

ISRAELIS BUOYED BY POSITIVE EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE ON NORMALIZATION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- The three-day visit to Israel this week by Egyptian Foreign Minister Kemal Hassan Ali has left a veritable glow of satisfaction among his Israeli hosts. They cite both the warm tenor of Ali's talks here, and the businesslike content, to explain their favorable reaction.

There is to be another round of talks by the "Higher Committee on Normalization" under the joint chairmanship of Ali and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon in Cairo on January 11. In the interim period, numerous sessions are scheduled of the various subcommittees on aspects of normalization, and also of the Israel-Egypt Joint Military Committee which will set about marking the new-old border line.

The success of the normalization talks this week, according to observers here, stemmed primarily from Egypt's realization and recognition of the importance that Israeli opinion sets by the arrangements for the Sinai. Many Israelis regard the Sinai border -- whether it is to be an open border as between friendly neighbors or a barrier difficult to cross -- as a touchstone of the entire peace process.

Egyptians Modify Policy

There has been little Egyptian sensitivity to this Israeli attitude. Indeed, as late as Sunday of this week an Israeli delegation headed by Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir was reporting from Cairo of obstacles and tough terms over Sinai tourism arrangements. But in Tel Aviv meanwhile Ali was already reaching favorable agreements on these very issues with Sharon.

Israeli sources feel there was a deliberate and quite radical turnabout of Egyptian policy -- with the Cairo policymaking leadership coming to the realization that, in the wake of Anwar Sadat's assassination, the reassurance of Israel and alleviation of its anxieties was a key priority.

Thus, for example, Egyptian formalism and unbending attitudes over visas suddenly melted away, and, as a result, Israelis will be able to continue visiting Sinai tourist spots after the April withdrawal without the need for an elaborate visa-application procedure beforehand. (See separate story.) They will be able to receive across-the-counter entry permits at the border crossing-points.

Similarly -- and this was another issue on which Cairo hitherto had been inflexible -- charter passengers from abroad landing at Etzion airport will not need visas for the short bus ride across the border to Eilat. They too will get entry permits on the spot.

SHARON LISTS DEVELOPMENTS ISRAEL WOULD NOT TOLERATE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon enumerated a series of develop-

ments today which, he said Israel would never tolerate. They included the manufacture or possession of nuclear weapons by an Arab state, a Syrian invasion of southern Lebanon or the deployment of Iraqi forces in Syria.

He also declared that Israel would not consent to any violation of its peace treaty with Egypt, large or small. He predicted that Egypt would continue the peace process even after Israel completes its withdrawal from Sinai next April. He warned, however, that Israel has taken all precautionary measures "to avoid a disaster" if his forecast does not materialize.

The hawkish minister spoke to a group of Jewish leaders from North and South America, Europe and South Africa. He exhorted them to extend greater political support to Israel in its struggles. "You must raise your voices and put pressure on your governments," he said.

Sharon deplored the supply of AWACS reconnaissance aircraft to Saudi Arabia, a country he denounced for financing international terrorism in general and terrorism against Israel in particular. According to Sharon, terrorists are now trying to operate against Israel via Jordan and Sinai.

He also charged that in the past few months, the U.S. has been supplying Iraq with arms, not directly but through Saudi Arabia and Jordan. "The fact that they are supplying this very sophisticated weaponry to the Arab world puts us in a very difficult situation," he said. "We understand that the U.S. must supply weapons to the Arabs. The question is, why must it be the most sophisticated weapons?"

Sharon, who as Agriculture Minister in the first Likud-led government had opposed the Camp David accords and the peace treaty with Egypt, said of that treaty today: "If it lasts 10 years it will be an achievement. If it lasts 40 years it will be a dream."

HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES U.S. PARTICIPATION IN SINAI MFO

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- The House Foreign Affairs Committee endorsed United States participation in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) for Sinai by unanimous vote late yesterday afternoon. The measure now goes to the full House for final approval. The Senate approved it by voice vote earlier this month.

It provides for the participation of more than 1000 American military personnel and civilian observers in the 2500-member force which will patrol Sinai after Israel's final withdrawal next April.

