

WHITE HOUSE SAYS IT WOULD 'WELCOME' KNESSET DELEGATION TO EXPLAIN ISRAEL'S OBJECTIONS TO FAHD PEACE PLAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- The White House said today that it would "welcome" a delegation from the Israeli Knesset that is being sent here to oppose the Saudi Crown Prince Fahd's eight-point Middle East peace plan.

But a White House communication director, David Gergen, rejected the contention that the delegation being sent by Premier Menachem Begin would be lobbying. "We would welcome the visit" by the Knesset members to explain the Israeli government's view as well as their own view on the Saudi plan, he said. He noted that members of his government "sit down" and talk with members of other governments all the time whether they agree or disagree with each other's view.

When a reporter asked how this would square with President Reagan's press conference statement last month telling foreign governments not to interfere in U.S. foreign policy, Gergen referred them to an interview with President Reagan published in the Washington Post Sunday. In the interview, Reagan denied his remarks were aimed at Israel or any other country. "All I wanted was an end to the kinds of talk that says we're being dictated to by one country or the other," he told the Post. He added that his real target was the media "which have been carrying stories of this kind."

Begin has denounced what he sees as a U.S. move toward the Fahd plan. The Reagan Administration has maintained that it still supports the Camp David process as a means for achieving a Mideast peace.

BURG SEES ISRAEL, EGYPT REACHING ACCORD ON AUTONOMY IN 6-8 WEEKS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- Interior Minister Yosef Burg said today that Egypt and Israel could reach an agreement of understanding on autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip in a matter of 6-8 weeks. Burg, who is Israel's chief negotiator in the autonomy talks, told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that there were no real obstacles to signing such an agreement.

He said an effort would be made toward that goal when the negotiations are resumed in Cairo next week. According to Burg, the most difficult problem is the composition of the administrative council which would constitute the self-governing authority in the territories under autonomy, and the nature and extent of its powers.

According to Burg, the major difference between Israel and Egypt is that Egypt regards autonomy as a stage toward an independent Palestinian state whereas Israel sees it as an alternative to a Palestinian state. Consequently, he said, the Egyptians want a large legislative body which would elect a smaller executive body. Israel wants the administrative council kept small and functional.

Burg described Israel's view of autonomy as "sovereignty minus X" for the Palestinians. The

negotiations are over the size of that "X", he said. Most members of the Knesset committee agreed that a memo of understanding should be agreed upon before Israel completes its final withdrawal from Sinai next April.

REAGAN, HUSSEIN SAY THEY AGREE ON NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE MIDEAST PEACE; KING NOT PERSUADED TO JOIN CAMP DAVID PROCESS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- King Hussein of Jordan ended two days of talks with President Reagan today with both leaders declaring there was a need to move toward a comprehensive Middle East peace. But the United States has still not succeeded in persuading Jordan to join the Camp David process.

When Reagan was asked if he had gotten Hussein to move toward Camp David, the President first said "yes" but then said that they did not go into that subject. "We just became friends," the President stressed to reporters as he was reentering the White House following the South Lawn departure ceremony for Hussein.

The Jordanian King, who has been visiting U.S. Presidents since Eisenhower, said today that his talks with Reagan, who he met for the first time yesterday, "has left me more reassured than in the past and more confident." He made a similar comment during a toast last night at a State dinner at the White House.

Hussein is spending today and tomorrow in talks with members of Congress, apparently explaining his request for arms as well as pressing for U.S. support for Palestinian rights and Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Fahd's eight-point peace plan. Although he discussed these specific issues with Reagan and other Administration officials, he did not mention any of them in his public remarks.

Friendship With Jordan Reinforced

Reagan said that the two days of talks with Hussein were "wide-ranging discussions about the dangers and opportunities we face in the Middle East." He said that he and the Jordanian monarch "agreed on much; on the necessity of making progress toward a just, lasting and comprehensive Middle East peace; on the profound dangers which threaten the security of the region; and on the necessity to work in complementary ways to address the serious issues."

