits of his cases. The Military Government recently recommended against the return of the two West Bank Mayors, Fahed Kawasme of Hebron and Mohammad Milhim of Halhoul, who were deported 18 months ago for alleged incitement against Israel leading to the ambush slaying of six yeshiva students in Hebron.

Zarou, 50, who served as Mayor of Ramallah between 1964-1969, has spent the past 12 years in Jordan where he served in senior government posts

including Minister of Transportation, and engaged in business. His successor was Karim Khalaf, a PLO sympathizer, who is still in office.

Gen. Danny Matt, coordinator of activities for the Defense Ministry in the occupied territories, is permitting Zarou to return after he signed a pledge not to engage in hostile activities, it was announced over the weekend.

BEGIN, ALI OPTIMISTIC OVER BREAKTHROUGH IN AUTONOMY TALKS

Talks To Shift To Ministerial Level In Cairo
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali of Egypt appeared optimistic today that a breakthrough will be achieved in the autonomy negotiations now once more under way between Israel and Egypt. Ali said, after meeting with Begin this morning, that the talks will shift to the ministerial level in Cairo next week. They opened in Tel Aviv at the sub-ministerial, technical level last week.

Ali said the purpose of the higher level negotiations will be to reach agreement within a short time, although no target date has been set. Begin told reporters that Israel and Egypt would make a joint effort to bring the talks to a successful conclusion.

According to Begin, the key element is agreement on the election procedures, the functions and the number of members of the administrative council which will be the self-governing body on the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the autonomy plan. He said the talks opening in Cairo next week will concentrate on that issue. (Reaction in Washington, P.3.)

Israel Would Alter Its Presence

Begin promised that once an agreement is reached, Israel would alter its presence in the occupied territories in conformity with the terms of the Camp David accords. Israel will withdraw the Military Government and will carry out "a withdrawal" of military forces.

The remaining forces will be re-deployed to "specified security locations," Begin said, employing the phraseology of the Camp David agreement. He said Israel was willing to draw a map denoting those locations. "It was my impression that the idea was received (by the Egyptians) as a basis for consideration and discussion," Begin said.

He recalled that the late President Anwar Sadat had told him, at their last meeting in Alexandria in August, that every effort should be made to conclude the autonomy negotiations by the end of this year.

Israel will be represented in Cairo next week by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and Interior Minister Yosef Burg.

The Egyptian delegation will consist of Hassan Ali, Minister of State Butros Ghali, and a third minister not yet identified. Begin said he has informed U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis of the decision to continue the talks in Cairo next week so that arrangements can be made for an American delegation to participate.

Lewis and Alfred Atherton, the U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, represented Washington when the autonomy talks resumed last month after being in suspension for more than a year. But the Reagan Administration has not appointed a special representative to the talks, as

the Carter Administration had done in the person of Sol Linowitz.

Mubarak Invited To Jerusalem

Begin also announced that he invited President Hosni Mubarak to visit Jerusalem. He and Mubarak are expected to meet before the Egyptian President goes to Washington late this year or early in 1982 for his first meeting with American officials since he succeeded Sadat.

Meanwhile, an Israeli delegation headed by Minister of Tourism Avraham Sharir has been in Egypt for the past several days to work out agreements on the normalization of tourist traffic between the two countries. Begin said those talks were "successful" and that full agreement had been reached. Earlier reports said, however, that Sharir was encountering some hard bargaining by the Egyptians and was disappointed by the terms they demanded.

But Rafi Farber, Director General of the Ministry of Tourism, said in a telephone interview from Cairo today that reports in the Israeli press of negotiating difficulties and internal conflicts in the Israeli delegation were unfounded.

According to Farber, agreement was reached to open a direct bus line between Cairo and Tel Aviv and for each country to open a tourist office in the other. He conceded that there were still differences over Egyptian visa regulations for Israeli tourists visiting Sinai.

Before meeting with Begin today, Hassan Ali visited President Yitzhak Navon with a message of thanks from Mubarak for Navon's condolences to him on the death of Sadat. The Egyptian Foreign Minister confirmed that President and Mrs. Navon will visit Egypt at the end of the 40 day mourning period for Sadat.

FUROR OVER AWARD TO TIMERMAN

NEW YORK, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Jacobo Timerman, a former Argentine journalist and human rights advocate who was expelled from that country after being imprisoned for two-and-a-half years, is a recipient of the prestigious Maria Moors Cabot Award at Columbia University. Two other winners of the award are Karen DeYoung, foreign editor of The Washington Post, and Marlise Simons, a Latin American correspondent for The Post and Newsweek magazine and who writes for the NRC Handelsblad in Rotterdam.

