

LIKUD, LABOR LEADERS CLASH OVER U.S.-ISRAEL AGREEMENT

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- The memorandum on strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel was praised today by leaders of the Likud but sharply denounced by leaders of the Labor Alignment.

The memorandum, which was signed yesterday by Israel's Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger in Washington, was praised by Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich as "another stage in the friendly relations between the two countries. I hope this is only the beginning." A statement issued by the office of Premier Menachem Begin said the memorandum was "an important achievement, as it would strengthen Israel's ties with the United States and improve her international status."

Labor Alignment leaders denounced the memorandum for stating that the strategic cooperation "is designed against the threat to peace and security of the region caused by the Soviet Union or Soviet-controlled forces from outside the region introduced into the region."

An Unprecedented Agreement

Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, who is now a Knesset member, said that no previous international document signed by the U.S. states specifically that it is directed against the Soviet Union. For example, the NATO treaty is defined as directed against possible attack from all directions, Eban noted. A previous memorandum of understanding between the U.S. and Israel in 1975 stated that the U.S. would assist Israel against threats by any "world power," Eban said.

He added that only the Eisenhower Doctrine of the 1950s made a more specific reference to a possible enemy by stating that the U.S. would protect Israel against "aggression by any country ruled by Communism." The fact is, he pointed out, that Israel is the first country in the history of modern diplomacy to tie itself in a formal agreement with the U.S. specifically directed against the Soviet Union.

Former Premier Yitzhak Rabin was critical of the memorandum because "one understands from that document that Israel has given her a priori agreement that the Israel Defense Force will be operated in the Middle East under circumstances so far unknown, for purposes that are not directly for the defense of Israel. In return we did not get anything new. Furthermore, the U.S. cannot under its Constitution act militarily unless this action is for the purpose of defending America or American citizens."

Rabin's criticism was understood to refer to the clause in the memorandum dealing with military cooperation between the two countries, joint military exercises and acting "cooperatively and in a timely manner to deal with" the threat to peace and security of the region.

The new agreement is not a mutual security pact such as the U.S. has signed with many countries, but not with Israel, in the past. It does not

commit the U.S. to come to Israel's protection but only to cooperate with Israel against Soviet and Soviet-controlled forces posing threats to the region. (See P. 4 for full text.)

Makes Israel A Satellite

Former Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Mordechai Gur said that "the way that agreement has been worded makes Israel into a sort of American satellite." Gur, a leading Labor Party member of the Knesset, told Israel Radio that Washington was trying to preserve a low profile on all matters concerning Israel's security in the Mideast while emphasizing the service it could obtain from Israel in the conflict between the U.S. and the USSR.

"There is no sense in Israel becoming a confrontation state for the Soviet Union by turning into an American arsenal," Gur said. "The agreement is not for the good for Israel."

The memorandum of understanding was also assailed by Communist Party Knesset member Toufik Toubi. He charged that the memo was tantamount to a declaration of war against the Soviet Union and that it would expose Israel as a military target in the case of a confrontation between the U.S. and the USSR.

But Dr. Eliahu Ben Elissar, former Israeli Ambassador to Egypt, told Israel Radio that Israel was not going to fight for the United States and the agreement does not threaten Israel's Arab neighbors.

"The agreement is not aimed against our Arab neighbors but we need the U.S. against the Soviet Union," he said. The agreement states that the strategic cooperation "is not directed at any states within the region."

The issue was also raised today in the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee which met with Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan. Eitan referred all questions dealing with the memorandum to Sharon, who ended his trip to Washington earlier than planned to take part in a Knesset debate tomorrow on this issue. Both the Alignment and the Communist Party intend to submit motions of no confidence in the government following the signing of the memorandum.

SHARON: AGREEMENT MEETS THREAT TO ISRAEL AND FREE WORLD FROM THE USSR

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon defended the memorandum of understanding he signed yesterday with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger as a means of meeting the threat to Israel and the "free world" from the Soviet Union and "forces controlled by the Soviet Union."

Sharon, who made the statement after an hour-and-a-half meeting with Secretary of State Alexander Haig at the State Department, has cut short his visit to the United States and is flying home to Israel to defend the memorandum in the Knesset against votes of no confidence in the government to be submitted by the Labor Alignment and the Communist Party. Sharon said he was certain the opposition moves would be defeated.

Both Sharon and Haig said that their meeting today concerned the friendly relations between Israel and the United States. Sharon noted that

during what he called a "good meeting," he "felt the friendship of this great democracy for our own country."

Haig said they discussed many bilateral issues between Israel and the United States, the Mideast peace process and regional security. Sharon, explaining that the memorandum of understanding implements the strategic cooperation worked out by Premier Menachem Begin and President Reagan during Begin's visit to Washington in September, said that Israel is faced by "two circles of threats."