It also appropriates \$125 million for the 1982 fiscal year which covers two thirds of the cost of establishing and operating the force during its first six months. Beginning in the 1982 fiscal year, it is estimated that Israel, Egypt and the U.S. will each contribute \$35 million annually to cover the MFO's operating costs.

MAIN POINTS OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT ON TOURISM

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- Egypt has agreed to most of Israel's demands for easy access and

freedom of movement for Israeli tourists in Sinai after Israel's final withdrawal from the peninsula next April. This was indicated in the 13-paragraph "agreed minutes" signed by Egyptian and Israeli officials at the end of Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali's three day visit yesterday.

The signatures were those of Hanan Baron and Taher Shash, officials of the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministries respectively. The final agreement will be signed by Ali and Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir after it has been formally ratified by the two governments.

Among the provisions are: Visas will be granted to tourists to Eilat who arrive at the Ras el-Naqb airport, the former Etzion air base near Sharm el-Sheikh which Israel will evacuate. The visas will be issued on the spot. Israeli and Egyptian flights between Sinai and Israel will be on a mutual basis. Air corridors will be designated and consulates opened by Egypt in Eilat and by Israel at Sharm el-Sheikh.

Four Border Crossings

Four border crossing points along the old international frontier to which Israel is to withdraw are detailed, with Israel building the necessary facilities for both countries at each check-point.

Free movement is to be permitted for both countries in Sinai, by bus, car, and motorcycle. Arrangements for the Egyptian purchase of existing Israeli facilities will be coordinated through a joint commission to be established. The commission will also discuss and agree on local arrangements for police and other matters in the border area, including smuggling and public health and veterinary services.

Visas for local tourists visiting Sinai and the Eilat area will be issued to Israeli and Egyptian tourists at one of the border check points. Egyptian officials will be allowed to visit the areas of southern Sinai to be evacuated by Israel in advance of the evacuation date, to enable them to make suitable arrangements for procedures after April.

The next meeting of the high committee (the ministerial committee which hammered out this agreement) is to take place in Egypt on January 11-13.

PARTICIPATION IN MFO DOES NOT MEAN ENDORSEMENT OF CAMP DAVID, DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Max Van der Stoep defended Holland's tentative offer to participate in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) which will police Sinai after Israel's final withdrawal next April. However, such participation does not mean automatic approval of the Camp David agreements, he told reporters here today.

Van der Stoep spoke in response to Arab criticism of possible participation in the MFO by members of the European Economic Community (EEC), particularly Holland. He said The Netherlands was ready in principle to supply troops to the Sinai peace-keeping force on the basis of the EEC Foreign Ministers' 1980 Venice declaration on the Mideast.

He said that declaration stressed two principles: the guarantee to all parties involved, including Israel, of secure and recognized borders and the evacuation by Israel of all occupied territories. A basic principle for The Netherlands moreover, he said, was the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

RESTORATION OF ABANDONED MOSQUE CREATES FRICTION BETWEEN MOSLEMS, JEWS IN TEL AVIV-JAFFA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- The renovation for commercial and cultural purposes of a mosque, unused and abandoned for over 30 years, has created tension between Moslems and Jews in Tel Aviv.

The Hassan Bek Mosque stands isolated, with part of its roof gone, in an open area on the seashore between here and Jaffa. It was from the mosque that Jaffa Arab snipers fired into southern Tel Aviv prior to 1948. The surrounding area was severely damaged in the War of Independence and all buildings in the vicinity were razed, except the mosque.

Its nearest neighbors are the Charles Clore park and the newly-opened dolphinarium on the seashore. The new Hyatt Hotel lies to the south and the Shalom Tower rises inland.

About six years ago a local contractor, Gershon Peres, brother of Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres, leased the structure from the local Wakf (Moslem Religious Trust) to renovate it for commercial purposes. But he never started work because permission had to be obtained from various planning bodies.

Meanwhile, the previous Wakf administration was ousted by a new group of local Moslem notables on the grounds of mismanagement and illegal dealings. Nearly a year ago they asked a court to cancel Peres' contract but no verdict has been handed down.