The award to Timerman has caused a furor in Argentina which claims that his account of his imprisonment and torture by the governing military junta is not true. In his book, "Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number," Timerman detailed the suffering he underwent during his imprisonment and that he was treated especially harshly because he is Jewish. Argentina denied this charge. Timerman was publisher of La Opinion until his arrest in 1977 by Argentine security forces. He was expelled from the country in 1979 and now lives in Israel.

Several previous Argentine winners of Cabot prizes have protested the selection of Timerman. Argentina informed Columbia University that it will boycott the awards ceremony tomorrow because Timerman is one of the recipients. The award is given to journalists who promote better understanding between the U.S. and Latin America. The prizes, established in 1939, are awarded by the trustees of Columbia University on the recommendation of the dean of the university's School of Journalism. The award consists of a gold medal, a certificate and \$1,000.

80,000 PEOPLE ATTEND MEMORIAL MEETING FOR ANWAR SADAT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Over 80,000 people crowded into Tel Aviv's main Malchei Yisrael Square outside the municipality building Saturday night to attend a memorial meeting and peace song festival in memory of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

The meeting was arranged by Abie Nathan, owner and operator of the pirate Voice of Peace floating radio station, and the square was renamed "Sadat Square" for the day to mark the event.

It was attended by Egyptian Ambassador Saad Mortada, who said the Egyptian people had proved its support of Sadat's peace process by the manner in which it had calmly accepted his successor, Hosni Mubarak.

Nathan told the crowd, "It takes more strength to declare peace than to make war." A long list of Israel's most popular singers and song writers donated their services to the mass happening, at which peace and popular songs were interspersed with readings from the Bible and the Koran.

16 OF 17 BLACK MEMBERS OF CONGRESS VOTED AGAINST AWACS SALE, AS DID ALL FIVE HISPANIC MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Sixteen of the 17 Black members of the House of Representatives and all five Hispanic Congressmen voted with the majority in rejecting President Reagan's proposed \$8.5 billion arms package for Saudi Arabia, it was reported this week by the Black-Jewish Information Center.

The one member of the Black Caucus who did not go along with his colleagues was Rep. Gus Savage, Democrat of Illinois, who was recorded as "not voting." Walter Fauntroy, who represents the District of Columbia, does not have a vote. A number of the Black Representatives issued statements telling why they opposed the AWACS deal, among them Rep. Shirley Chisolm, Democrat of New York.

Chisolm said the Reagan proposal would not increase U.S. security, or peace in the Middle East, or stability in the region. Noting that Saudi Arabia was "an avowed enemy of the State of Israel," Rep. Chisolm declared:

"The Saudis have declared a holy war against the Jewish state. They funnel billions of dollars, earned from selling oil to America, into the treasuries of the PLO and hostile Arab nations. They condemn the Camp David agreement. Their new AWACS planes and their new F-15 fuel tanks and missiles would multiply the dangers to Israel and would force the Israelis to arm themselves even more heavily as a result."

ADL PRAISES CALIFORNIA FOR BANNING KKK PARAMILITARY TRAINING CAMPS

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith praised the California legislature for being in the vanguard of states adopting legislation which bars paramilitary training camps run by the Ku Klux Klan and other extremist groups. The statute, approved by both houses of the legislature last month and subsequently signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown, makes California the third state to take such action. Connecticut and North Carolina passed laws over the summer.

According to Justin Finger, director of ADL's Civil Rights Division, the bills already passed and those pending in seven other states are based on a model statute drawn up by the ADL. It calls for imprisonment and/or fines against those found guilty of operating paramilitary camps or receiving training there.

Finger gave a "status" report on the legislation to ADL leaders from all sections of the country gathered here at the Fairmont Hotel for the agency's National Executive Committee meeting, which ended yesterday. He said the seven state legislatures in which anti-paramilitary camp bills are pending are Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

In Massachusetts, the "model" bill has been endorsed by the Boston Chapter of the NAACP, the Urban League and the Greater Boston Civil Rights Coalition. In its nationwide survey on the KKK last year, the ADL revealed that California was a Klan distribution center for instructional manuals and handbooks on terrorism.

Finger said that ADL's model statute was based on the 1968 federal Civil Obedience Act, which has been upheld as constitutional by federal Courts of Appeals. The ADL bill was drafted, he declared, after a canvass by ADL regional offices revealed a pressing need for laws enabling state authorities to crack down on Klan paramilitary encampments.

U.S. PLEASED BY ISRAEL'S AND EGYPT'S DETERMINATION TO MOVE THE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- The State Department expressed satisfaction today with the announcement in Jerusalem that Egypt and Israel have agreed to speed up the autonomy negotiations at the ministerial level. But it rejected a call by Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali of Egypt for the U.S. to upgrade its representation at the autonomy talks.

