

EGYPTIAN, ISRAEL FOREIGN MINISTERS PLEDGE CONTINUING PEACE EFFORTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali for four hours in Cairo today. They reportedly discussed preparations for Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai April 25 and related bilateral matters. Shamir is expected to meet with President Hosni Mubarak on Thursday, before returning to Israel.

Hassan Ali, who greeted the Israeli Foreign Minister at Cairo airport last night, pledged that Egypt would spare no efforts to promote cooperation with Israel and to ensure a comprehensive peace. Shamir expressed hope that the peaceful relations between their two countries would "deepen and expand" because "the more it takes fruit, the more it will enable us to solve other problems and bring in new participants."

Shamir stressed that Israel shares Egypt's interest in bringing other countries into the peace process. Hassan Ali had suggested earlier that Israel should take measures to build confidence that would induce "other parties" to join in the peace initiative.

Accords On Consulates

There was reported agreement between the two Foreign Ministers today that Egypt would open a consulate at Eilat and Israel one in Alexandria, possibly on the same day that Israel completes its withdrawal from Sinai. Other matters reportedly dealt with security measures on the Egyptian side of the border and an Egyptian suggestion that the Palestinian residents of Rafah be allowed to choose which side they want to live in after Israel pulls out. Rafah is bisected by the international border.

Transportation fees and the advertisement of Israeli products in Egypt were also discussed. There was no confirmation of reports that Hassan Ali rejected a proposal by Shamir that Israel and Egypt publish a joint declaration of principles dealing with Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip before Israel's withdrawal date from Sinai.

Date Still Pending For Mubarak Visit

Shamir reportedly will try to negotiate in advance the draft of a joint statement to be issued after Mubarak meets with Premier Menachem Begin in Jerusalem. There was no indication today when Mubarak will make his visit to Israel which had been expected this month, though no date was set. Shamir is expected to raise that matter when he meets with the Egyptian President. Their meeting was set for Shamir's final day in Egypt because Mubarak is presently confined to bed with the flu.

Israeli correspondents accompanying Shamir said today that Israel would find it difficult to extract any flexibility from the Egyptian leader at a time when he is trying to re-establish Egypt's good relations with the Arab world.

Meanwhile, Richard Fairbanks, Secretary of State Alexander Haig's special envoy to the Israeli-Egyptian autonomy negotiations, left Cairo for Washington today after several days of meetings with

Egyptian officials. He is expected to return to Cairo March 1 to attend a meeting of the two negotiating teams. Fairbanks was in Israel last week.

EGIB SERVES NOTICE ON THE PLO

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin served notice on the Palestine Liberation Organization that if any Israeli citizen is killed as a result of a PLO attack anywhere, Israel would take "immediate action" against the PLO in south Lebanon.

His remarks, in an interview with a Colombian journalist, implied that Israel would disregard the cease-fire on the Israeli-Lebanese border if the PLO caused casualties among Israelis. Begin noted that a number of bombs have been found in various places in recent days but were defused before they did any harm. He said this was due to the alertness of the population. "But if some people get killed, we will take immediate action," he said.

Referring to recent reports that the U.S. might provide mobile Hawk air defense systems and F-16 jet fighters to Jordan, Begin said "It appears that we have been kicked in a place I cannot describe. I cannot use military language, but it is a long distance from the head."

He was obviously referring to a remark attributed to Secretary of State Alexander Haig in notes taken by a participant in a State Department staff meeting, leaked to The Washington Post. Haig was quoted as saying that the dangerous Middle East situation "comes from kicking Israel in the ass."

In the course of the interview, Begin rebuked France for supporting the creation of a Palestinian state. He said Paris should pay attention to its own autonomy problem on Corsica, adding that the Corsicans have never threatened to destroy France.

ISRAEL SLAMS METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART'S DECISION NOT TO EXHIBIT ISRAELI ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (JTA) -- Israel charged today that the decision by the Metropolitan Museum of Art not to display a proposed archaeological exhibit from Israel is "purely political" and that "there can be no dispute" that the archaeological artifacts that were meant to be displayed at the museum originated "in the Land of the Bible -- the Land of Israel."

