

ISRAELIS, EGYPTIANS HOLDING TALKS AIMED AT ACHIEVING BREAKTHROUGH IN AUTONOMY IMPASSE

By David Landau

CAIRO, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Israel's three senior Cabinet ministers began two days of talks with top level Egyptian officials today aimed at achieving a "breakthrough" on the "key issues" that are blocking agreement on autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and Interior Minister Yosef Burg arrived here last night.

They and Egyptians of equal rank have been empowered by their governments to make on-the-spot decisions in order to move the autonomy negotiations forward. Israel has made it clear that it would like to reach agreement, at least on a declaration of principles, before its final withdrawal from Sinai next April.

Before coming to Cairo, Burg, who has been Israel's chief negotiator in the autonomy talks, told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee that in "a month or two" it would become clear whether Egypt is indeed as serious as Israel in aspiring to an agreed "declaration of principles" before April.

Sharon also said earlier this week that he believes this is possible. But he complained that the U.S. "drift" toward the Saudi Arabian eight-point peace plan, which Israel utterly rejects, has become the "main obstacle" to an agreement on autonomy.

Sharon acknowledged reassuring statements by Secretary of State Alexander Haig that Washington remains committed to the Camp David process. He said he "hoped" that was so but was concerned by "confusing" signals from the U.S.

Disturbed By U.S. Indecision

The Israelis are clearly disturbed by the Reagan Administration's failure so far to name a special U.S. Ambassador to the autonomy talks, a role fulfilled for the Carter Administration first by Robert Strauss and later by Sol Linowitz. The U.S. is represented at the talks opening here today by its Ambassadors to Israel and Egypt, Samuel Lewis and Alfred Atherton, respectively. While both have long experience in Middle Eastern affairs they are of diplomatically lower rank than the Israeli and Egyptian negotiators.

The agenda of the current meeting includes the "scope, jurisdiction and structure" of the self-governing authority -- administrative council -- for the West Bank and Gaza. Premier Menachem Begin has said that if a breakthrough can be made on those matters, the other disputed issues such as security, land and water rights could be more easily resolved.

Clash On Issue Of Voting

Before leaving Israel, Burg clashed with former Premier Yitzhak Rabin, a leader of the opposition Labor Party, who had proposed that Israel allow East Jerusalem Arabs to vote for members of the self-governing authority on the West Bank.

Rabin argued that since it is Israel's declared position that autonomy applies to the people of the territory, not the territory itself, such a concession would not weaken Israel's hold over East Jerusalem.

Burg disputed this, warning that allowing the East Jerusalem Arabs to vote in West Bank elections would set a dangerous precedent for Palestinians living elsewhere, in Lebanon for example, to demand the right to participate in the elections. Rabin countered by warning that there would be no progress on autonomy unless Israel showed some flexibility. He said the West Bank and Gaza Arabs should be given control over all areas of their lives, except security.

ISRAELI DELEGATION EXPLAINING TO U.S. OFFICIALS WHY ISRAEL IS OPPOSED TO FAHD'S PEACE PLAN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- A six-member Israeli delegation began the task today of explaining to American officials why Israel is adamantly opposed to the eight-point Middle East peace plan proposed by Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

The group, made up of government and opposition members of the Knesset, was scheduled to meet with Secretary of State Alexander Haig today. They will go to the White House tomorrow for a meeting with White House Counsellor Edward Meese and National Security Advisor Richard Allen.

The six-member group, led by Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, who is expected to be Israel's next Ambassador to the United States, and Chaim Herzog, former Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations, is scheduled to have separate meetings tomorrow with the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees. Today they are also meeting with officials of the Republican and Democratic National Committees.

The Israeli delegation, which includes Shlomo Hillel, Joseph Rom, Danny Rosolio and Sara Doron, arrived in Washington yesterday coincidentally as President Reagan again said that he found "a hopeful sign" in the Fahd plan which he saw as "implicit" recognition of the State of Israel. The President's remarks were made at a White House press conference.

