

HAIG AFFIRMS CAMP DAVID 'BEST BASIS FOR PROGRESS' IN MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Alexander Haig reiterated today that the only method of achieving Middle East peace to which the United States is committed is the Camp David process.

"This is the best basis for progress," he told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Haig, who is testifying before the committee on the foreign policy and arms control implications of President Reagan's strategic force modernization program, was asked by Sen. Charles Mathias (R. Md.) to assess the viability of various methods of achieving peace in the Middle East including the eight-point plan proposed by Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

Haig did not refer to the Saudi plan directly in his reply except to say that it has been discussed a great deal in the past week. He said he wanted to "categorically" stress that the only means of negotiations supported by the U.S. is Camp David.

Haig Sees Progress On MFO, Autonomy

Israel has voiced concern over remarks by Reagan, Haig and other Administration officials which seem to imply that there are certain points in the Fahd proposal that could be welcomed as a step toward progress. Haig said today that the Camp David talks are leading toward progress both in the development of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) to patrol the Sinai after Israel's withdrawal in April, 1982 and in the autonomy talks which will resume Nov. 11.

Meanwhile Haig said that a proposal submitted to Congress yesterday for a \$79 million sale to aid an Arab communications system which would benefit the Palestine Liberation Organization and Libya is being withdrawn for further study by the Administration.

The proposal was for Ford Aerospace to sell satellite parts to a French firm, Interspatiale, which is wiring 21 African and Arab nations into a communications satellite system. Among those that will be linked to the system is the PLO, Libya and South Yemen.

When Senators first heard of the proposed private sale yesterday, they were upset by its military implications.

ISRAEL'S ANXIETIES EASED BY U.S. RENEWED COMMITMENT TO CAMP DAVID

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration has pledged to stand by the Camp David accords as the only way to achieve a political settlement in the Middle East. A message to that effect and a commitment to honor all points agreed upon during Premier Menachem Begin's visit to Washington in September was received today from Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

The message, delivered to Begin by the U.S. Charge d'Affaires, William Brown, further eased

the strains that developed in U.S.-Israeli relations during the past week over the Senate's approval of the sale of AWACS reconnaissance aircraft and other advanced weaponry to Saudi Arabia and remarks by President Reagan and Haig indicating that the U.S. considered certain parts of Saudi Arabia's eight-point peace plan encouraging.

Begin was reportedly gratified by the American clarification. Political circles here said today that there is now a better understanding of Israel's position by the U.S. That position, conveyed in Washington in recent days, was that Israel might reconsider certain steps in her participation in further Mideast peace moves if the U.S. deviated from the Camp David agreements and adopted plans such as the Saudi eight points which Israel vehemently rejected.

U.S., Israel Back On Course

Adding to the feeling here that the U.S. and Israel are once more on a common course was Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's invitation to Defense Minister Ariel Sharon to visit Washington at the end of this month to discuss strategic cooperation between Israel and the U.S. Begin announced in the Knesset yesterday that Weinberger's invitation was received Sunday.

It was seen as part of the Reagan Administration's efforts to ease Israel's anxiety over the AWACS deal and the Saudi peace plan. U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis met with Sharon Sunday. Sources on both sides indicated that their talks were considerably more cordial than the tone of Sharon's public criticisms of the U.S. in recent days.

A more moderate tone toward Washington was also evident in Begin's Knesset speech yesterday, winding up two days of debate on the AWACS sale and the peace plan of Saudi Crown Prince Fahd. He spoke of "cooperation, friendship and even an unwritten alliance (with the U.S.) which is sometimes more efficacious than a signed pact."

The Knesset, as expected, adopted a resolution "utterly rejecting" the Saudi peace plan and the European Economic Community (EEC) peace initiatives, and reaffirmed that Jerusalem is the indivisible capital of Israel.

Shimon Peres and other leaders of the opposition Labor Party sought specific pledges from the government to conclude the autonomy talks with Egypt and the U.S. by next April, when Israel must complete its withdrawal from Sinai, and to invite the Saudis to enter peace talks with Israel "without pre-conditions."

