

## ISRAEL APPEARS TO BE READY TO ACCEPT JOINT U.S.-ISRAEL STATEMENT ON EUROPEAN ROLE IN SINAI FORCE, BUT IS SEEKING SOME CHANGES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Israel appeared today to be ready to accept in essence a joint U.S.-Israel draft statement on European participation in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai that was hammered out by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Secretary of State Alexander Haig in Washington last Friday.

This was the impression in political circles here after the Cabinet met this morning and decided to accept the essence of the draft statement as well as to seek certain changes in the statement.

According to political circles, Israel is prepared to accept in principle the statement that the Sinai peacekeeping force is to be established on the basis of the Camp David accords and the Israel-Egypt peace treaty. The Europeans and other participants in the force will be expected to endorse this key assertion in some form in the context of their formal agreement to be part of the MFO. Precisely how they will work this out will be left to Haig and the Europeans, according to Israeli sources.

The four West European powers announced last Monday that they would join the MFO on the basis of the European Economic Community's Venice declaration of June 1980 which calls for the association of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Middle East peace process. Israel was greatly disturbed by this element in the announcement.

Equally disturbing was the distinction drawn by the Europeans between Israel's withdrawal from Sinai, which they approve, and the rest of the Camp David process, of which they are critical. The 7 1/2-hour meeting between Shamir and Haig last Friday dealt primarily with Israel's objections to the participation of the Europeans on terms Israel considers to be a negation of the Camp David accords.

### Cabinet Decision Kept Vague

The Cabinet's decision today on the joint U.S.-Israel statement was kept deliberately vague, publicly. Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor refused to say officially that the Ministers had accepted the joint draft statement in principle -- barring the requested changes. "I am under instruction not to elaborate on that," he said after the three-hour session chaired by Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich.

But it was understood that the Cabinet's decision was taken in full accordance with recommendations from Premier Menachem Begin, conveyed to the Ministers during the meeting both by Shamir and Ehrlich and by Begin himself in a telephone call from Hadassah Hospital. The Premier is in the hospital recuperating from surgery on a hip joint which he broke last Thursday. Begin and Shamir conferred last night in the hospital on the text of the joint statement, and high officials spread the word later that Israel would indeed accept it in essence.

The official Cabinet communique today said the Ministers would reconvene once word is received from Washington on the U.S. response to the changes

Israel is seeking. (In Washington, Haig said today he was still hopeful that Israel would accept European participation in the Sinai peacekeeping force, "but we are prepared to proceed with or without their participation." An Israeli spokesman was quoted as saying the Cabinet was asking for changes in the U.S.-Israel joint statement to prevent an Israeli veto of the European peacekeeping role. Both Israel and Egypt can veto any member of the MFO under the terms which established the force.

(Haig said in an interview on NBC-TV that the declaration would state that European involvement in the Sinai force would not detract from the Camp David process. "These are not mutually exclusive problems," he said. "One can ... participate in this force within the intent and overall purposes of the Camp David accords and the protocol associated with the treaty of peace (between Israel and Egypt). And that's, of course, what we would have to insist were done."

(Haig indicated that he did not envision the European nations having to "take back" statements such as those giving support to the PLO. "The question is the intent and circumstances of their participation in the force, not their overall views of the peace process itself," he said. He noted that a number of non-European nations have agreed to participate in the Sinai force. The U.S. will contribute more than half to the 2,500-member MFO. Other announced participants are Colombia, Fiji and Uruguay. Australia and New Zealand are also prepared to participate, but only if the Europeans do so.)

### STATE DEPARTMENT WAITING FOR OFFICIAL WORD FROM ISRAEL ON IDEAS DISCUSSED BY HAIG AND SHAMIR

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- The State Department said today it was ready for an official reply from the Israeli government on the "ideas discussed" by Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir during a 7 1/2 hour meeting at the State Department last Friday.

Department spokesman Dean Fischer said that he had only seen press reports about an Israeli Cabinet decision earlier today to approve a joint statement on the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) that had been worked out by Haig and Shamir. But he said the Department was waiting for the official Israeli notification.