The President, stressing that the friendship between Jordan and the United States was reinforced by the talks, declared "the security and well being of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a matter of historic and enduring concern to the United States."

Hussein told Reagan that he could report to his people and his "colleagues" in the Mideast that he found that he and the U.S. President shared views on the need for a "just and comprehensive peace" in the Mideast, on the need to support "the freedom of the Arab people" and to "safeguard" their "identity" and a belief in "a better future" for the people of the Mideast.

Hussein leaves Washington Thursday after a working lunch with Secretary of State Alexander Haig at Blair House where the Jordanian monarch is staying during his visit here.

SHARON WILL VISIT WASHINGTON NOV. 30 AT INVITATION OF DEFENSE SECRETARY WEINBERGER

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon will visit Washington November 30 for talks with Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger on strategic cooperation between the U.S. and Israel. He will be preceded some weeks in advance by a high-level Israeli military delegation that will hold preliminary talks to prepare a "memorandum of understanding" for the two officials to sign.

These arrangements were announced by Premier Menachem Begin in the Knesset today. Last week, immediately after the U.S. Senate AWACS vote, Sharon had let it be known to the media that he proposed to postpone his U.S. visit, originally scheduled for sometime in November. His aides said he wanted to demonstrate in this way his "anger" at the way America was veering away from Israel and Camp David, and towards the Saudis. Sharon has also repeatedly accused the U.S. of indirectly arming Iraq, despite official U.S. denials.

Sharon Visit 'Very Important' Says Begin

Begin told the House that Sharon's visit and the realization of strategic cooperation first announced during Begin's meeting with President Reagan in September, was welcome news and was "very important for us and for the whole free world and beneficial to both countries." He said an invitation to Sharon had arrived from Weinberger Sunday.

The Premier's announcement was seen by observers here in the context of ongoing American efforts to soothe Israeli anxieties over the perceived tilt of U.S. Mideast policy. Officials in Washington have sought to reassure Israeli diplomats in recent days that the Reagan Administration is not abandoning the Camp David process and that its cautious welcome for the Saudi eight-point peace plan was not intended to signal a weakening of commitment to Camp David.

UNREST CONTINUES ON WEST BANK

2 HOUSES RAZED IN HEBRON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- Anti-Israel protests and scattered incidents of rock-throwing continued on the West Bank today for the third consecutive day, ending almost a year of relative quiet in the territory. According to Israeli sources, the renewed political unrest was openly encouraged by supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organization to thwart Israeli efforts to cultivate moderate Palestinian leadership.

Meanwhile, Israeli authorities claimed that two Arabs confessed to stabbing David Kopulsky, 28, in the center of Hebron Saturday night. Their houses were demolished and the curfew imposed on Hebron after the incident was lifted. Kopulsky, a resident of the Jewish religious township of Kiryat Arba, adjacent to Hebron, sustained knife wounds in the back.

Israeli sources noted today that the new policy on the West Bank instituted by Defense

Minister Ariel Sharon has had hardly any practical application yet except for the appointment of Prof. Menachem Milson as director of the civilian administration. The intent of the policy is to put civilians in charge of local administrative matters and to include as many Palestinians as possible. Arabic newspapers in East Jerusalem described Milson as "forceful and dangerous."

Col. Yaacov Katz was appointed commander of the military branch of the new administration. He is subordinate to the central command of the Israel Army which will continue to be responsible for security on the West Bank.

UN TO DEBATE ISRAEL'S PLAN FOR MEDITERRANEAN-DEAD SEA CANAL

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- The UN General Committee decided today, at the request of the Arab League, to include a new item on the General Assembly's agenda, titled "Israel's Decision to Build a Canal Linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea."

The new item will come before the Assembly in about two weeks, after debate in the Special Political Committee. Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, expressed Israel's objection to the decision today, charging that it is "another demonstration of the total Arab obsession with Israel."

