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SHAMIR CONVINCED PEACE PROCESS WILL CONTINUE AFTER APRIL 26

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (JTA) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said in Cairo before winding up his three-day visit to Egypt that he was convinced that, despite the deep differences between Israel and Egypt on many points, the peace process would continue after the April 26 Sinai withdrawal date. Shamir is due to return to Israel shortly before midnight tonight.

Egyptian-Foreign Minister Kamel Hassan Ali took issue with Shamir's statement during his Cairo visit that any Palestinian state in the Middle East should comprise Jordan. "It is not up to either Israel or Egypt or any other state to rewrite geography. Jordan is Jordan," he said.

Shamir's visit is understood to have advanced some minor points on normalization of relations but done little to remove major obstacles. Nevertheless, the very fact of the visit has helped improve the climate, especially in view of what is recognized as Shamir's deep suspicions of Egyptian intentions after withdrawal.

EGYPTIAN SAYS MIDEAST PEACE IS CONTINGENT ON ISRAEL RECOGNIZING NEED OF PALESTINIAN SELF-RULE

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Feb. 25 (JTA) — The Egyptian Ambassador to Canada, Tahsin Basheer, said here that full peace will be achieved by Israel only after the Israelis recognize the "need for Palestinian self-rule." However, the envoy stressed that "Egypt will continue to work toward completing the peace process" started by its late President Anwar Sadat.

Addressing 150 members of the Lakeshore chapter of Rotary International yesterday, Basheer maintained that the Israelis "have a dilemma they must face. They must either incorporate the Palestinians, in which case Israel will not be a Jewish state but a multi-national country, or they could keep the Palestinians" subjugated "and I do not believe the majority of Israelis want this."

He insisted that "The only solution of the Middle East conflict is for the Israelis and Palestinians to recognize each other. In the rational sense, what do two or three cities on the West Bank mean to Israel? Each side believes it is entitled to what it has and the other side is its mortal enemy." Israel's reward for reaching a settlement with the Palestinians must be recognition by the rest of the Arab world, Basheer said.

He observed that "Israel was created to set an example to the rest of the world and to provide a haven for persecuted Jews. But how can you be that when you're a persecutor?" He pictured Egypt as the Arab country most responsible for fostering peace in the Middle East. He said Egypt wanted to make the region nuclear free.

In that connection, the envoy claimed that "Israel has created 20-30 little bombs and every country in the Middle East wants little bombs to defend itself." He noted that Egypt has signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and said his coun-

try's task is to "make other Middle Eastern nations feel that making peace with Israel is not a betrayal but an achievement."

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY SAYS NO TO PLO 'BIRTHDAY PARTY'

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (JTA) — Georgetown University has revoked permission for the Arab student organization there to hold a "cultural event" after it learned that it was to be an anniversary dinner for an organization that is part of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Wes Christenson, director of public relations for the Jesuit school, said the student group had been given permission for the cultural event and dinner to be held at the university's Hall of Nations this Sunday.

But the school administration received complaints from alumni that they had received a flyer inviting them to a celebration of the anniversary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine which is part of the PLO. According to the university, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, headed by Nayef Hawatmeh, has a seat on the PLO executive committee.

Inappropriate To Sponsor Terrorist Group

Rev. Timothy Healy, president of Georgetown University, in a letter to William Stott, vice president and dean of student affairs, and to William Miller, vice president for administration and facilities, withdrew permission.

"It does not seem to me appropriate for the university to sponsor, even by the use of its facilities, any organization which supports international terrorism," Healy's letter said.

"Georgetown shares with the Roman Catholic Church the principle that terrorism is not and never can be an acceptable instrument of policy, national or international. It seems to me inappropriate that the university should associate itself and lend its facilities to a birthday party for one of the major terrorist organizations in the world today."

PERES SAYS NO TO BEGIN'S LATEST PROPOSAL FOR NATIONAL UNITY GOV'T.

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (JTA) — Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres today rejected Premier Menachem Begin's latest offer to form a national unity government. He told the party's Central Committee that he had responded negatively to a letter from Begin because he believed that before there could be any talk of a national unity government there had to be a debate on a joint policy.