Fischer would not speculate on whether West European silence on the joint statement would be considered by the United States and Israel as acceptance of it. Shamir was summoned to Washington last week after the State Department was informed by Israel that it was ready to reject the participation of Britain, France, Italy and The Netherlands in the MFO because of a statement the European countries had made in announcing their willingness to join the Sinai peacekeeping force.

The four European countries had said that they would join the Sinai force but still supported the European Economic Community's Venice declaration of 1980 that calls for the participation of the



Palestine Liberation Organization in Middle East peace negotiations. Israel has demanded that all members of the force which will patrol the Sinai after Israel's final withdrawal in April, do so only on the basis of support for the Camp David process.

#### Habib Conferring With Lebanon's Leaders

Meanwhile, Fischer confirmed today that Philip Habib, President Reagan's special envoy to the Middle East, is in Beirut and is conferring with Lebanese leaders. He said he could not give any information on the talks or Habib's itinerary. He is expected to also visit Israel, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Fischer said Friday that Habib, as usual, has asked that no details be given on his trip. The 61-year-old retired diplomat is in the Middle East to see how the U.S. can be helpful in reducing the tension in Lebanon and in improving the basic conditions in that country, particularly in restoring the authority of the central government of Lebanon over all of the country, Fischer said Friday.

#### ARENS NAMED NEXT AMBASSADOR TO U.S.

JERUSALEM, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- The Cabinet approved today the appointment of Likud Knesset member Moshe Arens as Israel's next Ambassador to the United States. The appointment will receive final ratification after its approval by the United States government. Israel's present Ambassador to the U.S. is Ephraim Evron.

Arens will be replaced in the Knesset by Michael Kleiner of the Herut faction. Kleiner, a former chairman of the Tel Aviv University's student union, is presently the director general of the World Zionist Organization's education and culture department.

The favorite candidate to replace Arens as chairman of the powerful Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee is Dr. Eliahu Ben Elissar, the former director general of the Prime Minister's office and the first Ambassador to Egypt.

#### ORTHODOXY'S CHIEF GOAL: TOTAL DEFEAT OF 'FRAUDULENT BRANDS OF JUDAISM'

PORT CHESTER, N.Y., Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Three of America's leading Torah sages joined in a call for "total mobilization of the forces of Torah ideology to help the Jewish masses to reject the poison of fraudulent brands of Judaism." The sages addressed 4,000 Orthodox Jewish representatives from this country and abroad attending the 59th national convention of Agudath Israel of America at the Rye Town Hilton here.

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, dean of Mesivta Tifereth Jerusalem in New York and chairman of the Council of Torah Sages, speaking by pre-recorded film from his home, said: "We must seek to inculcate the Jewish masses with Torah values through Jewish education, by building and supporting our struggling Torah institutions."

Striking a similar theme was Rabbi Yaakov Kamenetzky, dean of Mesivta Torah Vodaath, and Rabbi Yaakov Yitzchok Ruderman, dean of Yeshiva Ner Israel in Baltimore. Both praised the Agudath Israel movement for "giving courage to Torah Jewry by speaking up with dignity for the needs of authentic Judaism." Kamenetzky also appealed for unity in the Orthodox Jewish community.

A prominent member of the Council of Torah Sages of Agudath Israel in Israel, Rabbi Moshe Shapiro, dean of Yeshiva Be'er Yaakov, said that

the recent decisions taken by the Council, including the terms for Agudat Israel's participation in the Likud coalition "are an education for generations to come on how the principles of our timeless heritage can be used to determine the contemporary political and social agenda of the Jewish people."

#### Laws To Halt Archaeological Digs Is A Priority

Rabbi Avrohom Shapiro, Knesset representative of Agudat Israel and chairman of the coalition, said that the first legislative proposal of Agudat Israel in the new Knesset session would be a law to "halt archaeological digs in ancient cemeteries" promised by Prime Minister Begin in the coalition agreement with Agudat Israel. Shapiro also pledged to work to amend the Law of Return "according to halacha" within the four-month period promised in the coalition negotiations. He threatened that Agudat Israel might bolt the coalition if the agreement was not fulfilled, adding that the final decision would be made by the Council of Torah Sages.