The Metropolitan Museum of Art said yesterday that it decided against the Israeli exhibit because some of the artifacts came from the West Bank, captured by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War, and would, therefore, pose security risk for the museum. Philippe de Montebello, director of the Metropolitan, said: "We're very sorry, because we wanted to do the show, particularly in view of the fact that our own collections contain so little of this material (ranging from earliest times to the Crusades). But we finally decided that besides the security risk from radical elements, it would be inappropriate; that the museum would be taking a de facto stand in showing this material as the heritage of the State of Israel."

According to de Montebello, who reportedly left for Europe today and was not available for further comment, the decision was reached by the museum's board.

Arab Pressure Not Ruled Out

Israeli officials here said today that they do not rule out the possibility that the Metropolitan caved in to Arab pressure. However, in a statement issued here by Shmuel Moyal, spokesman for the Israel Consulate in New York, Israel said that it was "deeply disturbing" that the museum has allowed "considerations of purely political nature to determine its policy of planning archaeological and scientific exhibits."

The statement added: "No historical rationalization can be found for drawing arbitrary lines between the numerous archaeological sites that together constitute a land dating back thousands of years. The museum itself has acknowledged that the nature of its decision to draw such lines was entirely political, relating to what it calls the 'dispute' over the area from which the artifacts originated."

Asked about the charge that the decision of the museum was taken under "Arab pressure," Bemice Heller, associate for public information at the museum, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that "that may be their (the Israeli officials) opinion" and that the museum has no further comment to add to what de Montebello said yesterday.

In response to another question from the JTA, as to why the decision was reached after a few years of discussions with Israeli museum officials, Ms. Heller said it was not an uncommon practice because decisions regarding the display of exhibitions usually take years.

Moyal told the JTA today that Israel, meanwhile, signed an agreement with the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service to display Israeli archaeological artifacts that the Metropolitan Museum of Art considered "controversial."

Synagogue Council Attacks Museum's Decision

In an attack on the Metropolitan Museum of Art's decision, Rabbi Walter Wurzbarger, president of the Synagogue Council of America, the national coordinating agency for the Conservative, Orthodox and Reform rabbinic congregational organizations, said: "It is incredible that a distinguished cultural institution would follow the example of Arab states boycotting Israel." He said this "is the implication" of the museum's decision.

Referring to the museum's expressed fear that the exhibit might cause violence by extremists, Wurzbarger said this "is dangerous for at least two reasons. It yields to the implied pressure of terrorists which only invites more and new acts of terrorism and it permits the threat of violence to determine educational programs of institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum."

UN HUMAN RIGHTS PANEL HITS ISRAEL FOR ITS ATTACK ON IRAQI REACTOR

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Feb. 23 (JTA) — The United Nations Human Rights Commission voted 30-1 today for a draft resolution condemning Israel's bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor last June. The United States cast the only negative vote. Eleven countries abstained: Australia, Canada, China,

Denmark, Fiji, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan, Holland and Britain.

The Israeli delegate, Ambassador Ovadia Soffer, argued that the Human Rights Commission was not the proper forum to discuss this matter which has been acted on already by the Security Council and the General Assembly. Soffer attacked Iraq's human rights record.

"Repression and cruelty in Iraq have prompted Amnesty International to publish a report on systematic use of cruelty in Iraq," the Israeli envoy noted.

"Most death sentences are passed by 'Revolutionary Courts' the procedures of which violate Iraqi and international law."

Ironically, the delegate from Iran, which is an avowed enemy of Israel, joined in the attack on Iraq. "The crimes committed by Israel against Iraq were insignificant compared to the crimes committed by Iraq against Iran," he said.

SOLOMON ASSAILS DEFENSE DEPARTMENT FOR URGING ARMS SALES TO JORDAN

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (JTA) — Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. N. Y.) sharply criticized the Defense Department for "ill-timed and ill-advised" suggestions calling for the sale of F-16 jet fighters and mobile Hawk missiles to Jordan. He described Jordan as "a puppet government with no popular support" and said "it is no place for a U.S. military commitment that could erode peace efforts in the Middle East."