Appearing before the General Committee, Blum said that the Arabs are "sensitive" about the planned canal because it is designed to produce an alternative source of energy, independent of oil. "It may conceivably serve as a model to other countries seeking a break out of the vise, political as well as economic, forced upon them by the petro-hegemonists and oil extortionists. In brief, it is not a project that the Arab oil blackmailers would wish to go ahead for very sordid and mercurial reasons," the Israeli envoy declared.

Israel Explains "Iraqi Nuclear Threat"

In another development here today, Israel submitted to the UN Secretariat a 60-page "White Paper" titled "The Iraqi Nuclear Threat -- Why Israel had to Act," for circulation here as a document of the General Assembly. The document details Israel's diplomatic effort to prevent the shipment of nuclear arms technology to Iraq and the meetings in this vein between Israel's Foreign Minister and Foreign Ministers of France, Italy and the United States, before Israel's attack on the Iraqi nuclear station last June 7. The General Assembly is scheduled to discuss the Israeli attack on Iraq's nuclear facility on Nov. 11.

The Assembly is also scheduled to take up next month two major debates on the Mideast conflict. On Dec. 1 it is scheduled to start the Palestinian Debate and on Dec. 7 the Debate on the Situation in the Mideast.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The managing board of the Israel Broadcasting Authority ruled Tuesday that the term "West Bank" will no longer be used on radio and television. It ordered instead that the terms "Judaea and Samaria" be used to describe the territory, except in the context of a specific statement or quotation referring to the West Bank. A majority of the board felt that "West Bank" has political connotations implying that the territory is part of Jordan. Tommy Lapid, Director General of the semi-autonomous agency argued that "Judaea and Samaria" also has political connotations. But he was overruled by a majority of the board.

ANTHROPOLOGIST QUESTIONS AUTHENTICITY OF ALLEGED 'BAR KOCHBA' BONES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- A Hebrew University anthropologist cast doubts today on claims that human bones found in archaeological excavations 20 years ago were the remains of Bar Kochba's warriors. According to Dr. Patricia Smith, an associate professor of anatomy at the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School who examined the bones, only three of the 19 specimens were of adult males.

The rest were the remains of women and children, the majority being those of children under the age of six, Smith said according to the Jerusalem Post. Only yesterday, Minister of Education and Culture Zevulun Hammer informed Premier Menachem Begin that the bones, discovered by Prof. Yigael Yadin in the Hever stream near the Dead Sea in 1961, were positively traced to the warriors of Simon Bar Kochba who led the Jewish insurrection against the Roman legions of the Emperor Hadrian in 132-35 C.E.

Hammer, a leader of the National Religious Party, recommended that the remains be given a State funeral and re-interred with full honors. In that connection, the Ministry would use the opportunity to launch a special study campaign among Israeli students on the Bar Kochba uprising.

Dispute Over Number Of Skeletons

But Smith's revelations could result in cancellation of the funeral plans. The issue of the purported Bar Kochba bones was raised two months ago at the height of the controversy over archaeological digs at the City of David in Jerusalem. The religious authorities demanded a ban on further excavations because they allegedly desecrated an ancient Jewish cemetery. The archaeologists said there was no proof such a cemetery existed.

But Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren insisted that archaeologists could not be trusted because of the way they dealt with the alleged Bar Kochba bones. He said he would make no agreements with them unless the bones received a proper burial.

Goren claimed yesterday that 31 skeletons were lost since Yadin excavated them. He said he had a letter from Zerach Warhaftig, who was Religious Affairs Minister at the time, that 725 skeletons were unearthed of which 50 were the remains of Bar Kochba's warriors. But in his book, "Bar Kochba," Yadin wrote that he found the remains of only 19 skeletons at the site. A spokesman for the Education Ministry, which is in charge of archaeological digs, said he knew nothing of more Bar Kochba bones.

RUMANIA'S CHIEF RABBI SAYS JEWISH COMMUNITY GETTING OLDER, SMALLER BUT NEEDS MORE RABBIS

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- Rumanian Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen said today there was an immediate need for 15 Rabbis and 20 Schochtim (ritual slaughterers) to serve the Jewish community in Rumania.