Shapiro continued: "We reject the slanderous accusations made by some that Agudat Israel is involved in religious coercion or is attempting to transform Israel into a Khomeini state. We are merely trying to reclaim our rights as citizens and taxpayers, not to be treated as second-class citizens. The religious issues we address are consistent with the Jewish character of the state, based on the tacit understanding between the Zionist founders and the religious community in Israel."

#### Decries Role Of Reform, Conservative Judaism

Rabbi Moshe Sherer, president of Agudath Israel of America and chairman of its world organization, decried the "new stance of militancy and belligerency of the Reform and Conservative leadership against Orthodox Judaism," which he claimed is the result of Agudath Israel's insistence that only halacha be accepted in Israel on religious issues.

He charged that the Reform and Conservative leaders are "seeking to influence Jewish Federations throughout the country to use the club of implied withholding financial aid to Israel to beat the Israeli government into submission to accept the concept of religious pluralism in the Holy Land." Sherer declared that Agudath Israel will launch a counter-offensive to "halt the infiltration into Israel of 'synthetic Judaism' which has to its 'credit' the spiritual genocide rampant in the United States."

One of the resolutions adopted at the three-day convention called on Jewish relief organizations not to bow to pressure from the Jewish Agency and to continue assisting Soviet Jews regardless of where they choose to settle after leaving the Soviet Union. Another resolution called upon President Reagan to continue to demonstrate concern for Israel's defense and economic needs.

#### 2,000 MARCH IN PRO-PALESTINIAN RALLY

NEW YORK, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Some 2000 Arabs and supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organization staged a two-mile march here Saturday. The marchers, organized by a coalition of pro-PLO, left-wing and Third World organizations, carried signs and chanted "Long Live the PLO. Long live Palestine"; "Stop U.S. aid to Israel"; "No more Vietnams in the Middle East" and "Get U.S. imperialism and Zionism out of the Middle East."

The marchers were protected by a contingent of mounted and foot police. There were no reported incidents. A spokesman for the event, which was billed as "International Solidarity Day for the Palestinian People," told reporters he hoped that next



year tens of thousands would participate in a similar march. He added that more and more Americans are beginning to understand the plight of the Palestinian people and are becoming fed up with American intervention in the Middle East on behalf of Zionism.

### COURT REVERSES PENALTY IMPOSED ON TWO ANTI-NAZI MARCHERS

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- A Munich appeals court has reversed the penalty imposed by a lower court on two persons who carried anti-Nazi banners in Munich last September during a memorial ceremony for the victims of a synagogue bombing in Vienna that occurred several days earlier. Two people were killed and 20 were injured in that terrorist bombing.

Fines of 800 Marks each were imposed on a 35-year-old teacher and a 32-year-old physician at the demand of the Bavarian State Prosecutor, who accused them of abusing the right of assembly. The judge ruled that the two had failed to get written permission for their demonstration.

But the appeals court, in reversing that decision, found that the accused were participating in a legal public ceremony of mourning organized by the Munich authorities and that the slogans on the banners they carried were consistent with the purpose of the ceremony and, therefore, there was no demonstration in the technical sense and no prior permission was required.

One of the banners read "Down With the Fascist Murder Gang." The other criticized the Bavarian Interior Minister, Gerold Tandler, for his claim that the neo-Nazi Wehrsportsgruppe Hoffmann was "not really a dangerous organization" and that its members were "half mad" and not to be taken seriously.

The group, which masqueraded as a sports club until it was barred by the authorities earlier this year, is regarded as one of the most violent and dangerous of the neo-Nazi organizations that have cropped up in the Federal Republic. According to an official report by the Bonn government, it cooperates with the Palestine Liberation Organization and scores of its members have received training in terrorist tactics by El Fatah in Lebanon.

### SHARON, WEINBERGER MEET ON U.S.-ISRAEL STRATEGIC COOPERATION

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon arrived at the Pentagon today for a meeting with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger on the strategic cooperation between Israel and the United States.

Sharon who is expected to sign a "memorandum of understanding" at the conclusion of the talks here is believed to have brought with him an Israeli Cabinet proposal for a greater implementation of the cooperation than the United States has been willing to approve up to now.