D'Amato addressed more than 1,200 people at the 74th annual awards dinner of Bnai Zion Sunday night where Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section and president of the Jewish National Fund, received the 1982 Dr. Harris Levine Memorial Award "for outstanding public service." Mrs. Jacobson, currently in Israel, had the award accepted for her by Beatrice Feldman, treasurer of Hadassah.

D'Amato spoke as a last-minute substitute for Sen. Bob Packwood (R. Ore.), who had been scheduled to receive Bnai Zion's 1982 America-Israel Friendship Award, but could not attend because of illness. D'Amato accepted the gold medal on behalf of his colleague.

The New York Republican senator declared there exists "a very carefully orchestrated propaganda campaign" on the part of the U.S. military establishment and "a host of profit motivated industries" aimed at swinging American policy away from Israel and "peddling arms" to Arab states. He declared:

"We don't need a super arms salesman as Secretary of Defense. Our commitment to the security of Israel and the maintenance of our close relationship with Israel is essential to preserving the interests of the United States. Israel is our only reliable ally in the Middle East."

GRANDSON OF LATE HEBRON MAYOR REPORTEDLY CONVERTING TO JUDAISM

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) — Mahmoud Jaabari, the 19-year-old grandson of the late Mayor of Hebron, Mohammad Ali Al-Jaabari, will be converted to Judaism next week and has adopted a Hebrew name, Yaacov Ben Avraham. According to a report in Yediot Achronot today, the Arab youth has been studying secretly at the yeshiva in Kiryat Arba, the religious township adjacent to Hebron, for the past three months.

His interest in Judaism was reportedly stimulated by contacts he had with Kiryat Arba residents. He worked with them for a year installing solar heating systems. The newspaper reported Jaabari's uncle as being in a state of shock when informed of his nephew's im-

pending conversion. He refused to comment before consulting with the rest of the family.

Mahmoud Jaabari's grandfather served for 40 years as Mayor of Hebron and was that town's undisputed leader. His role in the 1929 massacre of Hebron Jews remains uncertain. But after Israel occupied Hebron in 1967, Mayor Jaabari cooperated fully with the Israeli authorities. He was always a strong supporter of a Palestinian-Israeli peace settlement.

Jaabari was replaced as Mayor by Fahed Kawassme, a strong Palestinian nationalist who was deported from the West Bank after the ambush slaying of six yeshiva students in Hebron in 1980. Jaabari died several years ago but his family still wields considerable influence in the town.

SOVIET JEWS APPEAL TO NAVON

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) — President Yitzhak Navon was asked in an appeal from 13 Jewish scholars in Moscow today, to mobilize world support for themselves and several hundred of their colleagues who want to immigrate to Israel but have been denied exit visas by the Soviet authorities.

A letter sent to Navon said that 40 Jewish professors and more than 300 Jews with Ph.D. degrees had applied to leave the USSR last year. As a result, they were fired from their jobs and were barred from doing research in their fields. "We are being destroyed as scholars and breadwinners," the letter said.

SERIOUS RIFT BETWEEN FRENCH PREMIER, FOREIGN MINISTER OVER FRANCE'S POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 23 (JTA) — A serious rift has developed between Premier Pierre Mauroy and Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson over French policy in the Middle East. Mauroy, French political sources say, is highly upset by Cheysson's recent pro-Palestinian declaration and has asked President Francois Mitterrand to drop him from the government at the first feasible opportunity.

Cheysson said last weekend, while on an official visit to Abu Dhabi, that a Palestinian state should be set up on the West Bank. The Minister also said that the Palestine Liberation Organization is best suited to represent the Palestinians in any future negotiations.

Israel energetically refuses even to contemplate such a possibility and Cheysson's statements, one week before Mitterrand's trip to Israel, provoked a major row in French political circles, including the Cabinet itself.

Official spokesmen today tried to play down the gravity of the interministerial rift but circles close to the government said Mauroy plans to ask Mitterrand to arbitrate his differences with Cheysson.

An Untimely Moment

The row was caused less by differences of opinion between the two men than by the Premier's conviction that Cheysson had chosen a most untimely moment to make these views known. Mauroy found out about the Foreign Minister's declarations from wire services dispatches while on an official visit to Tunisia.