At the same time, Rosen said the 33,000 member Jewish community is not "dying," but now remains an "older community," with 60 percent of their members 65 years old or above. He predicted a drop in the total numbers to 20,000 by

the end of the decade. Rosen speaking at a press conference held under the auspices of the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) said that in the past 33 years, 350,000 Jews have emigrated with about 95 percent of them going to Israel. He noted that the younger people, with an estimated seven percent under 20, according to the JDC, make aliya after their education is finished.

Considering Retirement

Rosen also expressed concern for the Jewish community once he decided to retire from his post, a point he alluded to during the press conference. He said he would like to settle in Israel soon and divide his time between Israel and Rumania.

Rosen, who met with members of the Reagan Administration last week, said the Jewish community of Rumania is allowed religious freedom as well as to openly identify with the Jewish state. According to lists now available, Rosen said 732 Rumanian Jews left the country this year in the period ending Oct. 30. There remained an additional 537 holding approved exit permits while another 448 applicants have yet to be approved, he said.

ISRAELI WATER EXPERTS SAY U.S. ADVISERS NOT NEEDED TO CONTROL POLLUTION OF LAKE TIBERIAS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- Israeli water and environmental experts are annoyed by the Health Ministry's plans to invite U.S. experts to advise it on ways of avoiding the pollution of Lake Tiberias (Sea of Galilee), Israel's main water reservoir.

The Israeli experts say the reason for the recent increase of coli bacteria count in the lake water is known and ways of dealing with it already in use are effective. They say the Health Ministry has panicked unnecessarily.

The bacteria increase is due to the 70-day shut-down of a by-pass salt water channel, normally used to shunt saline and sewage water round the lake, while urgent repairs are carried out. The sewage now pumped into the lake is treated and the output of the national water network is receiving extra chlorination, the experts say.

Local Expertise Most Reliable

The Mekorot Water Co. and the Israel Water Authority experts say they have been studying the Sea of Galilee for many years and consulting with environmental experts who have the data of many years and practical experience to rely on. American experts will have to spend months studying the data by which time the repairs will have been completed and the sewage water again channeled away from the reservoir, they said.

Local experts say the pollution to the lake from unplanned development throughout Galilee, including as far away as Kiryat Shemonah with its industrial waste, is more harmful than the temporary sewage inflow.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A proposal to open future Knesset sessions with the recitation of a psalm was overwhelmingly approved Monday. Members of the opposition Labor Party joined Likud MKs to endorse the innovation. They cited the example of the British House of Commons, on which much Knesset procedure is modeled, which begins each day with a prayer.

HIAS DENIES DULZIN CHARGE IT OBSTRUCTS JEWISH AGENCY POLICY OF NO AID TO 'DROPOUTS'

NEW YORK, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- HIAS flatly denied today a charge by Jewish Agency Executive chairman Leon Dulzin that it was obstructing the Agency's policy of not rendering assistance to Soviet Jewish emigres who choose to settle in countries other than Israel after reaching Vienna.

Dulzin made the accusation in a report to the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem last week after a brief visit to the transit facilities for Soviet Jews in Vienna. He claimed that HIAS was "violating the agreement" it had with the Agency not to extend its services to Soviet Jews seeking to immigrate to the United States unless they have very close relatives in the U.S.

According to a Jewish Agency spokesman, Dulzin accused HIAS of "fighting not to save Jews but to preserve its own existence." He charged that the century-old international immigrant aid agency was "struggling wildly with the Rav Tov organization over the pitifully few Jews currently leaving the Soviet Union." Dulzin characterized Rav Tov as "agents of Satmar" and "enemies of the State of Israel and collaborators with its enemies." The Satmar is an anti-Zionist Hasidic sect which refuses to recognize the legitimacy of Israel on religious grounds.

HIAS Says It Cooperates

In a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Edwin Shapiro, president of HIAS, declared: "The HIAS position with reference to the new Jewish Agency plan for Soviet Jewish migrants was established by our executive board on August 24 and confirmed by the HIAS board on September 20.