Sharon was welcomed by Weinberger with a full ceremony which included a gun salute, the playing of the Israeli and U.S. national anthems and a review of the guard by the two defense heads. Neither official said anything, but during a photo session as the two entered Weinberger's office with Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Evron a reporter asked if the memorandum of understanding would be signed today. Weinberger quipped,

"There has always been understanding between Israel and the United States."

Sharon is scheduled to meet Secretary of State Alexander Haig tomorrow and with the Senate Armed Services Committee. Before returning to Israel he is expected to meet with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York City.

### U.S., Israel Agrees On Strategic Cooperation

This afternoon it was announced in a joint U.S.-Israel statement that agreement has been reached on a strategic cooperation pact which includes joint military maneuvers between the two countries. The memorandum of understanding, which was reached following the meeting between Sharon and Weinberger stipulated that the accord was designed to cope with threats to the security of the Middle East by the Soviet Union or Soviet-controlled forces.

According to the statement, which was released by the Pentagon, the new accord also sets up a U.S.-Israel coordinating council, scheduled to meet for the first time in January. The council and its working groups will plan for the joint maneuvers, to be staged in the eastern Mediterranean and will discuss the positioning of U. S. military supplies in Israel. Trade in arms and research and development also will be discussed by the council and its working groups.

Last week both Weinberger and Secretary of State Alexander Haig indicated that the U.S. was not prepared to go beyond the storing of medical supplies in Israel and joint planning in implementing the strategic cooperation agreement worked out by President Reagan and Premier Menachem Begin last September. Israel reacted critically to the statements by Weinberger and Haig because Israel wanted to include heavy U.S. arms such as tanks and jet fighter planes for use by the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force in case of a Soviet threat to the region.

In their joint statement today, Sharon and Weinberger said the memorandum of understanding demonstrates the belief that "this agreement on strategic cooperation reaffirms the common bonds of friendship" between the U.S. and Israel. In addition, Weinberger accepted an invitation from Sharon to visit Israel next year.

### DEFENSE MINISTRY AGREES TO HAVE WEST BANK MODERATES ARM THEMSELVES

TEL AVIV, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- The Ministry of Defense has agreed to a proposal by the Military Government of the West Bank that moderate leaders of the League of Arab villagers should be allowed to carry arms or arm their bodyguards, for personal defense. But Arab leaders, including Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, generally regarded as a moderate, has opposed the idea, fearing that it may lead to further bloodshed between armed groups.

Members of the Village League, a moderate informal grouping supported by the Military Government as a counterweight and viable option to Palestine Liberation Organization leadership, asked to be allowed to carry weapons in self-defense following the assassination of one of their members, Yussuf Al-Khatib, and his son Khazem, by extremists Nov. 17.

Freij said, however, that the arming of "local militias" by the Military Government would only exacerbate the situation and lead toward clashes within the Arab community. Village League head Mustapha Doudin said, however, that the League welcomed the move and promised to hand back the arms to the Military Government as soon as political murders among the Arabs stopped.



## JAPANESE ENVOY TELLS WJC THERE IS NO CHANGE IN POLICY TOWARD THE PLO

NEW YORK, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- Japan's Ambassador to the United Nations, Masahiro Nisibori, has told the World Jewish Congress that, in the aftermath of the visit to Tokyo by Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat, "Japan has not in any way changed its policy toward the PLO" and it "does not intend to grant diplomatic status to the PLO office in Tokyo."

Nisibori met privately with the WJC North American International Affairs Committee where the issue of Japan's policies toward the Middle East were the subject of an in-depth exchange of views with leaders of two dozen national Jewish organizations at a session which lasted more than two hours.

Arafat's visit to Japan in October was raised as a principal matter of concern. Nisibori said that the invitation for the visit was extended not by the government but by a group of Japanese parliamentarians. However, the occasion was viewed by the government "as a good opportunity to exchange views and clarify positions."

### Urged PLO to Recognize Israel

He added that in the meetings that took place, the Japanese Prime Minister and Foreign Minister "strongly urged that the PLO recognize Israel's right to exist and emphasized the need to settle any problems by conducting talks in a peaceful manner without recourse to the threat or use of military force." At these meetings, according to Nisibori, Arafat was urged to moderate the practices and policies of the PLO and Japan hoped that this would be a result of the Tokyo visit.

