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ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAY U.S. MUST PRESS EGYPT TO SOFTEN ITS POSITION ON FOUR KEY ISSUES IN AUTONOMY TALKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11 (JTA)— Israeli officials are expected to tell Secretary of State Alexander Haig this week that the United States must press Egypt to soften its position on four key issues in the autonomy talks if there is to be any hope of an agreement by April 26, the deadline for Israel's withdrawal from Sinai.

Haig will be here Thursday and Friday, after visiting Egypt. Israel's position emerged from consultations held within the government under the chairmanship of Premier Menachem Begin. A high level Israeli negotiator said today that Haig must seek concessions from Egypt on the nature of the self-governing authority on the West Bank and Gaza Strip; settlements; security; and Jerusalem.

He reiterated the assertion yesterday by Interior Minister Yosef Burg, head of Israel's autonomy negotiating team, that Israel rejects without qualification Egypt's insistence that the Arabs of East Jerusalem be allowed to participate in the election of the self-governing authority on the West Bank.

With respect to the nature of the self-governing authority, Israel firmly opposes any legislative powers while Egypt would invest the authority with legislative and judicial branches. In Israel's view, this would in effect make the authority a government in embryo.

Points Of Contention

Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and responsibility for internal security have been points of contention since the talks began 32 months ago. Israel insists on retaining control of internal security under the autonomy scheme and that its settlements are not negotiable.

The issue of voting rights for East Jerusalem Arabs is the most sensitive at present. The high level negotiator said Haig would be "gravely mistaken" if he tried to press Israel on that matter. Reports from Washington have indicated that this was the Secretary's intention but according to the Israelis it would lead to a blind alley.

The Israeli negotiator said the U.S. has decided to make a major effort toward progress on an autonomy agreement before April 26. Israel welcomes the American initiative, coming after a long period in which the Reagan Administration showed little interest in the matter, he said. Israel has a major interest in rebutting claims that the Camp David process would end once all of Sinai is returned to Egypt. But there are doubts in Israeli circles that Egypt shares this interest.

Meanwhile, U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis met with Begin today. He told reporters that he delivered a letter to the Premier from President Reagan and that they had discussed the issues that will be dealt with on Haig's visit. The State Department said last week that Haig's trip to Egypt and Israel would be focussed on the autonomy negotiations.

KNESSET FINANCE UNIT BALKS AT COMPENSATION OFFER TO SINAI SETTLERS

By Hugh Orgel and Gil Sedan

TEL AVIV, Jan. 11 (JTA) — The Knesset Finance Committee is expected to recommend to Premier Menachem Begin that the government attach certain conditions to the 4.4 billion Shekels (\$250 million) it has offered Sinai settlers in compensation for homes, farms, or businesses they must abandon when Israel completes its withdrawal from Sinai next April.

Committee chairman Shlomo Lorincz will see Begin tomorrow to report on today's debate on the compensation offer within the committee. He told reporters that the general feeling among members was that the sum which the Cabinet approved last week was too "large and open-handed." Fear has been expressed in many quarters that it could touch off a new inflationary trend affecting the entire economy.

According to Lorincz, the committee feels part of the sum should be payable in long term non-negotiable government bonds which could not be cashed in until maturity and that income tax should be paid on most of the balance. The government previously agreed that the compensation should be tax exempt. Begin personally rejected the idea of payment in bonds when it was raised at the Cabinet meeting last Thursday. But there were indications that he might reconsider his position.

Feels Cabinet Should Reconsider The Offer

Interior Minister Yosef Burg said today that he thought the Cabinet should reconsider its offer in view of the widespread opposition to the very large sums involved. One of the principal opponents was Finance Minister Yoram Aridor whose task it will be to find the money to pay the settlers.

Aridor left for London yesterday on a trip on behalf of Israel Bonds. Although he expressed "shock" over the amount offered, he is apparently backing away from a confrontation with Begin on the issue. According to Treasury officials, Begin's strong personal intervention was responsible for the Cabinet's 5-4 vote in favor of the 4.4 billion Shekel offer proposed by Deputy Premier and Agriculture Minister Simcha Ehrlich. Ehrlich argued that the high price was necessary to ensure a peaceful withdrawal from Sinai.