He said one is from the Arab countries which have not signed a peace agreement with Israel as has Egypt. He said, that as Begin said during his visit to Washington, "Israel is capable of defending itself" and has never asked and never will for American soldiers to come fight for its defense.

Sharon said that the second circle is the threat from the Soviet Union, and "forces controlled by the Soviet Union." He said Israel considers this a threat to the region and the entire "free world."

Sharon stressed that the memorandum of understanding signed yesterday was "unclassified" and presented to the press. He said that the working groups and coordinating councils which will work out the U.S.-Israeli agreement may decide on details that will be "classified."

Sharon was responding to reports on Israel Radio that there was a secret codicil to the agreement announced yesterday. He was at pains today to stress that the agreement was public and only some of the later arrangements might not be publicized.

Anticipate Israeli Statement On The MFO

Haig, who said the U.S. was pleased by the agreement, also said he would "anticipate a joint Israeli-American statement" on the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) that will patrol the Sinai after Israel's final withdrawal next April. The Israeli Cabinet has been studying a proposed joint statement worked out by Haig and Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir during their 7 1/2 hour meeting here last week.

The statement was an effort to prevent Israel from rejecting Britain, France, Italy and The Netherlands from participating in the Sinai force because of their statements supporting the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Mideast peace negotiations.

Haig would not comment today on reports that the U.S. and Israel would not expect the Europeans to endorse their joint statements thus signifying their approval by silence.

PLO RAISES PALESTINIAN FLAG AT UN IN DEFIANCE OF ORDERS BY OFFICIALS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- A UN spokesman said today that the Palestine Liberation Organization was not authorized to raise a Palestinian flag yesterday in the lobby of the main UN building.

The spokesman said that according to UN rules "no flags can be used inside UN premises," a rule that the PLO defied yesterday despite strong protests and requests by top UN officials to remove the flag and a huge map showing a Palestinian state within Israel's borders.

According to the spokesman, the PLO's UN representative, Zehdi Labib Terzi, refused despite repeated requests to remove the Palestinian flag, which was raised about 11 a.m., in honor of Palestine Week which opened here yesterday. The spokes-

man added that Secretary General Kurt Waldheim himself ordered the removal of the flag when the incident was brought to his attention. But the PLO refused to go along with Waldheim's order. The PLO also reportedly defied six UN guards who tried to remove the flag and threatened to use violence against anyone trying to take down the flag.

The UN spokesman said that a "compromise" was finally reached after negotiations between the PLO and UN officials. The flag and map were transferred to the Trusteeship Chamber where a discussion on Palestinian rights was underway by members of the Committee on Palestinian Rights. The debate was the reason the flag was allowed in the chamber, the spokesman said.

Judith Dranger, Israel's UN spokesperson, expressed Israel's protest over the incident, charging that it proved that PLO chairman Yasir Arafat "is now running the UN."

SOVIET JEW, UNDERGROUND FOR MONTHS, IS ARRESTED BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES

ALBANY, N.Y., Dec. 1 (JTA) -- Boris Chernobilsky, a Soviet Jew who successfully eluded Russian authorities for four months, was arrested in Moscow on Thanksgiving Day, according to Assemblyman Richard Gottfried (D-L, Manhattan).

"I am greatly saddened by the news of his arrest," said Gottfried, who learned of Chernobilsky's capture late yesterday. "Yet Mr. Chernobilsky's heroic and unprecedented success at evading Soviet authorities for so long stands as an inspiration of freedom-loving people everywhere. I shall be renewing my efforts on his behalf, demanding that Chernobilsky be released from prison and allowed to emigrate with his family."

Chernobilsky went underground in late July, on the eve of his scheduled trial before a Moscow court. He had been charged with "resisting a representative of authority" when Soviet police broke up a gathering of Jews in a forest outside Moscow in May.

Gottfried had been asked by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry to "adopt" Chernobilsky, who is a radio engineer by profession. Chernobilsky's supporters have sought to aid his struggle through telegrams to the Soviet ambassador and demonstrations at the Soviet Mission in New York.

Chernobilsky, his wife, and two young daughters have been refused an exit visa since 1975, on grounds of "state secrecy." Before going underground Chernobilsky led public demonstrations of Jewish activists, and served a 15-day sentence in 1976 for "malicious hooliganism." He was released after supporters engaged in a worldwide campaign to secure the engineer's release.

NEW ANTI-RAPE CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

JERUSALEM, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- The police department has launched a new campaign to encourage victims of rape and other sex offenses to report these crimes to the authorities.

Deputy Police Commissioner Meir Kaplan of the Criminal Identification Department told a press conference here yesterday that the police are cooperating with hospitals treating victims of sex offenses. He said police have developed a special kit supplied to doctors in 15 hospitals around the country for the collection of physical evidence of a sex offense.