Israel's Flights Over Lebanon Continue

Although Labor and Likud, in behind the scenes negotiations, failed to reach agreement on a joint Knesset resolution, Labor Party leader Shimon Peres agreed that his faction would abstain rather than vote against the Knesset resolution of confidence in the government's policies. Mapam members of the Labor Alignment and Labor MK Yossi Sarid bucked party discipline and voted against the government, as did Shulamit Aloni of the Civil Rights Movement.

In the course of the debate, Begin disclosed that Israel conducted "almost daily" overflights of Lebanon for photo reconnaissance purposes without interference from the Syrian SAM-6 anti-aircraft missiles based

there. He said that if the missiles were fired, Israel would not hesitate to bomb them. But he also indicated that Israel would withhold action against the missiles pending renewed efforts by U.S. special Ambassador Philip Habib to have them removed. Habib is due to return to the region later this month.

EPHRAIM EVRON WILL RETIRE IN JANUARY AS ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO U.S.

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Reports that Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Ephraim Evron, will retire next January were confirmed by a Foreign Ministry spokesman here tonight. The statement said Evron had informed Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir several months ago that he planned to leave the foreign service after a career of 33 years.

According to the Foreign Ministry, Begin and Shamir "expressed their profound appreciation for the ability and devotion to duty demonstrated by Ambassador Evron in representing the State. Mr. Evron's successor will be named in the near future," the Foreign Ministry said.

The favored candidate to succeed him appears to be Moshe Arens of Likud's Herut faction who is chairman of the Knesset's powerful Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. Arens has refused to comment so far on reports that he would be posted to Washington. Informed sources said that one serious obstacle to his nomination for Israel's key diplomatic post abroad is his consistent opposition to the current peace process.

Objections To Arens

Arens voted in the Knesset against the Camp David agreements, against ratification of the peace treaty with Egypt and, most recently, against the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) which is to police Sinai after Israel completes its final withdrawal from the peninsula next April.

Meanwhile, Arens has undertaken to head a multi-party Knesset delegation scheduled to visit the U.S. next week to explain to the Administration, Congress and the American public why Israel objects so strongly to the eight-point peace plan proposed by Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia. The plan was categorically rejected by an overwhelming Knesset majority yesterday.

In a radio interview today, Arens said that members of opposition factions in the eight-man Knesset delegation would "naturally" be able to express their viewpoints on issues on which they differed from the Likud-led government. He stressed, however, that there was substantial agreement between the government and the opposition on the Fahd plan which is the main issue of the delegation.

In the event that Arens is named Israel's next Ambassador to the U.S., two candidates have emerged as possible successors to head the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. They are Eliahu Ben-Elissar, Israel's former Ambassador to Egypt and Yosef Rom. Both are MKs representing Likud's Herut faction.

ISRAEL'S LIVING STANDARDS SOAR

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Living standards in Israel rose by a near record 12 percent during the first six months of this year, according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics today

in connection with the publication of the government's annual statistical report.

The rise was attributed to lower taxes on a variety of consumer goods instituted by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor and larger individual income resulting from lowered income tax. Those factors triggered purchases of expensive items such as color television and private cars. Expenditures on consumer goods were 25 percent higher than in the same period last year.

The only similar rise in living standards was recorded in 1967 when an economic boom replaced the slump that preceded the Six-Day War.

Birth Rate Declines

But Israelis received less assuring news on the demographic front today. According to the statistical annual, population growth in 1981 was the slowest for any year since the State was founded in 1948. The increase in the Jewish population was only one percent compared to a 2.8 percent growth in the non-Jewish population. In past years the Jewish population grew at an annual rate of two percent compared to a 3.5 percent rate in the non-Jewish population.

The figures released today showed that natural increase was smaller this year than in previous years. Most troubling was the excess of emigration over immigration. Israelis leaving the country exceeded immigrants arriving by more than 9000. About 20,000 emigrated this year while only 11,000 new settlers arrived.