Nisibori noted that Japan "does not support the one-sided recognition of the Palestinian people's right of self-determination." Japan continued to insist that another principle must also be recognized, namely, "respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the political independence of every state in the area," he said.

When questioned as to whether he could therefore state on behalf of his government that there would be no possibility of diplomatic recognition of the PLO until such time that the PLO formally recognizes Israel's right to exist, Nisibori said that his response was "definitely in the affirmative."

### Position On Arab-Israel Question

In outlining his country's position on the Arab-Israeli question, Nisibori made three points: First, peace in the Middle East must be just, lasting and comprehensive; second, such a peace must be based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and with recognition of legitimate Palestinian rights including "the right of self-determination" and finally, consideration must be given to the legitimate security requirements in the region, including Israel, and to the aspirations of all the peoples in the region.

Nisibori also noted "Japan supports the Camp David agreements as a first step toward achievement of peace in the Middle East," and seeks successful continuity of the peace process.

## UNITED JEWISH APPEAL LAUNCHES YEAR-END 'COUNT UP' CASH DRIVE

NEW YORK, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal has launched a year-end "Count Up

for '81" campaign to collect a total of \$310 million in cash by Dec. 31, it was announced by UJA national chairman Herschel Blumberg. "We face a pressing and immediate need for cash to sustain the lifeline of human programs and services that extends to our people in Israel and worldwide," Blumberg said in announcing the program.

"Our national goal of \$310 million by year's end is a realistic projection of our capacity to give in response to the growing needs of the Jewish people and the rising cost of meeting them," he said. "It is essential that every Jewish community in the United States make a concerted effort to collect on all unpaid pledges to the 1981 Campaign."

UJA national cash chairman Edgar Cadden reported that a total of \$192.6 million in the regular campaign and \$9.8 million for Project Renewal had been forwarded to UJA from community campaigns throughout the country in the first 10 months of 1981. Last year, he noted, cash receipts in November and December totaled \$101.2 million. If cash is forwarded at the same rate in 1981, he said, the year-end total will reach \$296.6 million, \$13.3 million short of the 1981 cash goal.

"We are moving now to mobilize the American Jewish community to meet its commitment to Jews in need around the globe," Cadden said. "The chronic shortfall in cash has forced drastic cuts in the Jewish Agency budget bringing programs for the young, elderly and settlers in the Negev and Galilee to a virtual standstill. Our partnership with our people is on the line."

Cadden noted that national UJA resources, leadership and personnel have been made available to communities to assist them in collecting unpaid 1981 pledges, and he pointed out that new tax laws make it advantageous for donors to pre-pay 1982 pledges by Dec. 31.

## ORTHODOX UNION DENOUNCES 'MADE IN WEST BANK' RULING

NEW YORK, Nov. 30 (JTA) -- The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America has registered a strong complaint with Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, protesting the Oct. 27 U.S. Customs Service ruling changing the identification of goods made in Judea and Samaria from "made in Israel" to "made in Israeli-occupied West Bank."

A letter signed by the Union's Israel Commission chairman, Fred Ehrman, and sent to both Secretaries, stated in part: "To our knowledge, no other United States ally with claims on disputed territory is required to label its exports in this manner. This unprecedented ruling, following on the heels of the Senate's acceptance of the sale of AWACS to Saudi Arabia, therefore, indicates to us a strong tilt in American foreign policy away from support of Israel and the Camp David accords in favor of pressure and so-called peace plans from oil-rich countries which show little concern for Israel's survival."

"Judea and Samaria are areas whose sovereignty remains to be negotiated under the provisions of the Camp David accords," the letter concluded. "As long as they are administered by the Israeli government, and so long as Israel's claims for sovereignty over these territories remain as valid as any other claims, we must firmly insist that this biased ruling be reversed and products made in the area rightfully bear the seal, 'Made in Israel'."

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UNITED NATIONS (JTA) -- Palestine Week opened here Monday morning with a special meeting of the General Assembly honoring the Palestinian people and their "inalienable right" to self-determination.