It was a similar statement to reporters last month that caused an angry reaction in Israel and resulted in sending the group here to explain why Israel considered the plan a proposal for its liquidation.

Following the angry reaction from Israel, Administration officials, who had been saying they found constructive elements in the Fahd plan while noting there were other points that should first be the result of negotiations, refused any comment on the Fahd plan. They would only say that the only plan the U.S. was committed to for achieving peace in the Mideast was the Camp David process.

Juggling The Fahd Plan And Camp David Process

At his press conference yesterday, Reagan also reaffirmed commitment to the Camp David process. "I think that the most realistic approach is the one that we are taking, which is the attempt to bring peace in the Middle East must be based on the Camp David accords and 242 Resolution of the United Nations," he said.

But when asked if he could incorporate any part of the Fahd plan in the Camp David process, Reagan said there was "one" point. "I know that there is also some dispute about what I'm going to say between the parties concerned," Reagan said.

"But I believe, and I have stated previously that I believe that it's implicit in the offering of that plan -- recognition of Israel's right to exist as a nation. And this has been one of the sticking points so far with the Arab world refusing to make that acknowledgement. This was why I have referred to it as a hopeful sign. That here was an offer of a plan, whether you agree with it or not, that indicated the willingness to negotiate, which it does imply."

Reagan went on to say that the plan also "calls for all of the states of the region living together in peace, and I think we all endorse that."

The Israelis have denied that the plan implies Saudi recognition of Israel or a willingness to negotiate with the Jewish State. Instead, they have warned that the plan is a danger to the existence of Israel because it calls for a Palestinian State on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with Jerusalem as its capital and which will be governed by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

MENACE OF NEO-NAZISM AND RIGHTWING ACTIVITY IN GERMANY

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- The menace of neo-Nazi activities and other extreme right-wing manifestations was stressed separately this week by Justice Minister Juergen Schmude and Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Jewish community in West Berlin. Galinski accused the authorities of failing to take measures to counter the danger.

Schmude said here Sunday that recent developments "definitely refute" the contention that neo-Nazi and extreme rightwing attacks are isolated, local incidents. He said it has become clear that neo-Nazi groups have managed to develop a carefully planned infrastructure with branches in all parts of the Federal Republic and contacts with similar groups abroad.

Galinski, who spoke Monday at ceremonies marking the 43rd anniversary of "Kristalnacht" when synagogues, Jewish homes and businesses all over Germany were destroyed, said the emergence of a nationwide neo-Nazi organization has been observed for a considerable time. He said the recent discovery of 32 neo-Nazi and rightwing weapons caches in the state of Lower Saxony, was an "alarming sign" that should put an end to indifference.

Schmude's statement, issued by the press service of the ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD) followed an angry debate here over who was responsible for playing down neo-Nazi activities. Ulrich Klug, former Justice Minister of the Hamburg City-State and a member of the Free Democratic Party (FDP), said all three democratic parties represented in Parliament have behaved as if rightwing extremism was nothing but a marginal, unimportant phenomenon. He stressed that he included his own party, the SPD's junior coalition partner.

Schmude defended the federal authorities' decision to take over the investigation of the weapons caches in Lower Saxony. That decision has been criticized by the state government there, which is headed by the opposition Christian Democratic Union (CDU), as politically moti-

vated. But Schmude argued that efforts to curb neo-Nazism should be commensurate with the dangers it poses which are now on a national scale.

Meanwhile, neo-Nazi vandals caused an estimated 200,000 Marks damage to the Jewish cemetery in Giessen, North Rhein-Westfalia where 100 gravestones were desecrated. The small Jewish chapel at the site was broken into and smeared with swastikas and other Nazi symbols in brown paint, apparently to indicate the ideological affiliation of the vandals. Police are investigating.