The Central Bureau of Statistics estimated that a total of 300,000 Israelis left the country permanently since the State was established. In the same period, Israeli women tended to bear fewer children. There was an increase in divorces and a decline in marriages. By the end of this year, the total population of Israel will be 3.9 million, just short of the four million predicted last year.

ISRAEL CLOSES WEST BANK UNIVERSITY AFTER DISTURBANCES ON CAMPUS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- The Military Government closed down Bir Zeit University near Ramallah today and ordered students and faculty to vacate the premises immediately. The order followed two days of disturbances on the campus, long a center of Palestinian nationalist activity.

The disturbances began on Nov. 2, Balfour Day, which marked the 64th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. This has been a traditional day of protest among Palestinian Arabs. But the Israeli authorities said the outburst was linked to the new Israeli policy of transferring administrative functions from the Military Government to civilian control on the West Bank. Palestinian nationalists have rejected the move as a ploy to court favorable public opinion in the West while perpetuating Israel's occupation of the territory.

A Military Government spokesman said today that the order to close the university followed repeated warnings to the faculty and students to stick to their studies and refrain from violence.

ED LIBOV, PHILANTHROPIST AND AD EXECUTIVE, DIES AT 51

NEW YORK, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held today for Jewish Philanthropist and advertising executive Ed Libov who died of a heart attack Monday at his home in Manhattan. He was 51 years old.

Active in various Jewish organizations, Libov was a founder of the Mediterranean-Dead Sea project for generating electric power in Israel. He was involved in Israel Bond drives and the United Jewish Appeal.

CONGRESSMAN WARNS OF DISASTER IF JEWS, OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS REMAIN SILENT ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THEM

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Representative Benjamin Rosenthal (D. N.Y.) said today that Jews and other American ethnic groups, by taking stands on foreign policy issues that concern them, create a national debate on these issues, many of them like the recent sale of AWACS and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia harmful to this country.

If the ethnic groups did not involve themselves in the issues, it would leave foreign policy to the arms industry, oil companies, the New York banks, which lend money to countries to buy arms and the foreign policy establishment within and outside the government, Rosenthal said.

"To do that would be a disaster for this country and the democratic institutions we all believe in," he told the monthly public affairs forum of B'nai B'rith International.

Rosenthal's talk was an attack on the article by Sen. Charles Mathias (R. Md.) in Foreign Affairs Quarterly last summer in which Mathias said, ethnic groups like Jews, Greeks and Irish Americans should not seek to influence foreign affairs. Instead, Mathias argued, only the President has the national constituency needed to take the national interests into consideration in developing foreign affairs.

"One does not have to be a part of the Greek or the Jewish, or the Irish lobbies, as some would call them, to take serious issue with any argument that deprives groups of Americans of a competency and natural right to debate and seek to influence their government," said Rosenthal, an 18 year veteran of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Jews Unfairly Accused Of Dual Loyalty

He said that Jews were charged with "dual loyalty" in the recent AWACS debate yet they were only supporting the policy they expected from President Reagan as a result of the stand he took during last year's Presidential campaign. Rosenthal said that in his nearly 20 years in Congress every President from Kennedy to Reagan had said during their campaign "what we want to hear about Israel." But he said that once they get into office they become "Presidential" and become a "captive" of the "national security apparatus" which he described as the State Department, the Defense Department and the intelligence community.

He said the AWACS deal was proposed because the Air Force wanted to cut the cost ratio of the plane and the Saudis are the only ones with the money to buy them. But he said, once the proposal was supported by the President, it became a test of the President's ability to conduct foreign affairs.

Rosenthal said the same thing happened to Greek Americans who saw Jimmy Carter as a candidate support their stand against arms to Turkey and then reverse himself when he became President. But Rosenthal said that the Greek Americans were not subject to the same kind of "vitriolic attack" as were Jews during the last few weeks.