Peres said he would not disclose the contents of his reply to Begin until the Premier received it and had a chance to study it. Begin's invitation to Peres was made public on Israel Radio yesterday.

The "Dear Shimon" letter said that inasmuch as Labor supports the autonomy plan, there is a clear basis for cooperation between Labor and Likud in a national unity government, at least for the five year period during which autonomy would be in effect

on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. While Labor supports autonomy in principle, it does not subscribe to Begin's version of it. Peres noted today that "at the moment there is only a Likud autonomy plan which is merely on paper. You cannot build a national policy on the basis of a paper plan," he said.

Labor Rejected Earlier Proposal

Begin's latest call for a unity government was prompted by Labor's rejection of another proposal he made recently -- that it join Likud in sending a parliamentary delegation to Washington to explain to the Reagan Administration why Israel regards the possible U.S. sale of sophisticated weaponry to Jordan to be an intolerable threat to its security.

Peres demurred on grounds that it would imply Labor support for Begin government policies. Today he repeated a suggestion of his own -- turned down by Begin -- that members of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee which includes coalition and opposition MKs, go to Washington to explain Israel's position.

ISRAELI TROOPS SEAL OFF FOUR DRUZE VILLAGES ON GOLAN HEIGHTS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Armed troops sealed off four Druze villages on the Golan Heights last night for what appeared to be an effort to end a 12-day general strike by the Druze protesting the extension of Israeli civil law to the area. Officially, the measure of sealing off the villages was said to be for "security reasons" and to prevent local and foreign reporters and leftwing sympathizers and Druze supporters from entering the villages for solidarity meetings.

Gen. Amir Dori, commander of Israel's northern command, ordered the four villages sealed off, with entry and exit to and from the areas banned to all except local workers not observing the general strike. Yisrael Koenig, Interior Minister official in charge of the northern area, met with Druze leaders last night in an unsuccessful attempt to persuade them to cancel the strike.

The Druze leaders reportedly told him they wanted the government to withdraw the Golan Law which they said would not apply to them since they were Syrian citizens. They said they would not accept Israel identity cards or let their sons serve in the Israel army.

Spokesmen for the Druze said they were appealing to Amnesty International for protection against what they termed repressive actions by the Israeli authorities. Koenig reportedly told the Druze that there was no intention of forcing any Druze to serve in the army unless he volunteered, that none would be forced to accept Israeli citizenship, and that there were no plans to appropriate Druze land as had been rumored to be the case.

CANTOR SHOLOM KATZ DEAD AT 67

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Funeral services were held today for Sholom Katz, a leading cantor in this country and an authority on Jewish music. He died last Saturday at Walter Reed Army Medical Center after a heart attack. He was 67 years old.

Katz, who was born in Rumania, was a recognized cantor by the time of his Bar Mitzvah.

He was ordained a rabbi at the age of 18 and was chief cantor of Bucharest before he came to the United States after World War II.

During the war he was captured by the Nazis and imprisoned in a concentration camp. He said in later years that when he was forced to dig his own grave in the camp he asked the guard to allow him to sing. He sang the traditional El Molei Rachamin which so moved the guard that he allowed Katz to escape.

Known Throughout The World

Katz was the cantor at Beth Sholom Congregation from 1947 to 1957. At the same time, he alternated with the late Cantor Moshe Kushevitsky at the Rumanian Synagogue in New York City's Lower East Side. He appeared in concert halls and synagogues in this country, Europe, South America, Canada and Israel. He was the first cantor invited to give a series of concerts in Israel after the founding of the State.

In 1946 Katz was invited to Switzerland to sing at the World Zionist Congress. As Dr. Chaim Weizmann delivered a eulogy for the six million Jews who had died in the Holocaust, Katz sang the El Molei Rachamin and added to the traditional text the names of Auschwitz, Treblinka, Dachau and other Nazi death camps. He also sang the traditional song of mourning in the closing scene of the Academy Award-winning movie, "The Garden of the Finzi-Continis," and also sang in the film, "The Eichmann Story."