The present Wakf chairman, Abed Kabub has appealed to Moslems throughout Israel to gather at the site next month to raise funds for renovation of the mosque for religious purposes although no Islamic community exists nearby.

The issue arose again following approval of Peres' renovation plans by a Tel Aviv municipal town planning commission. It still has to be ratified by other planning committees. Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat says he supports the Peres plan in principle, but with more emphasis on cultural than on commercial aspects. He complains that the building, abandoned for over 30 years with no Moslem leaders showing any interest in the structure until now, has become a public nuisance, used for drug trafficking, a garbage dump and a horse stable.

Lahat says that from the legal point of view, Peres has full rights to convert the structure into a commercial center which will serve local tourism. He said today that he would prefer it if local Arabs were to rehabilitate the Hassan Bek Mosque but would support efforts by Israeli businessmen to do the job if the alternative meant continued decay.

SEWAGE FLOW DIRECTED TO LAKE TIBERIAS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- Sewage water from Tiberias is flowing into Lake Tiberias (Sea of Galilee) Israel's main potable water reservoir, despite misgivings by the Health Ministry.

The Lake Tiberias authority, the Water Commissioner and local engineers agreed that by-pass systems which shunted the town sewage away from the lake must be closed down for 70 days for urgent repairs and the sewage allowed to flow into the lake, after chemical treatment.

The Health Ministry in Jerusalem issued an order banning the inflow, even though its local representatives agreed. The head office has now reluctantly agreed when informed that there was no alternative.

Inspectors have noted an increase in bacteria near the inflow point into the national water grid, but say it is still within acceptable levels.

AWACS SALE WINNING AS KEY OPPONENTS SWITCH SUPPORT TO PRESIDENT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- The opposition to the sale of AWACS radar planes and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia suffered a serious setback today as the Senate conducted eight hours of debate on the \$8.5 billion transaction.

The vote, scheduled for 5 p.m. today, is expected to be close but the momentum appears now to be with President Reagan.

Sen. Slade Gorton (R. Wash.) one of the opponents of the sale, announced on the Senate floor this morning that he will now support the President. That brought the vote to 51 to 48 against the sale with Sen. Russell Long (D. La.) the only Senator who had not announced a position.

Sen. Gorton's announcement today followed the declaration by ten Senators yesterday that they supported the sale. The most surprising switch was that of Sen. Roger Jepsen (R. Iowa), one of the early leading foes of the AWACS sale, who yesterday said he now had to support a Republican President. Jepsen had been opposed to the arms sale since it was first announced in April and had been one of the leading speakers last May at the annual meeting of the America-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

Until yesterday the opposition to the sale had expected to win today. But the President, who has met individually with at least 45 Senators has been pressing hard to prevent a Senate veto. Reagan and Senate Majority leader Howard Baker (R. Tenn.) are expected to continue seeking switches in votes of Senate supporters of the sale, particularly Republicans until the final vote is taken.

Arms Sale 'Most Dangerous'

Later in the day, Sen. William Cohen (R. Maine), another long time opponent of the sale announced that he had switched to support the sale. Cohen's surprise announcement came after a tortured speech in which he outlined the dangers of the sale to Israel. But he said he was voting for the sale because Israel's security is in danger. He said he feared that if the sale was rejected Israel would be blamed for the break up of the Camp David peace process. He said that the White House did not lobby him but he sought a meeting with Reagan to ask for and receive assurances that the President would never allow Israel's qualitative military edge to be eroded.

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.), who called the arms sale "one of the most dangerous" ever proposed, told reporters today that he had never seen during his 19 years in the Senate, Senators who had announced their position on a "major policy question" that has been debated throughout the country make 180 degree changes. Kennedy called the President very "persuasive" but said he was not suggesting any improper reason for the switches of Senators opposed to the sale who now support it. He said many have said that their switches were based on secret information which he said they have refused to share with other Senators. He said in the past when there was a case of secret information involving an issue, the Senate went into closed session which is not being the case now.