Rosenthal said that Mathias, while ruling out a role for ethnics in foreign policy did not say anything about the major corporations who lobby for their views. He said the role of Mobil in the

AWACS sale was not mentioned nor did the oil company in its numerous newspaper advertisements mention it was the purchasing agent for the Saudis.

Kennedy Stressed Issue In Earlier Speech

Also not mentioned he said, was the role of such companies as Bechtel, the San Francisco engineering corporation, which does millions of dollars of construction work in Saudi Arabia and for whom Caspar Weinberger was a Vice President before becoming Secretary of Defense.

Meanwhile in Boston last Saturday night, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.) made some of the same points in a speech there. "I reject absolutely the unworthy appeals which in effect question the patriotism of Jewish Americans," he told the New England Chapter of the American Associates of the Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

"The Administration complains that Jewish Americans were vigorously expressing their views. But where were the Administration's complaints about the corporations that lobbied hard for AWACS because of the business it would bring? Now why were there no complaints about Saudi Princes gliding through the halls of Congress?"

Kennedy stressed that "support for Israel is not an act of charity; it is a matter of national security." He said "Israel has no need of fairweather friends," a reference to Senators who at the last moment switched their vote to support the AWACS sale. "Neither Israel nor the United States will be served by politicians who profess one thing and do another," Kennedy said. "And none of us can rely on conservatives proclaiming a biblical allegiance to Israel who can then be turned around in a single White House meeting."

DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIANS SET CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN MFO

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- If Holland participates in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) for Sinai it will limit its contribution to medical or transport units consisting of from 50-100 men, Foreign Minister Max Van der Stoep and Defense Minister Hans Van Mierlo said here. They spoke to reporters after the two ministers attended a joint meeting of the Dutch Parliament's foreign affairs and defense committees.

The committees raised no objections to participation in the force that will police Sinai after Israel completes its final withdrawal next April. But they insisted that the Dutch contingent be composed entirely of volunteers. This could pose difficulties because medical or transport units would consist largely of specialists.

Van der Stoep said another condition for Dutch participation is that the European Economic Community (EEC) approve the dispatch of such a force by member states. Under the EEC Charter, approval must be unanimous. In any event, Dutch participation would be for a period of nine months only.

HOW TO REVIVE AN ALLIGATOR ISRAELI STYLE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- A fearless Israeli veterinarian saved the life of a 10-foot alligator by mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Dr. Bernard Hurwitz of Ranaana, literally put his head in the reptile's jaw. He emerged intact and the patient lived.

The feat occurred during an emergency operation at the newly opened Hamat Gader alligator farm where one of 120 saurians recently imported from the U.S. required surgery for a festering bite wound.

EBAN SAYS ISRAEL CAN PREVENT ADOPTION OF SAUDI PEACE PLAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (JTA)--Two members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee declared here yesterday that the eight-point Middle East peace plan proposed by Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia will never be implemented.

But former Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Likud MK Yosef Rom warned that expressions by the Reagan Administration of approval for parts of the Fahd plan could wreck the Camp David process.

"We are strong enough to prevent the implementation of any proposal such as this fatal to our security," Eban, now an opposition Labor MK said. The two MKs, at a briefing at the Israeli Embassy here, said there is a "consensus" in Israel of opposition to the Fahd plan and of concern over U.S. expressions of support for some parts of the proposal.

Eban noted that since 1973, the U.S. has played a "crucial role" in the Mideast peace process and it has been successful because of its "balanced" position. He warned against taking attitudes which "undermine" the U.S. image as a balanced moderator in the Middle East.

Eban said that the Fahd plan was against "contractual" agreements that the U.S. has made with Israel such as not to demand a complete Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders and the U.S. promises not to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization. He said that the Fahd plan, not only went against the Israeli position, but what has been up to now the announced U.S. position.

Quick Progress On Autonomy Urged

Both Eban and Rom pointed out that the U.S. rejected the Fahd plan when it was first proposed in August. Eban noted that when he met with Secretary of State Alexander Haig on Oct. 20, Haig had not even mentioned the Fahd plan. Instead the Secretary stressed the need to move ahead with the Camp David process.