"We are very pleased" by the announcement, State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said. He observed that it was an "indication of their (Israel and Egypt) determination to move the process forward." But Fischer said that when the talks are held in Cairo on November 3-4, the senior U.S. representatives will continue to be the American Ambassadors to Israel and Egypt, Samuel Lewis and Alfred Atherton.

Fischer noted that, as President Reagan and Secretary of State Alexander Haig have said in the past, the U.S. will, from time to time, "reassess the level of representation" and will upgrade it when it considers that will be "useful."

The Reagan Administration has refused so far to name a special envoy for the autonomy negotiations as the Carter Administration did in the persons first of Robert Strauss later Sol Linowitz, both with the status of special ambassador. Linowitz however is believed to be advising the State Department on the autonomy talks.

Fischer also rejected a proposal by former Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin that in order to move the talks forward, President Reagan would have to initiate a summit meeting with Begin and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He said such a recommendation is "premature and hypothetical" and that the U.S. is at present "not dissatisfied with the pace of the talks."

Rejects Case For Recognizing The PLO

On another issue, Fischer rejected the call yesterday by Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu for the U.S. to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization in order to achieve progress toward a Middle East peace.

He reiterated the U.S. position not to deal with the PLO until it accepts Israel's right to exist and

UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Fischer looked askance at Papandreu's announced intention to grant the PLO office in Athens diplomatic status. He noted that Papandreu intends to do this when he hosts PLO chief Yasir Arafat and remarked that any "enhanced status" for the PLO would "not advance the cause of peace in the Middle East."

PERES: MUBARAK SAYS EGYPT WILL CONTINUE WITH PEACE PROCESS, DOES NOT WANT TO SEE JERUSALEM DIVIDED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres, returning from a one-day visit to Cairo, said last night that President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt assured him he intended to carry on the peace process with Israel initiated by the late President Anwar Sadat. He also said that Mubarak made it clear that he does not want to see Jerusalem divided.

Peres, who headed a Labor Party delegation to the Egyptian capital, said, "Mubarak assured us, in the clearest possible manner, that he continued Sadat's policy of working for an undivided Jerusalem, though the various ethnic groups in Jerusalem should be allowed to give expression to their own interests." He said the delegation was also given assurances that the peace process would be broadened after Israel completes its withdrawal from Sinai next April.

Peres came under attack today from Geula Cohen, a leader of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya party which opposes the peace treaty with Egypt and is demanding that Israel abandon its commitment to withdraw from Sinai. Cohen accused the Labor Party leader of "misleading the public." She claimed that "As everybody knows, both Anwar Sadat and Hosni Mubarak really wanted and still want to divide sovereignty in Jerusalem."

Peres and his delegation laid a wreath on Sadat's grave and paid a condolence visit to the late President's widow, Jihan Sadat. The delegation consisted of Labor MKs Mordechai Gur, Haim Zadok, Shoshana Arbelli-Almoslino and Hamr Khallili. Peres, as leader of the opposition, had asked to be included in the official Israeli delegation to Sadat's funeral on October 10 but was turned down by Premier Menachem Begin.

BONN ACCUSED OF UNDERESTIMATING NEO-NAZISM IN WEST GERMANY

By David Kantor

BONN, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- Heinz Galinski, chairman of the West Berlin Jewish community, has accused the authorities in Bonn of consistently playing down and under-estimating the dangers of neo-Nazism in the Federal Republic. His charges were reflected in the official publication of the West Berlin domestic security services which noted the contrast between the small number of neo-Nazi activists in that city and their rapid increase in West Germany.

West Berlin, where the Allied occupation powers still exercise control, has close contacts with the Federal Republic but is not part of it. While Galinski, accused Bonn of blindness toward neo-Nazism, the West Berlin publication noted that the ban imposed by the Allies on public meetings of neo-Nazis has no counterpart in the Federal Republic. The Bonn authorities contend that such restrictions would be overturned by the country's constitutional court.

According to the publication, extreme right-wing organizations have found little support among young people in West Berlin. Official statistics place the number of neo-Nazis in the city at 500 divided among 11 separate groups.

BACKGROUND REPORT MOVEMENT TO STOP WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI IS GAINING STRENGTH

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 26 (JTA) -- If proof were needed that the "Stop the Withdrawal in Sinai Movement" is gaining support and becoming more strident in tone, it was provided last week when an estimated 30,000 people, most of them religious-nationalist youngsters, spent the Simchat Torah holiday dancing through the streets of Yamit in symbolic "second Hakafot" to protest the planned evacuation of the region by next April.

Hanan Porat, Tehiya Knesset member, in a fiery speech, deplored the "playing down of the spontaneous joy felt here nationwide at the death of (Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat," according to a report in Yediot Achronot. Porat was quoted in both Yediot and Maariv as saying that God had dealt "with his enemies as they deserve" in arranging Sadat's assassination. He recalled the thousands of Israelis killed in the Yom Kippur War which Sadat launched against Israel.