TERROR GANG UNCOVERED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Israeli security forces have uncovered an Al Fatah terrorist gang which operated in the Jerusalem and Nablus area. A military spokesman said today that members of the gang were responsible for a grenade attack outside the Old City of Jerusalem last October in which three Jews were wounded, and for a grenade attack last September in an Old City alley in which two Italian pilgrims were killed and 27 wounded.

One member of the gang, from East Jerusalem, confessed during interrogation to supplying grenades to another terrorist gang in Hebron and sabotage material to gangs in refugee camps in the Nablus area. The contact in the Nablus area was apprehended and during his interrogation he revealed the location of a cache of sabotage equipment.

SECURITY COUNCIL DUE TO VOTE ON INCREASING UNIFIL TROOPS By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- The Security Council was scheduled to meet here this evening to vote on a draft resolution increasing the number of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) troops by 1,000. The increase will bring the number of UN troops in south Lebanon to 7,000.

The draft resolution, sources here said, includes the text of Security Council Resolution 425, which established UNIFIL in 1978. The Soviets and the Lebanese demanded yesterday that the draft resolution should include only the parts of Resolution 425 referring to Israel. The Council had been scheduled to vote on the resolution last night but postponed action because the United States objected to the draft.

A UN spokesman said today that before the Security Council convenes for a vote, members of the Council will meet for private consultations. This fact indicates, he said, that the draft resolution is still being negotiated and the vote might be postponed in case of disagreement.

WEST GERMAN OFFICIALS AGHAST AT BEGIN'S LATEST ATTACK ON SCHMIDT

By David Kantor

BONN, Feb. 25 (JTA) — Government officials were taken aback by Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's angry personal attack today on Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Government sources expressed surprise at the incident, coming after months of efforts to improve relations between Bonn and Jerusalem which were seriously strained when Begin attacked Schmidt as a Nazi last June.

According to radio and television commentators, the latest blast by the Israeli Premier only served to arouse public support for Schmidt who has been under attack by opposition spokesmen in the Bundestag recently for his alleged pro-Nazi activities during World War II.

Begin assailed Schmidt on the basis of an Israeli newspaper report which quoted the German Chancellor as saying he would not make his long postponed trip to Israel until he received an apology for Begin's remarks last year. Government spokesman Kurt Becker officially denied that Schmidt had set such a condition for his visit.

Begin: Will Not Apologize To Schmidt

Begin seized on the report to exhort Schmidt to "go down on his knees and ask forgiveness of the Jewish people ... for what his countrymen perpetrated under the National Socialist regime against my people." He said he would never apologize to Schmidt "privately or publicly."

Last June, during Begin's re-election campaign, he accused Schmidt of remaining loyal to Hitler and of serving in the German army that helped wipe out European Jewry. That attack was prompted by remarks Schmidt made in support of the creation of a Palestinian state, while visiting Saudi Arabia last spring.

Schmidt was attacked in the Bundestag last January 14 by Helmut Kohl, leader of the Bavarian-based Christian Socialist Union, for having attended the show trial of a group of senior German army officers involved in an unsuccessful attempt to kill Hitler in 1944. According to Kohl, his presence at the trial was a clue to his political attitude at the time.

But Begin's remarks went far beyond the accusations which have become commonplace in West German politics. Most observers believe Begin has succeeded in promoting solidarity with the Chancellor among West Germans.

Schmidt was first invited to visit Israel in 1975 by the then Premier, Yitzhak Rabin. The invitation was renewed by Begin in 1977. At that time, Bonn sources told reporters that the Chancellor was holding back because he was critical of Israel's policies and was trying to promote better German relations with the Arab states.

GHORBAL URGES ALL SIDES TO THINK POSITIVELY ABOUT MIDEAST PEACE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 (JTA) — The Egyptian Ambassador to the U.S. Ashraf Ghorbal, urged today that all sides talk less about threats and more about the elements of achieving peace as Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai, two months from now, approaches.

Ghorbal made his remarks at the State Department after a meeting with Secretary of State Alexander Haig. He called on Haig before returning to Cairo for consultations. His comments

were believed prompted by a reported statement by Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon who expressed concern about the Egyptians maintaining a military presence in Sinai after Israel pulls out on April 25.