Kaplan said there were no statistics to prove an increase in sex crimes, but police are determined to improve methods of tracking and apprehending sex offenders with the assistance of victims.

STATE DEP'T. VAGUE OVER SPECIFICS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- The State Department was vague today over the specifics of the meaning of the memorandum of understanding signed yesterday by Israel and the United States, including the outline of the "region" it was designed to defend and which country besides the Soviet Union it was aimed at.

Department spokesman Dean Fischer stressed that the United States-Israeli strategic cooperation implemented by the memorandum is "not aimed at any country or groups of countries in the Middle East." He said it was aimed at a threat to the "region" from the Soviet Union or "Soviet-supported forces from outside the region."

The "region," and not the Middle East, is a term used throughout the memorandum of understanding signed by Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Fischer refused to define the region today nor would he list any of the Soviet-supported forces from outside the region that are considered a threat. He refused comment on a suggestion that one such force might be made up of Cubans in South Yemen or Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

The memorandum does not list any specific joint Israeli-U.S. activities except for naval and air exercises in the eastern Mediterranean. Fischer said that this is "an overall agreement within which certain specific details will be worked out" by the working groups that will begin meeting in January.

The Agreement Is Not A Treaty

The agreement is not a treaty and Fischer noted that it does not need approval of Congress. However, he stressed that Administration officials will probably discuss the details of the agreement when they appear before congressional committees during the next few months.

Fischer said that the strategic cooperation was "wholly consistent" with the U.S. policy of preserving Israel's security. He said there was no attempt to down play the agreement by not allowing photographers to take pictures of the signing by Weinberger and Sharon. Secretary of State Alexander Haig said the same thing when he was asked about the signing after his 1 1/2-hour meeting with Sharon this morning. He said the U.S. was pleased by the agreement.

CHEYSSON CALLS FOR DIRECT TALKS BY ALL CONCERNED IN THE MIDEAST CRISIS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson called today for direct talks between all those concerned by the Middle East crisis, "including by those who represent" the Palestinian people.

In an interview with Le Monde, Cheysson said: "There will be no peace in the area (the Middle East) as long as the rights of all nations are not recognized. Who can imagine that the Palestinian people will ever live in peace as long as it does not have a state of its own?"

Cheysson, who is scheduled to leave for a two-day official visit to Israel next Monday, brushed off Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's accusations that he is "no friend of Israel." The Minister said, "If I would not consider myself a friend of Israel, I would not have remained French Foreign Minister

for even 24 hours longer." Begin, in a television interview last week, charged that Cheysson "is no friend of ours." He also said he will "question him" during his forthcoming trip to Israel on some of his recent declarations.

Cheysson retorted today: "I, in turn am curious about the answers he will give to my questions, if he will let me ask." He stressed that he is a friend of Israel but believes that Israel's future rests "in obtaining peace and in finding its place within the region."

SUPREME COURT ORDERS BECHTEL TO HONOR ANTI-BOYCOTT AGREEMENT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- Bechtel Corp., the giant engineering and construction company, was required yesterday by the Supreme Court to honor an agreement that it not boycott firms blacklisted by Arab countries because the firms do business with Israel.

The Supreme Court refused to review an appeal by Bechtel Corp. which claimed that it did not have to abide by a consent decree agreed to by the company and the Justice Department in 1977. According to Bechtel, before the decree was signed the Justice Department modified the decree, changing its meaning.

Five years ago the Justice Department accused Bechtel of violating anti-trust laws by refusing to deal with American companies blacklisted by Arab nations for doing business with Israel. The Justice Department also said Bechtel refused to deal with blacklisted persons and obtained blacklists to help with the boycott.

PLAN ON PROCESSING OLIM IS CRITICIZED BY DULZIN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- The outgoing director general of the Absorption Ministry, Azriel Waldman, has publicly proposed that processing of would-be immigrants abroad should be handled by Israeli government diplomats (consuls) and no longer by Jewish Agency emissaries.

Waldman's proposal was immediately attacked by WZO/Agency chairman, Leon Dulzin who branded it "anti-Zionist." Dulzin said it had been raised periodically in the past, but it ignored the special status of the WZO in Jewish affairs.

In media interviews this week, Waldman said this would be the normal and natural situation. He cited Canada as an example of a land of immigration whose embassies around the world had special sections for handling would-be immigrants.

There was no need for immigrant-handling to be done in a "non-state" way or "under the table," Waldman said. He said World Zionist Organization emissaries and Jewish Agency emissaries could devote all of their efforts to encouraging aliya, leaving the actual processing of would-be olim to the government.

Waldman reasoned that if government officials (instead of WZO/Agency emissaries) were responsible for handling olim, there would be closer coordination with the government departments back home which deal with the olim once they actually arrive here.