Considering Ways To Raise The Money

Treasury officials spent the weekend considering ways to raise the money. The government could print more currency, but that would only intensify inflation. Higher taxes would cause an angry public reaction. Further cuts in the budgets of the various ministries would mean a bitter fight within the Cabinet. Treasury sources said there was no choice but to submit a supplementary budget to the Knesset to cover the additional expenditures to which the government has committed itself in recent weeks.

These include not only compensation to the Sinai settlers but hefty grants to Agudat Israel yeshivas which Begin promised his Orthodox coalition partners when he was forming his new government.

last summer. The government also plans to spend more on price support subsidies than originally anticipated.

Meanwhile, the Sinai settlers themselves are not entirely satisfied. The Yamit Residents Action Committee which had been pressuring the government for months on compensation, charged yesterday that farmers will receive more than householders and businessmen under the plan approved by the Cabinet. They accused the government of misleading the public by announcing only the average sum to be paid each family.

Although the committee disbanded, it held a press conference yesterday. According to a spokesman, residents of Yamit township will receive just over 2 million Shekels (about \$150,000) while even small farmers in the Sinai villages would be getting twice that sum.

The Agriculture Ministry called a press conference of its own yesterday at which it was claimed that the figures quoted by the settlers were incorrect. The settlers, for their part, indicated that they would advise individual residents and shopowners committees to refuse the sums offered and to remain in Yamit until the last minute in order to embarrass the government.

A more serious situation may develop when the government tries to evict some 100 squatter families who have been occupying abandoned houses in Yamit and Rafah. The squatters, mostly Gush Emunim militants from outside the region, are not interested in compensation. They say their intention is to prevent the Sinai withdrawal at all costs.

U.S. NEO-NAZI SAID TO HAVE PROVIDED GERMAN NEO-NAZIS WITH LARGE QUANTITIES OF ANTI-SEMITIC MATERIAL

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 11 (JTA) — An American neo-Nazi, identified by West German authorities as Gary Rex Lauck of Lincoln, Neb., has apparently left the country to avoid standing trial for spreading anti-Semitic material in the Federal Republic. A court in the town of Zweibruecken issued a warrant for his arrest yesterday after he failed to show up at a hearing. The authorities believe that Lauck, 28, who is of German origin, has returned to the U.S.

According to the prosecution, Lauck has been providing neo-Nazi groups in Germany with large quantities of virulently anti-Semitic material by mail. One of the recipients was Klaus-Ludwig Uhl, leader of a violence-prone neo-Nazi organization who was killed in a clash with police near Munich last October. The authorities say it is unlikely that Lauck will ever be brought to trial because his offenses are political crimes, a category excluded from the present agreements with the U.S. for extradition or mutual prosecution.

State Prosecutor Wilhelm Sattler pointed out that it was extremely difficult to bring disseminators of anti-Semitic periodicals to trial because of the six month statute of limitations on such material. Lauck sends his periodicals to Germany by surface mail which takes several weeks to reach its destination.

MARTIN LUTHER KING'S ROLE AS CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER AND FRIEND OF ISRAEL, SOVIET JEWS HONORED BY JEWISH GROUP

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11 (JTA) The Jewish Community Council (JCC) of Greater Washington will mark the anniversary of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Friday by distributing a statement of the late civil rights leader made on Soviet Jewry during one of the JCC's daily noon vigils across the street from the Soviet Embassy here.

The JCC's Social Action and Urban Affairs Committee meanwhile has issued a statement honoring King's memory not only as a civil rights leader but also as an "articulate spokesman in the cause of Israel and Soviet Jewry."

"We honor him as a man of courage and vision, a man of great dreams and great actions, a seeker of non-violence and peace," the statement said. "His leadership of the civil rights struggle is a chapter in American history from which all of us can draw inspiration and renewed strength. We honor him also as a friend of the State of Israel."

The King statement which the JCC will distribute Friday said: "I cannot stand idly by, even though I live in the United States and even though I happen to be an American Negro, and not be concerned about what happens to my brothers and sisters who happen to be Jews in Soviet Russia. For what happens to them happens to me and to you and we must be concerned."

The JCC is on record as supporting the declaration of King's birthday as a national holiday.