ISRAELI MUM ON OVERFLIGHTS OF SAUDI ARABIAN TERRITORY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Defense Ministry officials and army spokesmen had "no comment" yesterday on reports from Riyadh that Israeli warplanes had overflown Saudi Arabian territory in the vicinity of the Tabok air base. The officials vehemently denied, however, reports from other sources that Israeli planes had attacked targets in Saudi Arabia.

The "no comments" stance on the overflight and the denial that targets were attacked indicated to observers here that the overflight apparently for photo-reconnaissance purposes had indeed taken place and that they probably have been going on for some time. According to the observers they were intended as a warning to the Saudis.

That view seemed to be confirmed by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's remarks to foreign correspondents Monday that Israel now regarded Saudi Arabia as a "confrontation" state because of the advanced weaponry it will be receiving from the U.S., including AWACS reconnaissance aircraft.

Sharon told the correspondents it was mistaken to regard the Saudis as moderates. He said they had fought against Israel in all its wars since 1948. "Israel will treat the Saudis like we treat every confrontation Arab state because the Saudis, by having these weapons and opposing the peace (Camp David accords) we therefore regard them as a confrontation state," he said. "That is the way we are going to treat them, like a hostile Arab confrontation state."

AGREEMENT ON PROJECT RENEWAL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- The government and the Jewish Agency agreed this week to end their long standing disputes over the administration of Project Renewal and to cooperate in the future for its successful implementation. The meeting Monday was attended by Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, and David Levy, Deputy Premier for Social Affairs and their aides.

It followed bitter criticism in the Cabinet of the way the Agency was handling the massive project to rehabilitate disadvantaged neighborhoods which is financed jointly by Israel and overseas Jewry. Some ministers complained the Agency was not providing promised funds. The Agency angrily rejected the critics and said funds were ready and available for allocation to specific projects.

The meeting resulted in a series of undertakings. An Agency spokesman said that henceforth there would be a "coordinated policy" with the government; joint decisions on specific implementation; efforts to weed out needless duplication; and joint supervision over both government and Agency budgets for Project Renewal.

Dulzin said he was satisfied with the housing work in a number of neighborhoods and said he hoped the agreement for top level coordination would lead to swifter progress in the future. In his speech at the

opening of the Knesset's winter session last week. Premier Menachem Begin urged the government and the opposition to bury party politics and work for Project Renewal as a national undertaking.

ISRAEL RENEWS CALL FOR NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Israel renewed its call today for establishing a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East through negotiations by the states of the area.

Addressing the General Assembly, which started a debate on Israel's attack on Iraq's nuclear facility June 7, Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, declared: "Israel believes that the most effective way to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to the Middle East is through the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region, modeled on the Tlatelolco Treaty, which is based on the initiative of Latin American states and on direct negotiations among them."

During his address, Blum repeated Israel's contention that in destroying the Iraqi nuclear plant "Israel was exercising its inherent and natural right of self-defense, as understood in general international law."

Blum also said that over the last six years Israel has tried to have the Iraqi nuclear threat halted by diplomatic means, but without success. He said Israel conducted since 1975 diplomatic contacts with various governments "which Israel believed could avert the dangerous development in Iraq." In a document circulated here by Israel this week, Israel named those governments as France, Italy and the United States.

The debate in the General Assembly was initiated by Iraq despite the fact that the Security Council met last June and discussed the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear plant. The Security Council at that time condemned the attack and called upon Israel to open its nuclear facilities to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspection.

Objectives Of The Iraqi's

According to diplomats here, the current debate in the Assembly will last at the most three days. The diplomats said that the Iraqis want the Assembly to adopt a resolution calling on the Security Council to reconsider imposing sanctions on Israel and demand compensation from Israel for the damage it caused Iraq by destroying its nuclear facility. The Iraqis are also likely to ask that all UN member states join in a ban of arms shipments to Israel, the diplomats said.

At the opening of today's debate, Blum requested that the president of the General Assembly, Ismat Kittani of Iraq, should not preside over the debate. The situation was "incongruous," Blum said. Kittani refused to step down and said that it was appropriate for him to govern the proceedings.

