

CABINET RATIFIES JOINT U.S.-ISRAEL DRAFT STATEMENT ON SINAI FORCE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- The Cabinet today ratified the joint American-Israel draft statement which was formulated last week in Washington by Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Secretary of State Alexander Haig as the basis for European participation in the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO). (See related story from Washington.)

According to government officials, the four European nations which announced last week that they would participate in the Sinai peacekeeping force -- England, France, Holland and Italy -- would be asked to support the principles set down in the draft. This would make it clear, the officials said, that the Sinai force would function strictly within the Camp David framework. It was not immediately clear whether Israel would insist that the Europeans publicly accept this principle. It is expected, however, that each of the four countries will submit letters of acceptance.

At the same time, Israel will not ask the Europeans to alter their position on the Middle East peace process which was expressed in the Venice declaration of June 1980. In it, the Ministers of the European Economic Community called for the Palestine Liberation Organization to be associated in the Mideast peace process. This was also the basis on which the four European countries announced that they would participate in the Sinai force.

According to officials here, the U.S. was in touch with the European countries regarding the draft statement during its formulation. Thus, the wording of the statement is not expected to meet with European disapproval. Officials said that the statement would probably be passed on to the Europeans by the Israeli Ambassadors in the four countries involved.

Acceptance by the Europeans of the U.S.-Israel joint statement would clear the way for Australia and New Zealand to participate in the Sinai peacekeeping force. Both countries indicated they would participate only if the Europeans were involved. In addition, other countries which announced they would participate are Colombia, Fiji and Uruguay. The U.S. will contribute more than half of the 2,500-member force.

JOINT STATEMENT ON MFO SAYS EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IS BASED ON ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE TREATY AND NOT LINKED TO VENICE DECLARATION

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- The State Department today released a joint statement by the United States and Israel which said the participation by four European countries in the Sinai peacekeeping force is based only on the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty and cannot be linked to the Venice declaration of the European Economic Community (EEC).

The statement, read by Department Deputy spokesman Alan Romberg, said that it was being issued after both Israel and the U.S. reviewed the "clarification" which Britain, France, Italy and The Netherlands sent the U.S. on Nov. 26.

The Europeans had originally linked their announcement on the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) which will patrol the Sinai after Israel's final withdrawal next April with their support for the 1980 Venice declaration which calls for Palestinian self-determination and the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Middle East peace talks.

Today's joint statement said that the European clarification explained "that they (the Europeans) recognize that the function of the MFO is as defined in the relevant Egyptian-Israeli agreements and includes that of insuring freedom of navigation through the Strait of Tiran ...; and that they have attached no political conditions, linked to Venice or otherwise, to their participation."

A senior State Department official, who briefed reporters on condition that his name not be used, said he believes the joint statement will "facilitate" the participation of the four countries in the Sinai force. He said that Leamon Hunt, a retired foreign service officer who has been named director general of the MFO, will go to the four countries to work out details of their participation.

The senior official stressed that the U.S. is committed to the Camp David process, including the ongoing negotiations for autonomy for Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said the EEC's Venice declaration "is not consistent with our view of what we are doing" through the Camp David process.

Elements In The Joint Statement

The Europeans are not apparently being required to renounce the Venice declaration but only not to use it in conjunction with their participation in the MFO. The joint U.S.-Israeli statement notes:

"The United States understands and appreciates the concerns expressed by the government of Israel regarding the statements made by the four European contributors in explaining their decision to participate in the MFO to their own legislatures and publics. The United States recognizes that some positions set forth in the statements are at variance with its own positions with respect to the future of the peace process as well as with positions held by Israel as a party to the Treaty of Peace.

"The United States and Israel recognize that the positions held on any other aspects of these problems in the area by any state which agrees to participate in the MFO do not affect the obligation of that state to comply fully with the terms of the protocol which was negotiated in accordance with the letter from President Carter to President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin of March 26, 1979, and which is designed to help implement the Treaty of Peace which was concluded pursuant to the Camp David accords.

"The Treaty of Peace in accordance with which the MFO is established represents the first step in a process agreed on at Camp David whose ultimate

goal is a just, comprehensive, and durable settlement of the Middle East conflict through the conclusion of peace treaties based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

"The U.S. and Israel reiterate their commitment to the Camp David accords as the only viable and ongoing negotiating process. They renew their determination to make early meaningful progress in the autonomy talks."

The senior official stressed that the U.S. felt it was important to have the Europeans in the Sinai force because in order to implement and strengthen the Camp David process "as broadly based a peacekeeping force as possible was needed." He said this was the view of not only the Administration but also of Congress. He noted that the Europeans agreed to join the force originally after talks with both Haig and President Reagan.