Reagan's Letter Of Assurances

Gorton based his change from an opponent to a supporter of the sale on a letter sent to him today by Reagan which he said answered his concerns

about the sale. The letter, signed by Reagan, said that the AWACS will be transferred to the Saudis "only after the Congress has received, in writing, a Presidential certification containing agreements with Saudi Arabia" that certain conditions have been met. These conditions, outlined by the President previously, included guarantees to protect the security of the equipment being sold to the Saudis to ensure the information will be shared with no one but the United States and to ensure that the 5 AWACS planes would only fly over the area needed to protect the Saudi oilfields and would not endanger Israel.

In his letter, Reagan said, on the command structure of the AWACS planes, "agreements as they concern organizational command control structure for the operation of AWACS are of such a nature to guarantee that the commitments" on the AWACS "will be honored." Gorton took this to mean that this guarantees joint crewing of the plane. Reagan in his letter noted that since skilled Saudi personnel are in short supply, the U.S. involvement in the Saudi AWACS operation will extend well into the 1990's.

Another guarantee listed by Reagan that was stressed by Gorton was his promise in the letter that he will certify in writing "that the sale contributes directly to the stability and security of the area, enhances the atmosphere and prospects for progress toward peace and that initiatives toward the peaceful resolution in the region have either been successfully completed or significant progress toward that goal has been accomplished with the substantial assistance of Saudi Arabia."

In the day long debate today, opponents of the sale and supporters went over much of the arguments that have been advanced over the past several months. Sen. Claiborne Pell (D. R.I.), the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee called the sale a "series of botches" which began with the Carter Administration and continued with the present Administration. He again called on the President to withdraw the sale and work with Congress for a more acceptable proposal.

Concedes Saudis Will Not Support Camp David

Sen. Charles Percy (R. Ill.) chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said rejection of the sale would hinder the President's ability to conduct foreign policy. He said it makes achieving Middle East peace "more difficult" and would confirm the perception in the Arab world that the U.S. cannot have a balanced policy in the Middle East.

He said approval of the AWACS will not make the Saudis more willing to join the Camp David process but may make them more willing to join an expanded peace process in the Middle East. Percy said the rejection would "jeopardize efforts to bring greater stability to the Middle East and the Persian Gulf." Sen. Barry Goldwater (R. Ariz.) said that rejection of the sale "could lead to war in the Middle East."

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- Opponents of President Reagan's \$8.5 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia lost today when the Senate rejected a resolution of disapproval by a 52-48 vote. Although the House rejected the sale by a 3-1 margin earlier this month, the Senate also had to vote against it in order to veto the sale of five AWACS reconnaissance planes and enhancement equipment for F-15s to Saudi Arabia. Reagan's victory in the Senate below crowded galleries, came after several long time opponents of the sale switched today. They included Mark Andrews (R. N. D.), William Cohen (R. Maine), Slade Gorton (R. Wash.) and Howard Zaritsky (D. Neb.).

ADL DENOUNCES THREAT OF ANTI-SEMITISM OVER JEWISH OPPOSITION TO AWACS SALE

NEW YORK, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith reacted sharply today to suggestions that anti-Semitism was being stirred up because of Jewish opposition to the Administration's proposed sale of AWACS reconnaissance aircraft and other weaponry to Saudi Arabia. The democratic process would suffer if Jews were to remain silent, Nathan Perlmutter, national director of the ADL, declared.

"The notion that for participation in discussions -- even debates -- on issues that are controversial, Jews will suffer anti-Semitism and should therefore be silent, is unworthy of democracy, and for Jews, historically discredited advice," Perlmutter said in a statement issued here.

"Indeed, were Jews to abandon their rights as Americans on the grounds that their participation in the democratic process is a dangerous undertaking, they'd be serving neither our nation nor themselves. The only beneficiaries would, of course, be anti-Semites. The losers? Both Jews and the democratic process," he said.

Perlmutter's statement followed press reports that several Democratic and Republican Senators were reporting evidence of latent anti-Semitism being stirred by the debate over the AWACS sale to which most American Jews are vigorously opposed. The Senators said they found this trend in their mail and in visits to constituents in their home states. They noted that while opposition to the sale was much broader based than the Jewish community and the security threat to Israel was only one element of that opposition, many Americans attributed it to the power of the "Jewish lobby" or the "Israel lobby."