Several marginal French Jewish organizations have protested against Cheysson's declarations but the Israel Embassy in Paris and the major Jewish communal organizations have refused to comment.

Both Israel and the major Jewish bodies are determined not to do anything liable to spoil Mitterrand's trip next week to Israel or mar the friendly climate and the chances to improve Franco-Israeli relations. The Representative Council of Major Jewish Organizations in France said it will only issue a message of good will on the eve of Mitterrand's trip.

The Elysee Palace stressed that French policy is laid down by the President only and that Mitterrand will make his stand clear during his stay in Israel and especially during his address to the Knesset March 4.

STATE DEPARTMENT VIEW OF CEASE-FIRE ALONG THE ISRAELI-LEBANESE BORDER

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (JTA) — The State Department indicated today that it believes the cease-fire along the Israeli-Lebanese border is broad enough to prevent the Palestine Liberation Organization from conducting terrorist acts against Israel from outside Lebanon.

"We are of the opinion that the cessation of hostilities is significantly broad to prevent violence instigated by any party," Department spokesman Dean Fischer said. However, he would not comment on remarks by PLO leader Yasir Arafat in Beirut last Sunday that the cease-fire only prevented the PLO from attacking across the Lebanese border.

Fischer also declined to comment on reports that Israel plans to launch an attack on south Lebanon aimed at the PLO. He noted that the Israeli Defense Ministry has "dismissed" a report in a news weekly that Defense Minister Ariel Sharon advocates such an attack in order to "wipe out the PLO."

A Warning To Israel And The PLO

But Fischer seemed to be warning Israel and the PLO against any action. "We urge all parties to observe the cease-fire," he said, "to abstain from acts that threaten the cease-fire. We would further take a very dim view of actions by any parties that might threaten the peace in that area."

Fischer said that President Reagan's special envoy, Philip Habib, who helped establish the cease-fire last July, will be leaving for the area some time this week. As was the case on Habib's three previous trips to the area since last May, the date of his departure and his itinerary will not be announced.

TWO TERRORISTS DETAINED FOR TRIAL

PARIS, Feb. 23 (JTA) — Two West European terrorists — a Swiss who had been sentenced in Israel to seven years imprisonment, and a West German member of the Bader Meinhof gang — have been charged here with illegal possession of firearms and explosives and ordered detained for trial by a Paris court.

The two, 31-year-old Lugano-born Bruno Breguet and 34-year-old Magdalena Kaupp, were arrested last week near the Israel Embassy here. Police believe, however, that they were not attempting to blow up the Embassy but the Paris City Hall or some other important center in its vicinity.

Breguet, who resisted arrest and opened fire on police as they were closing in on the two terrorists, was also charged with attempted murder. In 1970 he was sentenced by a Haifa court to seven years imprisonment for trying to smuggle arms and explosives into Israel for use by Arab terrorists. French police sources said that the explosives found on Breguet and Kaupp were not similar to that used in the bombing of the Rue Copernic synagogue in October, 1980.

UJA 'SUPER SUNDAY' RAISED OVER \$25.2 MILLION, UPDATED FIGURES SHOW

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (JTA) — "Super Sunday '82," the United Jewish Appeal's second annual volunteer telephone marathon, exceeded both its goal and the results achieved in the first such event last year by raising a total of \$25,260,091, according to the latest figures compiled at Super Sunday headquarters here.

"Our 26,114 volunteers in 102 communities in the United States obtained 220,101 gifts," stated Jerome Dick, national chairman of both the 1981 and 1982 Super Sundays. "Their total surpassed our goal of \$25 million and far surpassed last year's figure of \$19.1 million. The result was a new record for a mass appeal in peacetime. It has been an electrifying, explosive way to open the public phase of the 1982 Campaign," said Dick, who is also a UJA national vice chairman.

He pointed out that when the amount raised by a Super Sunday community in Canada is added to the U.S. total, the result comes to \$26,573,091. Noting that 33 additional U.S. communities will hold their Super Sundays in the coming weeks and months as campaigns open locally, Dick predicted that "the final result will be a record hard to beat — at least until Super Sunday '83."