DINITZ WARNS OF ADVERSE U.S. ACTIONS TOWARDS ISRAEL AFTER APRIL

NEW YORK, Jan. 11 (JTA) — Simcha Dinitz, former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., declared here that Israel should give top priority to repairing its relations with Washington. Addressing the 25th national convention of the Labor Zionist Alliance, the former envoy, a prominent member of the opposition Labor Party, said the present state of U.S.-Israel relations is his "greatest concern."

Dinitz stressed that the focus of Israeli diplomacy now must be to reach a memorandum of agreement with the U.S. that would recommit it to the proposition that Israel should have secure and recognized boundaries; that it rejects a Palestinian state; and that it continues to support a unified Jerusalem.

He expressed concern that once Israel completes its withdrawal from Sinai next April it will come under great pressure to withdraw to its pre-1967 borders on all fronts, to divide Jerusalem and to allow the establishment of a Palestinian state headed by Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat.

Rep. Stephen Solarz (D. N.Y.) told the LZA convention that "not since Suez in 1956 have the relations between the United States and Israel been at the breaking point." He said that American support for Israel "is stretched dangerously thin." He indicated that if new tensions develop between the U.S. and Israel, American foreign aid to the Jewish State could be in jeopardy.

Ezra Spicandler New LZA President

At the final session of the LZA convention Rabbi Ezra Spicandler, Distinguished Service Professor of Hebrew Literature at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, was elected president. A scholar, writer and active Labor Zionist leader, Spicandler succeeds Prof. Allen Pollack, who has announced that he is making aliyah.

Spicandler, who was a vice president of the World Union of Progressive Judaism and is now a member of that group's governing board, said "the rise of political and religious reaction in both East and West brings with it a new threat to Jewish physical survival and Jewish spiritual life. This is exacerbated by the anti-Israel and anti-Jewish forces unleashed in Western Europe and the U.S. because of their increased dependency on Arab oil and the steady increase of anti-Semitism in Russia and Eastern Europe."

BEGIN TO RAISE ISSUE OF SHCHARANSKY AT MEETING WITH HAIG THURSDAY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin will raise the issue of Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig when the two meet Thursday in Jerusalem. This pledge was made today by Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Meir who appeared at a press conference here with Shcharansky's wife, Avital.

Ben-Meir said Israel's government knew full well that Haig, among other Western statesmen, had tried in the past to bring influence to bear on the Soviets in regard to Shcharansky's case. But now, with the latest news of Shcharansky's deteriorating physical condition, Begin would ask the Secretary of State to try yet again. Ben-Meir said Avital herself was fully informed of Israel's efforts on her husband's behalf, although not all of these could be made public.

Both Ben-Meir and Avital issued an appeal to world opinion, parliaments and governments to help bring about the release of Anatoly. "He is guilty of no crime," Ben-Meir said of the aliya activist sentenced in 1978 to 13 years imprisonment — a sentence since increased — on espionage charges. "His only crime is his desire to live like a Jew and live in Israel," Ben-Meir said.

Avital said she and the family had been "both shocked and proud" at the report — brought by Anatoly's mother and brother who met with him last Monday — of his year of lone fighting for his rights in the Soviet Gulag.

Basically, she charged, the Soviet's intention in treating him with extraordinary harshness was to squeeze out of him a confession of guilt in the espionage charges — a confession that he refused to make at his trial, and that he still refuses to make.

Details Of Anatoly's Treatment

Avital gave details of his treatment — including 75 consecutive days in solitary confinement on a near-starvation diet, which, she said, was much harsher than known precedents even in the Soviet system. Anatoly kept insisting in letters to the authorities that he be given back his prayer book, taken from him forcibly.

His lighting of Chanuka candles in December angered the prison authorities, Avital said, which resulted in further punishments. His mother, Ida Milgram and his brother, Leonid, had found him "weak and wasted in body" but "strong and unbroken in spirit," Avital said, when they were finally able to meet with him for two hours January 4, ending an 18 month ban on visits.

She appealed to the world to save him "before it is too late" since in his health condition he could not be expected to survive three more years at the extra-harsh Chistopol Prison where he is now confined for three years (as a result of an in-prison trial for "influencing" other prisoners.)