GOVT. HOLDING 'NON-STOP' TALKS WITH SINAI SETTLERS ON COMPENSATION FOR LANDS THEY WILL ABANDON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- Rafah area residents will hold "non-stop marathon" talks with the Director General of the Agriculture Ministry aimed at the speedy conclusion of an agreement with the government on compensation for the homes and land they will abandon when Israel completes its withdrawal from Sinai next April.

Plans for the stepped up negotiations emerged following a ministerial level discussion of the matter in which Premier Menachem Begin participated and another meeting between representatives of the Rafah residents and Agriculture Minister Simcha Ehrlich. Ehrlich, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, said he was prepared to intervene personally if the talks bogged down.

Begin is eager for the talks to end quickly and successfully in view of the mounting pressure and tension among the Rafah settlers as the deadline for withdrawal moves closer. The pressures are especially strong among the owners of business establishments in the northern Sinai town of Yamit which is to be evacuated.

The government has already successfully concluded an agreement to compensate the residents of Ophira -- Sharm el-Sheikh -- in southern Sinai. Leaders of that group said at a press conference this week that they had gotten "a fair deal." The average family in Ophira will receive about 600,000 Shekels to be used toward buying homes elsewhere.

Mattityahu Shmuelevitz, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, said the criteria accepted by the Ophira families should be applicable

to the residents of Yamit; in fact the latter would receive larger compensation inasmuch as they own their homes whereas the Ophira residents rented theirs. But Shmuelevitz accused Yamit business owners of dragging their feet on an agreement in order to apply pressure on the government while the anti-withdrawal political movement gains strength. He warned that this tactic would backfire.

Settlers Balk

Shmuelevitz said the government would withdraw its offer if the claimants continued to refuse to negotiate. He proposed recently that the Yamit and Rafah area residents be given notice to leave within three months. He was confident that the majority would comply and would be out of the region by early next March at the latest. This would leave the hard core of refusers isolated. Shmuelevitz urged the government to deduct from their compensation payments any expenses incurred if they have to be removed by force.

Meanwhile, bitter verbal battles are going on in Yamit between residents willing to comply with the government's withdrawal orders and die-hard settlers who insist they will not budge. Owners of business establishments in Yamit announced yesterday that they will form a "town council" to replace the government officials who legally manage the township. Other residents told reporters that the majority of people in Yamit and surrounding settlements do not sympathize with the recalcitrant business entrepreneurs or with the Gush Emunim activists who demand that the government "stop the withdrawal."

FILM DEPICTING FRENCH APATHY TOWARD NAZI OCCUPATION AND DEPORTATION OF JEWS SHOWN FOR FIRST TIME ON NATIONAL TV

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Oct. 28 (JTA) -- French State Television is showing tonight, for the first time, a 12-year-old film "The Sorrow And The Pity" which describes the average Frenchman's reaction, or as many say "lack of reaction" to the Nazi occupation of France and the deportation of most of the country's Jews.

Though the film was shot in 1969 by top European director Max Ophuls, France's three television channels refused to show it and most country-wide distributors banned it from mass audience cinemas. One of the first decisions of the new television management, appointed after last May's Socialist victory, was to acquire the film for national programming in prime time.

The 4-hour film, to be shown tonight and tomorrow, describes with the help of war-time news reels, France's disinterest in the Nazi occupation and its consequences. The movie-makers interviewed over a dozen survivors, including former Premier Pierre Mendes-France, on their war-time experience in France. Most deplore the lack of solidarity shown by their compatriots.

The film, purchased for a reported \$300,000, was repeatedly turned down by the State Television's former management so as "not to open old wounds" and fan anew old passions, quarrels and accusations. But practically all of France's press now welcomes the showing as "a lesson of past history".

Le Monde in a front page article, summed up the general feeling: "In many homes tonight, after the film, parents and grandparents will have to give a detailed account of their former actions or lack of them, their children and grandchildren will want to know and skeletons will emerge from formerly well shut closets."