In this way, he said, there would be fewer unfounded promises and recommendations made to would-be olim which are afterwards not honored or fail to materialize. Waldman is leaving the Ministry of Absorption at the end of the year after three-and-a-half years as its top civil servant.

TEXT OF U.S.-ISRAEL AGREEMENT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- Following is the text of the memorandum of understanding signed yesterday by Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger:

PREAMBLE

This memorandum of understanding reaffirms the common bonds of friendship between the United States and Israel and builds on the mutual security relationship that exists between the two nations. The parties recognize the need to enhance strategic cooperation to deter all threats from the Soviet Union to the region. Noting the long-standing and fruitful cooperation for mutual security that has developed between the two countries, the parties have decided to establish a framework for continued consultation and cooperation to enhance their national security by deterring such threats to the whole region.

ARTICLE I

1. United States-Israeli strategic cooperation, as set forth in this memorandum, is designed against the threat to peace and security of the region caused by the Soviet Union or Soviet-controlled forces from outside the region introduced into the region. It has the following broad purposes:

- a. To enable the parties to act cooperatively and in a timely manner to deal with the above-mentioned threat.
- b. To provide each other with military assistance for operations of their forces in the area that may be required to cope with this threat.
- c. The strategic cooperation between the parties is not directed at any states within the region. It is intended solely for defensive purposes against the above-mentioned threat.

ARTICLE II

1. The fields in which strategic cooperation will be carried out to prevent the above-mentioned threat from endangering the security of the region include:

- a. Military cooperation between the parties, as may be agreed by the parties.
- b. Joint military exercises, including naval and air exercises in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, as agreed upon by the parties.
- c. Cooperation for the establishment and maintenance of joint readiness activities, as agreed upon by the parties.
- d. Other areas within the basic scope and purpose of this agreement, as may be jointly agreed.

2. Details of activities within these fields of cooperation shall be worked out by the parties in accordance with the provisions of Article III below. The cooperation will include, as appropriate, planning, preparations and exercises.

ARTICLE III

1. The Secretary of Defense and the Minister of Defense shall establish a coordinating council to further the purposes of this memorandum:

- a. To coordinate and provide guidance to joint working groups.
- b. To monitor the implementation of cooperation in the fields agreed upon by the parties within the scope of this agreement.
- c. To hold periodic meetings, in Israel and the United States, for the purposes of discussing and resolving outstanding issues and to further the purposes of discussing and resolving outstanding issues

and to further the objectives set forth in this memorandum. Special meetings can be held at the request of either party. The Secretary of Defense and Minister of Defense will chair these meetings whenever possible.

2. Joint working groups will address the following issues:

- a. Military cooperation between the parties, including joint U.S.-Israeli exercises in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.
- b. Cooperation for the establishment of joint readiness activities, including access to maintenance facilities and other infrastructures, consistent with the basic purposes of this agreement.
- c. Cooperation in research and development, building on past cooperation in this area.
- d. Cooperation in defense trade.
- e. Other fields within the basic scope and purpose of this agreement, such as questions of prepositioning, as agreed by the coordinating council.

3. The future agenda for the work of the joint working groups, their composition, and procedures for reporting to the coordinating council shall be agreed upon by the parties.

ARTICLE IV

This memorandum shall enter into force upon exchange of notification that required procedures have been completed by each party. If either party considers it necessary to terminate this memorandum of understanding, it may do so by notifying the other party six months in advance of the effective date of termination.

ARTICLE V

Nothing in the memorandum shall be considered as derogating from previous agreements and understandings between the parties.

ARTICLE VI

The parties share the understanding that nothing in this memorandum is intended to or shall in any way prejudice the rights and obligations which devolve or may devolve upon either Government under the Charter of the United Nations or under international law. The parties reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their aspiration to live in peace with all countries in the region.

RABBI WARNS OF DANGER OF NUKE WEAPONS

BUCHAREST, Dec. 1 (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen told an ecumenical conference on peace and disarmament here that the proliferation of nuclear weapons poses a danger of an "atomic Auschwitz of global dimensions" and "a new holocaust ending life in the entire world." The conference was initiated by Patriarch Justin of the Greek Orthodox Church.

More than 200 bishops and leaders of churches, many of them from Western Europe, participated in the two-day gathering which protested against nuclear danger to Europe and the rest of the world. Other speakers at the conference included the Chief Rabbis of Denmark and Sweden, both of whom were invited to address the gathering by Rosen. The two Chief Rabbis dealt with the Jewish concept of peace and both warned about the danger of nuclear weapons.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Prof. Menachem Milson, head of the civilian administration in Judaea and Samaria, has resumed meeting with influential Arab leaders in the territories in a renewed effort to build an alternative leadership to that of the Palestine Liberation Organization.