UN DEBATE ON GOLAN CONTINUES

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 11 (JTA) — As the Security Council prepared to resume its debate late this afternoon on Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, there were no signs that Syria was about to change its uncompromising stance, demanding mandatory sanctions against Israel, despite the threat of a United States veto and despite the fact that so far Syria has not succeeded in obtaining the nine minimum votes needed for a resolution to be adopted.

Meanwhile, consultations continued here today over a compromise resolution initiated by Japan, Spain and Ireland, proposing "voluntary" sanctions against Israel as a punishment for its Golan move.

The three countries are seeking to avoid a U.S. veto in case of a resolution calling for mandatory sanctions against the Jewish State. Israeli diplomats and others here dismissed today the Japan-Spain-Ireland initiative as not "serious" in the face of the Syrian adamant stance up to now.

The United States assured Israel last week that it will veto any resolution calling for sanctions against Israel. Diplomats here said today that the Security Council will not be able to conclude the Golan debate before Friday due to the long list of speakers and in the absence of a final draft resolution.

ARABS ASK UNESCO TO TAKE MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD RIGHTS ON THE GOLAN

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 11 (JTA) — The Arab states have asked the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to "take measures in consequence" to safeguard what they term "Arab cultural and spiritual rights" on the Golan Heights.

A delegation representing most of UNESCO's Arab member-states asked UNESCO's Director General Amadou Mahtar M'bow to raise the matter before the organization's executive board and to prepare appropriate measures to "protect Arab cultural rights" in the area. Egypt did not participate in the joint delegation.

M'bow, according to UNESCO spokesmen, told the delegation that it is UNESCO's task to ensure "the respect for the cultural identity of individuals, nations and regions" and said that past resolutions adopted by the organization provide for the dispatch of study missions to "occupied Arab territories" to investigate cultural and educational conditions on the spot.

UNESCO's Director General reportedly indicated that such a mission will leave as soon as possible for the Golan and will report to the next meeting of the executive board.

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) — The Legislative Assembly of the State of Rio de Janeiro has named Yacov Gotal, Israel's Consul General in Rio, an honorary citizen of the state. Gotal, 58, a Haifa industrialist, was born in Poland and escaped from a Nazi concentration camp. After arriving as an illegal immigrant to Palestine, he joined the Irgun and served in the Zahal as a Lieutenant Colonel.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Agriculture Minister and Deputy Premier Simcha Ehrlich met Monday with the Egyptian Agriculture Minister, Dr. Mahmoud Harladin, for what was described as a "courtesy and get-to-know-you meeting." Harladin is in Israel at the head of the seven-member Egyptian farming delegation which is investigating development of an experimental and demonstration farm in the Nile delta at which Israeli-designed irrigation projects and methods will be shown to Egyptian farmers and where they can receive training.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — A shark in the dolphinarium gave birth to three babies Wednesday night, a rare event for sharks in captivity, according to experts. The babies, each about 16 inches long, were born after the normal 20-month pregnancy period. Mother and children were reported well and swimming merrily in their tanks Thursday.

BACKGROUND REPORT THE SINAI WITHDRAWAL ISSUE

By Uzi Benziman

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11 (JTA) — During a recent Cabinet meeting, Defense Minister Ariel Sharon stunned his colleagues by saying that the Israel Defense Force had no available manpower to impose law and order in the Yamit region and by expressing the view that it is worth Israel's while to foster the impression that the area remaining of Sinai to be returned to Egypt in April "is not yet in the Egyptians' pockets."

Sharon spoke as members of the "Stop the Withdrawal Movement" continued almost daily to increase their presence in Yamit and the Rafah region in northern Sinai, squatting with their wives and children in empty houses in the area, and as local residents staged violent demonstrations in support of claims for increased compensation payments.

(These claims were accepted by the Cabinet last Thursday when, by a vote of 5-4, a new compensation deal was pushed through providing the settlers 20 percent more than had previously been approved by the Cabinet. The compensation bill for the country will amount to 4.4 billion Shekels (\$250,000,000). However, the Knesset Finance Committee, at a meeting today, protested this amount.)