"We will leave it to the judgment of member states of the Assembly as a whole," Kittani said, as to whether the President of the Assembly handled the debate impartially. Since there was no objection from any other representatives, Kittani's ruling was not put to a vote and he presided over the debate.

4 ARAB TERRORISTS FOUND GUILTY IN HEBRON AMBUSH SLAYINGS

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- A military court in Nablus today found four Arab terrorists guilty of the murder in May 1980 of six seminary students living in the Jewish Kiryat Arba quarter of Hebron. Sentence is expected to be handed down next Wednesday.

When the army prosecutor asked for a life sentence for the Arabs, an uproar broke out in the court and Kiryat Arba leader Rabbi Moshe Levinger was ordered removed from the court for creating a disturbance when he led a chorus of shouts for the death penalty.

The prosecutor told the court, when asked why he had demanded only a life sentence, that his instructions had been to ask for the lesser sentence than the possible maximum death penalty. The court noted that it did not have to abide by the request of the prosecution.

Mohammed Shubaki, 36, leader of the group, all members of the Al Fatah terrorist gang, told the judge, before the verdict was pronounced, that the four Arabs could not be regarded as criminals because their act of killing the six students was politically motivated. The other three Arab defendants were Adnan Jaber, 33, Yasser Zeidat, 31, and Dasser Taba, 27.

In the ambush attack with submachineguns and grenades, 16 other Jews were wounded while the group was returning from Friday night prayers to their houses.

REPORT THERE ARE 'ULPANIM' SCATTERED THROUGHOUT MOSCOW

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- There are 57 Hebrew teachers and about 600 students in small private "ulpanim" scattered throughout Moscow, according to a recent immigrant from the Soviet Union, Michael Nudler.

Briefing a session of the Brit Ivrit Olamit (World Hebrew Union) Executive here this week, Nudler warned of increased efforts by the Soviet authorities to hamper the teaching of Hebrew. He said there was no lack of advanced-level textbooks, but the ulpanim were chronically short of basic-level material.

Abraham Shenker, the WHU chairman, called on groups the world over involved in teaching Hebrew to "extend practical and moral support" to the Moscow Ulpanim. The WHU Executive passed a resolution condemning the Soviet's persecution of the ulpanim as contrary to Soviet law, and called for public pressure to be brought on the Russian government.

NUMBER OF FAMILIES AT POVERTY LEVEL HAS INCREASED SINCE 1977

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- The number of Israeli families at the poverty level rose during the years 1977-1980 to the point where it had been 10 years ago, according to the annual report of the National Insurance Institute. The increase was from 2.8 percent in 1977 to 6.6 percent last year, the report said.

The increase was greatest among large families where the percentage of poverty households soared from 4.6 to 11.7 in three years. The larger the family, the greater the level of poverty, the report said, noting that families with six children suffered poverty last year at more than four times the 1977 rate. However, during 1980, and at the beginning of 1981, several measures were taken to alleviate poverty in large families, notably an increase in government allowances for children.

CJF ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF 1981 SHRODER AWARDS

NEW YORK, Nov. 11 (JTA)-- Five cities were named today as recipients of the 1981 Shroder Award, presented by the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) in recognition of superior initiative and achievement in the advancement of social welfare by Jewish agencies in North America. They are Pittsburgh, Montreal, Boston, Milwaukee and Savannah.

The CJF Shroder Awards are designed to honor communities with innovative programs which address problems and issues common to all Jewish communities. Award-winning programs must be duplicative in other communities and provide a resource and model for the entire North American Jewish community, the CJF said. Sidney Busis of Pittsburgh is chairperson of the 1981 Shroder Award Committee.

The Winning Ingredients

The Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, winner in the Large City category, was cited for the activities of its Synagogue/Federation Relations Committee, which has enhanced communication and cooperation between these vital community institutions, and provided new programming benefits for the community as a whole.

Boston and Montreal were named as co-winners for programs representing innovative new avenues of community involvement for young people. The Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston and The Jewish Community Center of Greater Boston involve over 1500 young men and women in their cultural, social and educational activities, as well as in campaign and Federation leadership development.