The official stressed that the joint statement is not a legal document since the MFO is based on an agreement signed between Israel and Egypt. He said a new agreement would require renegotiating between Egypt and Israel. He said Egypt was kept informed but did not participate in the talks leading to the statement.

REPORT WARNS THAT HOPES ARE FADING FOR ISRAELI-ARAB PEACE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- A four-man private study group that includes Philip Klutznick, a prominent American Jewish leader and former Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders, has warned the Reagan Administration that hopes for a negotiated peace in the Middle East "are fading" and urged the U.S. to broaden and intensify its role as an impartial mediator in that region.

The report, released yesterday by the Seven Springs Center of Mt. Kisco, N.Y., an organization specializing in scholarly studies, stressed that Palestinian national aspirations, including the desire for an independent state "must be fairly faced and dealt with in negotiations in ways consistent with the rights and security of their neighbors or the prospect for peace will be radically diminished."

No Peace Without PLO Involvement

The report also stated that "no peace will be possible without the Palestine Liberation Organization being involved in the process." Its conclusions were based on a visit to the Middle East last summer by the four co-authors. In addition to Klutznick and Saunders, they are Merle Thorpe Jr., president of the Foundation for Middle East Peace, and John Greene Jr., president of the Seven Springs Center.

According to their report "Hopes for a negotiated peace are fading just at a moment when acceptance of Palestinian national identity in the Arab world and beyond and growing Arab willingness to accept the Israeli state have created the best possibility of an Arab-Palestinian-Israeli negotiation since Israel was established."

The report said further that there was "widespread conviction in the Middle East that only the United States can effectively help to achieve peace but there is deep doubt that the United States is prepared to play a role as a just mediator and to work actively for a negotiated peace." It called on the U.S. "to wed military and diplomatic strength in a coherent strategy" that goes beyond the Camp David process

between Israel and Egypt and to mount "a parallel campaign" that would involve other Mideastern states such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria in peace talks with Israel.

Klutznick, a former member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations with the rank of Ambassador, was president of the World Jewish Congress from 1977 to 1979 when he took a leave of absence to become Secretary of Commerce in the Carter Administration. He is present honorary president of the WJC and honorary international president of B'nai B'rith.

Previous View By Klutznick

He expressed views similar to those contained in the report in an article published on the Op-Ed page of the Washington Post last month favoring Saudi Arabia's eight-point peace plan for the Middle East.

He wrote: "The acceptance by Jordan, the PLO and others of the overall approach embodied in the Saudi eight-point 'peace plan' may be a crucial turning point ... For the first time, even if indirectly, important Arab parties have turned away from 'outlawing' Israel as an illegitimate entity and have looked to negotiations with recognition and 'co-existence' as the eventual goal."

Since Klutznick's article appeared, the Arab states and the PLO flatly rejected the Saudi plan at the Arab summit meeting in Fez, Morocco. Israel denounced it as an instrument for its annihilation.

U.S. Should Not Avoid Contact With The PLO

Saunders, who served as Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs in the Carter Administration, explained to reporters after the four-man report was released that it was not necessary for the U.S. to avoid all contacts with the PLO.

The U.S. had promised Israel in 1975 that it would not recognize the PLO or negotiate with it until the latter recognized Israel's right to exist and accepted Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Saunders said that pledge was interpreted to foreclose even exchanges of views with the PLO until the conditions were met.

The report said the U.S. "would be violating no formal agreement if it explored the PLO's readiness to negotiate peace. The objective is to negotiate peace among the parties to the conflict, and the PLO will have an important influence on that process."

DISCLOSE SHARON VISITED SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon visited several African countries before he flew to Washington this week to sign the strategic cooperation agreement with the U.S., it was disclosed today. Informed sources here linked the two visits.

They said Israel's cooperation with several African countries would increase, due partly at least to the "new and enhanced standing" conferred on Israel by entering a formal strategic relationship with the U.S.

The sources said it was "no coincidence" that President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire spoke of the possibility of resuming diplomatic ties with Israel when he was in Washington this week. Mobutu said, however, that he would not act until he saw how other African countries treated the issue. Zaire broke relations with Israel after the Yom Kippur War.

CHEYSSON MODERATES VIEW ON PLO

PARIS, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson said today that France recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization as "one of the

Palestinian representative forces" but is adamantly refusing, in spite of various pressures, to recognize it as "the representative of the Palestinian people".

Cheysson, who is scheduled to arrive in Israel next Monday for a two-day official visit said, however, that the PLO's lack of official representation is such "that one can not ask it to recognize the State of Israel."

In an interview with the French Jewish weekly *La Tribune Juive*, which appeared today, the Minister said that mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestinians must be the result of negotiations. He stressed that he understands Israel's position of refusing to negotiate with someone who plots its destruction. He drew a clear difference between non-recognition and aiming at a country's destruction, such as the Palestinian Charter does.