FOREIGN MINISTRY, WJC TO COOPERATE IN INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION WORK

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23 (JTA) — The World Jewish Congress and the Foreign Ministry of Israel will cooperate in international information activities, it was announced here following a meeting between Edgar Bronfman, WJC president, and David Kimche, director general of the Foreign Ministry. The two men decided to establish an organization for joint activities.

The importance of the agreement, it was noted, is that the WJC has connections with countries which do not maintain diplomatic relations with Israel. In addition, Bronfman personally is known to have good contacts with the Soviet Union.

Bronfman is scheduled to meet with Premier Menachem Begin tonight to brief him on his visit yesterday with President Francois Mitterrand of France. The WJC leader said after his meeting with Mitterrand that the President is going to Israel to try to improve relations between the two countries. Mitterrand is scheduled to be in Israel next week.

WORLD'S FIRST CHAIR IN PHILOSOPHY, JEWISH LAW TO BE ESTABLISHED AT BAR ILAN U. IN HONOR OF JACK WEILER

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (JTA) — The world's first Chair in Philosophy and Jewish Law will be established at Bar-Ilan University in Israel in honor of Jack Weiler, New York realtor and philanthropist, it was announced by Jane Stern, president of the University's American Board of Overseers.

A gift from the Weiler family, the Chair commemorates Weiler's honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree, awarded at the University's Academic Convocation last June. It will serve both the Department of Philosophy and the School of Law at the University.

Dr. Emanuel Rackman, president of Bar-Ilan, will deliver the inaugural Weiler Lecture and coordinate the Chair's activities pending the formal designation of an incumbent, Mrs. Stern

said. Other activities will include a seminar on the philosophy of Jewish law, research and publications.

Commenting on the significance of the Weiler Chair, Mrs. Stern said: "There is a growing interest in Jewish law throughout the world, especially in Israel, where jurists and members of the bar are eager to benefit from the insights of Jewish law in the administration of justice. The inauguration of the Weiler Chair will make possible for the first time, the study of the underlying concepts of Jewish law and their relationship to values held by Judaism and by other religions and humane traditions."

Weiler, who is chairman of the board of the Swig-Weiler-Arnov Management Co., Inc. is widely regarded as one of American Jewry's most distinguished communal leaders. He was national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal for 25 years, president and chairman of the board of the American Joint Distribution Committee, secretary-treasurer of the State of Israel Bond Organization, and president of the Jewish Agency for Israel, American Section.

Weiler has also served Yeshiva University, where he is a member of the Board of Trustees; Albert Einstein College of Medicine, of which he is a founder; and the New York Board of Rabbis, where he chairs the board of the lay advisory council.

Formal dedication of the Chair will take place in the presence of the families of Weiler and Robert Arnov in Israel later this year.

PLAN TO BEEF UP UNIFIL TROOPS

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 23 (JTA) — The Security Council was scheduled to meet this afternoon to discuss a plan to increase the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) by 1,000 troops, bringing the total force to 7,000 soldiers. A vote on the plan is expected to take place tomorrow.

The increase in the number of troops which monitor the peace in south Lebanon was already approved by Israel and Lebanon, sources here said. According to the sources, the beefing up of UN forces in south Lebanon might help calm down the tense situation which developed in the area recently.

THE PRICE OF PEACE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23 (JTA) — An Israeli official said today that the price of peace with Egypt equals the entire cost of the Yom Kippur War or the equivalent of a year's gross national product.

Ezra Sadan, Director General of the Finance Ministry, estimated that the withdrawal from Sinai would cost Israel about \$25 billion, exclusive of the cost of compensation to Jewish settlers and the cost of relocating them. He was addressing a seminar for foreign correspondents organized by the Foreign Ministry, the military and the Government Press Office. The subject was "the price of peace."

Speaking for the army, Brig. Gen. Yaacov Even said \$17 billion was invested in Sinai for military purposes alone since it was occupied by Israel in June, 1967 and that figure does not include money spent on settlements and other civilian installations there.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The army has transferred Rabbi Meir Kahane from reserve duty on the West Bank to a post inside Israel after reports that he engaged in provocative acts, aggravating an already tense situation in that territory. Kahane, founder of the Jewish Defense League, heads the ultra-nationalist Kach movement which calls for the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel and the occupied territories.