"It is unfortunate that the Jewish Agency action, presented without notice on August 17, has proven a failure. Though HIAS found it repugnant to its 101 year-old tradition to deny assistance to any Jewish migrant in need, we have, through cooperative counseling with the Jewish Agency in Vienna, worked to increase the flow to Israel.

"We, with a board of 202 American, Canadian and Mexican Jewish leaders, regret the accusations of the executive officer of the Jewish Agency. We categorically deny that we have contributed to the plan's failure or cooperated in any way with the anti-Israel Rav Tov organization. However, any time we can prevent the success of an organization with such an anti-Israel policy, we will do so. We feel that through cooperation, the Jewish Agency and the organized American Jewish community can have strength.

"Through unfounded and often malicious statements, we can only reach an area of divisiveness instead of the goals for the rescue of our brethren in the USSR and the strengthening of the State of Israel."

Dulzin said in his report that the Soviet authorities were exploiting the situation in Vienna to justify their closure of the gates of emigration. He noted that in recent days only "individual Jews" were reaching Vienna from the USSR.

The Jewish Agency chairman insisted that "We will not give up" the struggle for immigration to Israel and against HIAS. He said a meeting of the Council of Jewish Federations would convene in the U.S. this week to discuss "urgently" the HIAS issue.

Frank Strauss, director of communications of the CJF in New York, told the JTA today that a meeting was held yesterday on the situation in Vienna

but no conclusions were reached. He said it was attended by Morton Mandel, president of the CJF; Irving Bernstein, executive vice chairman of the United Jewish Appeal; Edwin Shapiro, president of HIAS; Ralph Goldman, executive vice president of the Joint Distribution Committee; and Jerold Hoffberger, president of the United Israel Appeal.

RAIN MARS OPENING OF TOURIST SEASON AT NORMALLY DRY EILAT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- Eilat's week-long celebration to mark the opening of its winter tourist season got off to a damp start Sunday. The normally dry resort town on the eastern extremity of the Red Sea was busy cleaning up and repairing damage caused by a sudden cloudburst which dumped an inch of rain in one hour last Friday. As a result, hotels operated at only half of capacity.

Meanwhile, El Al's plans to inaugurate direct tourist flights from European cities to Eilat -- the "Sun Line" -- were marred by a strike of ground crews who are demanding extra pay to service the planes at Eilat. El Al began the new service, but its passengers from Europe had to be landed at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv and transferred to smaller planes of Arkia, Israel's domestic carrier, for the flight to Eilat.

ARTHUR DIXON, PHILANTHROPIES EXECUTIVE,
DEAD AT 57

NEW YORK, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held tomorrow in Manhasset, L.I. for Arthur J. Dixon, who had served as a vice president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies and as a member of the board of the Jewish Guild for the Blind. He died Sunday of a heart attack. He was 57.

Dixon also had served as chairman of the Federation's distribution committee, and had been a member of the executive committee, the level of grants committee and the Fund for Jewish Education Committee.

An accountant, Dixon had also served the Guild for the Blind as treasurer and most recently as a member of the Guild's advisory committee.

He had also been a director and former chairman of the Law Alumni Association of New York University. He had been president of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants.

800 MILLION SHEKELS FOR 'PROJECT RENEWAL'

JERUSALEM, Nov. 3 (JTA) -- The government will spend more than 800 million Shekels on Project Renewal this year. It includes 42 million for new apartments, 30 million to evacuate families from flats no longer fit to live in; 80 million for loans and expansion of existing housing; 610 million for renovations and infrastructure; and the rest for rental housing.

Details of the budget were contained in a report prepared by David Levy, Deputy Premier and Construction Minister. Levy said stress would be on new neighborhoods. Those which received assistance in the past would get less in the future.

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RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) -- More than 25,000 people visited the 4th biennial "Israel Week" exposition at the Copacabana Palace here last week, sponsored by the Zionist Organization of Rio de Janeiro. Many of those attending were non-Jews, including Brazilians of Lebanese descent. A wide variety of Israeli products were on display, including canned goods, liqueurs, wine, paintings, fine arts, glassware, silverware, clothing and records.