During his visit to Beirut last August, Cheysson called for PLO participation in future Mideast peace talks and affirmed that the Palestinians should be given the opportunity for self-determination. Also during his visit, Cheysson met with PLO chief Yasir Arafat.

SCHINDLER: U.S. JEWS MUST EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS EVEN IF IT MEANS STIRRING 'DEMONS OF ANTI-SEMITISM'

BOSTON, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC), says American Jews should "reject the council of timidity and never hesitate to state our views and vote our consciences," even if it means stirring "the demons of anti-Semitism" raised during the recent debate over the sale of AWACS planes and other weaponry to Saudi Arabia.

In a Sabbath sermon, prepared for delivery at the UAHC's 56th biennial assembly tomorrow night, Schindler asserts: "The strategy of subtly threatening Jews with a backlash if they don't keep their mouths shut is part of a larger pattern of rising anti-Semitism in the United States and the world. Yet, to knuckle under to the hate-mongers out of fear of what they might do is to give them the victory they seek -- and they will come back for more, like any blackmailers."

In his message to the UAHC convention, the Reform leader describes a meeting with President Reagan in the White House last week where the President "took a great deal of time to assure me and other members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations that he was not anti-Semitic. I believe the President," Schindler states.

"But all Americans -- not just Jewish Americans -- are in trouble when the President of the United States has to do that. He must do it," Schindler says, "because anti-Semitism is alive and ticking in this land."

Incidents Of Anti-Semitism Mounting Daily

He continues: "The number of reported incidents mounts daily. Synagogues are defaced, cemeteries desecrated, religious schools vandalized, slanderous leaflets distributed. And I am convinced the number of attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions is greater than the number reported. Too many Jews dismiss such incidents as pranks or hope that, if ignored, they will somehow go away."

Despite this trend, Schindler insists that "Jews in America must never fear to arouse the public against the hate-mongers because the overwhelming majority of Americans will stand at our

side -- against bigotry and hate and for the American ideal."

According to the UAHC leader, "Jews do not have to wage this struggle alone. We can reach out to form coalitions of decency with moderate Christian leaders, with civic leaders, with Blacks and labor and the liberals and with conservatives, too -- true conservatives who are pledged to the preservation of American values, not the riders of the Trojan Horse."

Schindler points out that "our traditional alliances held up during the recent AWACS battle. It was led by true and tested friends -- the Kennedy's, the Cranstons, the Packwoods. Labor was most supportive and 16 of 17 Blacks voted against the AWACS sale, as did all the Hispanics in the House."

In contrast, Schindler observes, "the Moral Majority did not do nearly so well by us. Its leader, Rev. Jerry Falwell, did sign an anti-AWACS advertisement. That was all -- no mail, no telephone calls, no sermons to support its public position. In fact, the higher the Moral Majority rating of a legislator the more likely he was to approve the arms sale to Saudi Arabia."

Urges U.S. Jews To Oppose Law Of Return Change

On the proposal in Israel's Knesset to amend the Law of Return, Schindler calls for the "collective voice of American Jewry" to be heard in opposition. Describing the proposal by the Agudat Party in Israel as "wantonly destructive of Jewish unity," Schindler declares: "How can any Jewish leader, after Auschwitz, permit the institution of a 'selection process' at Jerusalem's gates?" He added: "We will not accept a secondary status in Jewish life. We refuse to be beggars at Jerusalem's gates. We mean to fight for our full and equal rights as Jews," he adds.

BLUM ASSAILS UN ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- Israeli Ambassador Yehuda Blum sharply attacked today the President of the General Assembly, Ismat Kittani of Iraq, charging him with "misconduct and abuse of office."

Blum leveled his charges at a press conference here. He said that during the last three months, since Kittani was elected Assembly President, the Iraqi diplomat abused his office more than once in its treatment of Israel.

The latest incident, Blum pointed out, occurred yesterday when Kittani refused to step down as the Assembly President at Israel's request. Israel based its request, Blum noted, on the "unprecedented step" taken last week by Kittani who left the General Assembly to attend the Arab summit in Fez, Morocco.

In addition, Kittani made a statement at the summit on behalf of the General Assembly without authorization. Israel, therefore demanded yesterday, at the beginning of the debate on the "Question of Palestine," that Kittani not preside over the debate. According to Blum, many diplomats and UN officials feel that Kittani's attendance at the Arab summit damaged the office of the Presidency of the General Assembly.

The Israeli envoy cited two other cases of "misconduct" by Kittani: when he refused to see Blum in his capacity as the Assembly President and when he did not step down, as Israel requested, during the debate on Israel's attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA ASIAN GAMES FEDERATION IN MOVE TO KEEP ISRAEL OUT OF WORLD COMPETITION

By Haskell Cohen

NEW YORK, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- The Asian Games Federation has come up with a new method of keeping Israel out of international competition. At a meeting held a few days ago, it decided to replace itself next year with a new sports organization to be known as the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). The meeting was held in New Delhi and Israel was not invited because, according to Federation secretary general L.L. Mehta of India, "it was not possible to ensure the security arrangements for persons attending from Israel."