The Young People's Federation of Montreal, an independent structure of the Allied Jewish Community Services, has attracted bright, talented high school and college students to in-depth involvement in Jewish community activities, and provided a "talent bank" for future leadership of Montreal Jewry.

The Women's Division of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation was chosen among Intermediate Cities for "Sense of Oneness" a teacher's guidebook to curriculum on the Jewish community, developed through the utilization of volunteer skills. The curriculum guidebook, created by Women's Division leaders with professional training in education, can be used by adults as well as children, and is a valuable educational resource for the entire community.

Savannah's Shroder Award honors Operation Relocation, a program designed to attract young Jewish families to settle in Savannah through employment assistance and relocation services. Over a dozen family units comprising 40 individuals have been resettled in Savannah since the program began in 1980, offering a promising new means to replenish the city's declining Jewish population figures.

JEWISH STUDENTS PROTEST OFFENSIVE ARAB EXHIBIT AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Jewish students at McGill University are protesting an anti-Israel display on the campus and 250 of them have signed a petition demanding its removal. The display, prepared by the university's Arab Students Association, was mounted in the main foyer of the undergraduate library. It contains photographs of dismembered corpses said to be of Arab children.

Seth Soroka, president of the McGill Hillel House, who organized the protests, said the exhibit was insulting material and vicious propaganda. "We had a display of Jewish and Israeli culture last year but we did not include this type of material," he said.

Dr. Hans Mollar, director of the library, said that "while it was not library policy to censor displays, I have requested that the Arab students modify their exhibit. Never before were so many students so painfully affected by such a display."

CLARA STERN DEAD AT 79

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Clara Stern, sister of the late Israeli Premier Golda Meir, died here Monday night of a heart attack. She was 79 years old.

Mrs. Stern, who was born in Milwaukee, was the first director of the Greater Bridgeport Jewish Community Council, a post she held for 25 years, and was responsible for laying the groundwork for inter-group relations dialogues regionally. She established the Conference of Women's Organizations and the Council of Presidents of Greater Bridgeport, both of which encompassed Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, civic and labor groups.

Mrs. Stern spoke nationally on behalf of the Israel Bond Organization and the United Jewish Appeal. She was also active for HIAS and YIVO and the Jewish Family Services Organization.

ISRAEL DISPLAYS ITS INDUSTRIAL PROWESS AT THE JERUSALEM FAIR

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- "Isratech-1981," an industrial fair featuring Israel-made machinery, electronics, transportation, security and safety products and energy conservation systems was formally opened by Premier Menachem Begin at Binyanei HaOoma convention hall here Monday. According to Ramy Gott, director of the Export Institute, its primary purpose is to expose Israeli technology to foreign buyers.

Begin, in his opening remarks, stressed that Israel's combination of "brains and skilled hands" compensated for its lack of natural resources. Gott said a secondary purpose of the fair is to create inducements for overseas investments. Potential investors cannot seriously consider investments in certain fields unless they see there is a sufficient infrastructure, he said.

The week-long fair is expected to attract at least 700 "serious buyers" of Israeli products with the total number of visitors exceeding earlier forecasts. Israeli exports in the fields represented at the fair rose in the past three years from \$456 million to \$1.2 billion. Exports are expected to reach \$1.5 billion next year.

* * *

MEXICO CITY (JTA) -- Sergio Nudelstejer, a Mexican Jewish writer and intellectual, was admitted to the Mexican Institute of Culture. He was awarded the title of "Numbered Member" of the Institute which is headed by former President Miguel Aleman and is the foremost exponent of Mexican culture. Nudelstejer submitted an essay titled "Franz Kafka, Conscience of an Era."

* * *

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A two-day strike in East Jerusalem by local Arab merchants and school children ended Wednesday, with shops reopened and pupils back in their classrooms. Israeli military patrols continued to circulate in West Bank towns and villages.