Eban and Rom said what was needed now was quick progress on the autonomy talks. Eban urged all three parties, Israel, Egypt and the U.S., to take new positions on autonomy. Rom put the onus only on Egypt and the U.S.

Eban noted that the U.S. and Israel have had "a different concept of Saudi Arabia." He said Israel has no objections to the U.S. improving its relations with the Saudis but did not want a condition of this improvement to be Israeli concessions. Eban noted that Israel has always been willing to negotiate with Saudi Arabia but stressed that in listing the eight points, Fahd specifically ruled out any negotiations with Israel.

Eban urged the media to stop talking about the Saudis' recognizing Israel's right to exist. "I cannot think of a more offensive formulation," he said. "Our right to exist is independent of anybody's recognition of it. Our legitimacy is not suspended in midair pending completion and ratification by the Royal House of Saudi Arabia. Eban stressed that Israel is as much a sovereign state as the United States or Saudi Arabia and that what Israel was seeking was normalization with its neighbors, not recognition of its existence.

APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS ORDER TO REVOKE CITIZENSHIP OF TRIFA

DETROIT, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- The Sixth U.S.

Circuit Court of Appeals here yesterday upheld a lower court ruling to revoke the U.S. citizenship of Rumanian Archbishop Valerian Trifa. The ruling thus clears the way for the U.S. government to initiate deportation proceedings against the 67-year-old cleric who heads the Rumanian Orthodox Church in the U.S.

The unanimous decision rejected Trifa's appeal on the grounds that there was no basis for the appeal because he voluntarily signed an agreement surrendering his citizenship last year. Two weeks after signing the agreement, Federal District Judge Horace Gilmore revoked Trifa's citizenship.

Trifa is accused of concealing his ties to the Fascist Rumanian Iron Guard when he entered the U.S. in 1950 and when he was granted U.S. citizenship in 1957. He is accused of inciting a Bucharest pogrom in 1941 which killed 236 Jews and Christians. Trifa has denied the charges.

Trifa's attorney, William Swor, argued that his client thought he was only signing a form for the consent judgment, according to the Detroit Jewish News, but the judges were openly skeptical about this contention.

The court's ruling ends a six-year U.S. government case against Trifa, who lives in Grass Lake, Mich. He may appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. Swor did not indicate whether he would appeal.

EI AL WORKERS ON RULE BOOK SLOWDOWN

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 4 (JTA) -- Employees of El Al went on a "by the book" work slowdown this week to call the government's attention to what they claim is the air line management's failure to put Israel's international carrier's finances in order.

The slowdown has caused no delays or disruptions of El Al flight schedules so far, the air line said. But the company's board of directors and the government which backs the management have appealed to the workers to return to their normal routine in order to avoid a breakdown of service.

The employees contend that the present management has not taken the steps necessary to achieve profitable operations but issues optimistic reports to conceal the air line's true position. They have demanded that the management be replaced. The rule book slowdown does not allow El Al workers time to spend on other jobs which management says would increase productivity and savings.

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DETROIT (JTA) -- Two suburban Detroit communities elected Jewish Mayors Tuesday, both of them women. Ida Eisenseld won the mayoralty race in Mt. Clemens and Charlotte Rothstein was the winner in Oak Park.

Mrs. Rothstein has been involved in Oak Park politics for 20 years. She was elected in a write-in campaign following the death of former Mayor David Sheperd. Oak Park has a population of 33,000, a substantial proportion of it Jewish. But there are only 300 Jews in Mt. Clemens out of a population of 21,000.

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PARIS (JTA) -- Israeli Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture Simcha Erlich will visit Paris this week for talks with the French ministers of Agriculture and European Affairs. It will be the first high level contact between Israel and France since President Francois Mitterrand's election last May. Erlich will meet Thursday with Minister of Agriculture Edith Cresson and Friday with the Secretary of State for European Affairs Andre Chadenagor.