Porat is now living in the Rafah area, as is Geula Cohen of Tehiya and Rabbi Haim Druckman of the National Religious Party. Druckman moved into Yamit with his wife and nine children two weeks ago. All three have said that their presence in the area will strengthen the resolve of the residents and other nationalist elements to resist government orders to evacuate.

Funding For The Movement

In a recent interview Porat said the funding for the extensive activities of the Stop the Withdrawal campaign was derived from private contributions -- especially from settlers in Judaea and Samaria -- each of whom was expected to donate one thousand Shekels.

The campaign includes organizing bus trips to the Rafah area -- each of which ends with lectures from local anti-withdrawal residents and exhortations to the visitors to sign up as members or supporters of the movement. The organization claims to have scores of families ready and waiting for the signal to move to the area -- as some 20 families have already done (most of them into abandoned homes in the Moshav of Talmei Yosef).

Ms. Cohen, in a Simchat Torah interview, stated the movement's objective in unequivocal terms: "Our aim is to stop the withdrawal at least from what is left of Sinai. We ourselves believe that the nation will yet mourn the earlier withdrawal from the west of the peninsula ..."

Says Peace Treaty Needs Revision

Ms. Cohen and other movement spokesmen cite the death of Sadat as a factor that ought to convince the Israeli public that the peace treaty with Egypt "needs revision." She also stressed the massive arms flow to Saudi Arabia as a strategic factor of such significance that was not so evident when the Camp David agreements were concluded.

All these, she believes, would justify, in terms of international law, Israel's demand for "revision of the treaty." "Only a State determined on national suicide would pursue this (withdrawal) policy (now)," she says.

Ms. Cohen predicts that if the whole of Sinai is returned as scheduled, the Egyptians will immediately embark on a major diplomatic initiative, strongly and widely supported in the international arena, to pressure Israel over Judaea and Samaria. Israel will then be bereft of its main "card" -- the

strategic chunk of Sinai still in its possession. Moreover, she says, the withdrawal will weaken Israel strategically and morally -- and will thus serve as an eventual "enticement to war."

Says Ms. Cohen: "I believe that non-withdrawal is not only vital -- but also possible. If the government doesn't want it, then the will of the people must force the government to change its stand ... If the government tries to use its right to force, we shall use our force of right -- and I believe that we can triumph ..."

She hints that the movement still hoped that Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, patron of the Gush Emunim West Bank settlements, would finally side with the movement against withdrawal.

An Agonizing Dilemma

High government sources concede that they face an agonizing dilemma. The anti-withdrawal movement is gathering strength and adherents from day to day, yet the majority feeling in the Cabinet is that the government should not force a showdown at this early stage, six months before the April 26 withdrawal deadline. That would only play into the movement's hands, the sources explain.

Better, then, if there must be a showdown and a use of force, to confine it to the immediate week or two before the withdrawal deadline. The national trauma of withdrawal will be deep enough: there is no point extending -- and deepening -- it over a period of many months, the sources say.

In addition, the government sources indicate, by April most of the authentic Rafah area residents will have taken their compensation and left, sadly but without physical resistance. Thus the Gush Emunim newcomers will be isolated and seen by the wider public as a small group of Johnny-come-latelies in the Rafah area.

This latter consideration is now under threat, however, because the anti-withdrawal movement has made common cause with dissatisfied Yamit residents still haggling with the government over levels of compensation. These residents are now threatening that they will join the movement, and refuse to leave, unless the government agrees to substantially raise their compensation sums.

The compensation issue is complex: Rafah area farmers get more than Yamit urban shopkeepers, on the grounds that it costs more to start a new farm inland than to open a new shop. The shopkeepers -- or some of them -- do not accept the justice of the argument. At any rate, the "mutual exploitation" (in the words of one key official) between anti-withdrawal activists and disgruntled Yamit residents is plainly worrying the government here in Jerusalem.

AMSTERDAM (JTA) -- The government of Holland is in principle prepared to supply troops to the Sinai peace force, a government official said here. However, two conditions must be met, namely, that the European Economic Community (EEC) approves the stationing of European troops in the Sinai to police the area after Israel's final withdrawal next April and that Holland will not be the only European country to supply troops. Holland had earlier rejected an American request that it station troops in the Sinai because Holland is already participating in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. It is felt that Dutch participation in overseas ventures should not exceed using more than 100 men.

VIENNA (JTA) -- The municipal government will allocate more than one million Schillings for the renovation of the walls surrounding the Jewish cemetery in the western Vienna district of Waehring, it was announced by Mayor Leopold Gratz.