Suspicion About Sharon's Motives

Until the remarks by Sharon at the Cabinet, the ministers, along with most other Israelis, believed that Sharon's reluctance to use troops against the Yamit squatters and demonstrators stemmed from tactical considerations.

The Defense Minister's plan, it was understood, was to have the showdown — if indeed there had to be a showdown — at the very last moment before the April 26 withdrawal deadline in a short, sharp military action to clear the area before the handover.

But Sharon's comments at that Cabinet session inevitably heightened suspicions that he may harbor other motives in remaining passive in the face of the Yamit demonstrations and the ongoing organized trespassing by the "Stop the Withdrawal" adherents.

In fact, ever since Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's assassination last October, the Israel government has spoken with a measure of ambivalence about the upcoming final Sinai withdrawal.

A Different Impression Created

The official position continues to be that Israel will fulfill its commitments to Egypt under the peace treaty to the letter. But there have been statements from some leaders that created a different impression. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, addressing the conference of the Agudath Israel World Organization last month, spoke of having to "reconsider" the terms of the treaty if U.S. pressure for further Israeli concessions were maintained. Shamir focused on the "very heavy price" that Israel is having to pay for the peace.

And Sharon has explained that the Israeli settlers must stay in the Yamit area until the last moment "because no one can predict what tomorrow will bring."

These comments do not, of course, imply or even hint at second thoughts about the treaty commitments, but nevertheless they have been cited and repeated by anti-withdrawal (Gush Emunim) circles, and they do seem to nourish the flicker of hope in the hearts of these circles that somehow Israel will evade the need to evacuate the remainder of Sinai in April.

And there are acts and omissions by the government that seem to encourage this impression:

The government, for example, has not taken action against the Stop the Withdrawal squatters who are clearly in breach of the law. On the contrary, several government ministries — education, housing, and the Rafah local authority — continue supplying services to these squatters and their families.

Moreover the government did not act to suppress the violent demonstrations in Yamit over compensation, even when the demonstrators repeatedly set fire to government-owned property in the town.

In addition, despite a Cabinet decision from last summer to physically dismantle the houses in the Rafah area and transport them by trailer to the new sites inside the Green Line, nothing has been done in this regard.

(In a Cabinet session in August — the only time the Cabinet has discussed the impending withdrawal to date — Premier Menachem Begin said he had promised Sadat to restore Sharm El-Sheikh with all the hotels and tourist facilities there intact. In Yamit and Rafah, however, Israel should take away whatever possible, Begin said.)

Vacillations By Officials

Apart from the August Cabinet discussion (held following Begin's last summit with Sadat), only a small group of ministers has addressed itself to the withdrawal issue — and contradictory decisions have emerged.

At first Begin seemed inclined to endorse the hard line promulgated by the Justice Minister and the Attorney General against the Rafah squatters. These two wanted the government to act at once. But subsequently, the Premier agreed with Sharon who counselled ignoring the squatters on the grounds that if they are ousted now, they will manage to return before April and will have to be ousted again.

At one Cabinet session Sharon suggested installing two IDF soldiers in every empty house in the Rafah-Yamit region, to ensure they stay empty. But later he said he could not afford the manpower since the army was preoccupied in the north.

This sort of vacillating has further contributed to suspicions — they may well be just wishful thinking on the part of anti-withdrawal hardliners — that there is yet hope even in the government to avoid the final pullback.

COP WOUNDED IN BOMB BLAST

TEL AVIV, Jan. 11 (JTA) — A police bomb disposal expert was slightly wounded this morning when the second of two bombs exploded in the Petah Tikva vegetable market as he was investigating the first bomb blast. The first bomb went off under an empty vegetable stall. There were no casualties and only slight damage.

Some 10 minutes later, as the police bomb expert was examining the area, another bomb exploded in a pile of rubbish. The policeman was wounded in the leg but there were no other casualties and only slight damage. Police said that both bombs were planted by terrorists.

NEW YORK (JTA) — The National Conference on Soviet Jewry has just learned that the appeal of POC Aleksandr Paritsky, heard in a Kharkov court January 6, was rejected by presiding officials. Paritsky was sentenced to three years in a labor camp following the November 11, 1981 trial for allegedly "defaming the Soviet state." His wife, Polina, was not permitted at the hearing.