Five other Asian Games Federation countries, likewise, were not present there. Those missing the session, besides Israel, were Vietnam, Burma, Cambodia, Laos and Singapore. Conversely, North and South Yemen were admitted as new members bringing the total membership of the organization to 34.

At the New Delhi meeting, Mehta indicated that all Asian Games Federation member countries are eligible to "apply to enter" the new Olympic Council of Asia. The catch comes in that admission to the new group must be approved by three-fourths of the membership. Such approval dooms Israel from the alignment and will cut Asian sports contact, almost automatically, for the Jewish State.

The 21 nations attending the AGF Council meeting who automatically are founding members of the new OCA, will go into business in December 1982 at the end of the ninth Asian Games which are slated for New Delhi.

Advantage Of The New Group

Supposed advantage of the newly created sports group would be in that it would include sports federations in its membership and would have permanent headquarters. Kuwait, which already maintains an all-Asian "shadow secretariat" for sports, currently is regarded as the strongest candidate for the proposed headquarters. Obviously, Kuwait would not make Israeli Federation heads very welcome in the event that the Holy Land was accepted as a member of the new Olympic body.

Mehta was asked if India could not provide security for the few Israeli delegates who wished to attend the conference in New Delhi, how it could arrange the necessary security at next year's Asian Games for athletes from countries that are at war, such as North and South Korea, Iran and Iraq, and Pakistan and Afghanistan. He replied, "We can only hope and pray that conditions will become much more reasonable to facilitate arrangements for the game." It is obvious that Israel will not make the Asian Games in New Delhi.

The conference group, before breaking up, decided that the 10th Asian Games in 1986, two years before the 1988 summer Olympics, will be staged in Seoul, South Korea, the site of the 1988 summer Olympics.

SEEK KNESSET APPROVAL OF U.S.- ISRAEL MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- Coalition and opposition members of the Knesset joined forces today in a move to compel the government to submit the memorandum of understanding signed by the

U.S. and Israel to the Knesset for ratification. It would be given four weeks to do so.

The bi-partisan group began drafting a private members bill to that effect only hours after Premier Menachem Begin's coalition narrowly defeated four no-confidence motions based on opposition to the memorandum. The vote was 57-53 with two abstentions. At the same time, the Knesset's Immigration and Absorption Committee met to discuss the implications of the memorandum for Soviet Jews.

The memorandum, signed in Washington Monday by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, establishes the framework for strategic cooperation between Israel and the U.S. against any "threat to peace and security of the region caused by the Soviet Union or Soviet-controlled forces from outside the region."

During the grueling six-hour Knesset debate last night Likud leaders defended the memorandum against charges by Labor and other opposition factions that it placed Israel in the precarious position of direct confrontation with the Soviet Union but failed to gain any new commitment from the U.S. for Israel's security against its Arab foes.

Likud MK Moshe Arens retorted that the USSR was more hostile toward Israel than many other countries and the agreement with the U.S. may be the proper answer. The Soviets take into consideration "factors which act" and have a certain force, he said.

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres said today that the narrow defeat of the no confidence motions proved there was no parliamentary majority in favor of the agreement. Coalition members voted for it only because the government would have fallen had they not, Peres told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport before leaving on a trip to the U.S.

The deliberations of the Immigration and Absorption Committee, chaired by Labor MK Uzi Bar Am, reflected concern for Soviet Jews voiced by many MKs in the course of the debate. But a former Soviet Jewish activist, Michael Nudler, claimed in a radio interview today that Soviet Jews would support the memorandum. "This strategic agreement (with the U.S.) is the first step for Israel to be the leading force for the defense of Russian Jewry," he said.

VIOLENT RALLY AT HISTADRUT OFFICES

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3 (JTA) -- Some 8,000 diamond workers staged a violent demonstration today at the Histadrut building in Tel Aviv. The demonstrators, demanding higher wages, broke windows in the first floor of the building and threw rocks into the office of Yeruham Meshel, the secretary general of Histadrut. Several demonstrators tried to break into the building but were prevented by police.

The demonstrators protested against Histadrut because it would not support their wage demands. They scolded Meshel and shouted that they would seek the intervention of Deputy Premier David Levy who recently solved the El Al dispute to the satisfaction of the workers.

The demonstrators were finally convinced to leave by Yisrael Keissar, a Histadrut official, who said that the employers would be the only ones to gain from the dispute with Histadrut.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Supreme Court has once again rejected an appeal to allow Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem, the site of Islamic religious shrines.