Ghorbal also said he was pleased that President Reagan's special envoy Philip Habib, is returning to Lebanon. He said this showed that the Reagan Administration is determined to "keep things cool" in Lebanon and to maintain the cease-fire there.

Habib will arrive in Beirut tomorrow, according to official sources in Lebanon. It is his fourth trip to the region since last May when the 61-year-old diplomat was called out of retirement to attempt to end bitter fighting between Israeli forces and Palestinian terrorists in south Lebanon.

The State Department announced this week that Habib was returning to the region but divulged no dates or itineraries for security reasons. Habib was instrumental in arranging the cease-fire that has been in effect along the Israeli-Lebanese border since last July. His current mission is believed to have been prompted by the possibility of a new outbreak of violence in that area.

HATE-MONGER SUPPORTED BY CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES GROUP

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Feb. 25 (JTA) — A professional disseminator of anti-Semitic hate mail, who filed an appeal this week against the decision by the postal authorities to suspend his mailing privileges, has won the support of a civil libertarian organization for his right to stay in business.

The Post Office halted the mail service of Ernst Zundel, German-born owner of the Samisdat Publishers in Toronto in November, 1980, on grounds that the material he distributed incited hatred of Jews. The Post Office acted, after a year-long investigation, on the basis of a law which allows the suspension of mail that deliberately promotes race hatred or hatred against an identifiable group.

Zundel, a self-acknowledged admirer of Hitler, is the author of anti-Jewish and anti-Communist tracts. One of his mailed leaflets describes Jews as "vicious, greedy and militant." Another claims that Jewish businessmen control the media and use their influence to inspire "murderous hatred" of Germans. He appealed the Post Office ban before a government appointed review board in Ottawa.

Zundel's attorney, Lynn McGaw, told the board her client's business has suffered as a consequence of the ban. Ian Scott, a lawyer for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, argued that it is illegal for the Canadian government to deny mail service before proving that an individual is breaking the law. Scott stressed that his group was not taking a stand on the content of Zundel's material.

McGaw contended that Zundel "does not intend to promote hatred against anyone but to actively combat the stereotype of the German people as a group." But Prof. Jean Ravault, of the University of Quebec in Montreal, told the board that it was possible that Zundel's publications "make some frustrated readers believe that violent actions and discriminatory behavior against members of these ethnic and religious groups could be legitimized."

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has urged the Administration and Congress to increase military aid to Israel by \$300 million by a grant in fiscal 1983 to counteract a massive Arab arms buildup.

MAJOR JEWISH GROUPS HIT MET MUSEUM FOR CANCELLING ISRAELI EXHIBITION

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Major Jewish organizations today attacked the Metropolitan Museum of Art for its decision not to display an archaeological exhibit from Israel because some of the artifacts are from the West Bank and would therefore pose a security risk to the museum.

In a joint statement by the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, the three organizations expressed "dismay and outrage" at the reasons given by the museum for refusing to allow the exhibit.

"We find it most deplorable that the Metropolitan should take such a narrow political view regarding an outstanding cultural exhibit that is intended to illustrate the development of civilization in the Holy Land from earliest times through the Crusades and includes materials of Jewish, Christian and Islamic significance," the statement said.

"The Metropolitan in the past has shown many other exhibits from countries and regions involved in current political controversy. It is therefore all the more unconscionable that an institution of the Metropolitan's stature should lend support in any way to the campaign of those who would seek to delegitimize the State of Israel. In the Metropolitan's stated effort to avoid political controversy, the museum has in fact needlessly allowed itself to be drawn into current issues of dispute."

Dangerous Precedent Cited

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith termed the museum's decision "regrettable and undefensible" and said the museum's director, Philippe de Montebello, engaged in "specious reasoning" in alleging that the exhibition would be a statement of foreign policy on the part of the museum.

"Judging whether to do a show based upon political rather than cultural considerations would set a dangerous precedent by requiring that potential exhibitions from every part of the world be debated by a museum in terms of foreign policy," the ADL said.

Nathan Perlmutter, ADL's national director, said: "Culture and history have always transcended politics and, in the case of this particular show containing the Dead Sea scrolls, among other ancient treasures, large numbers of persons are being denied an opportunity to view objects that are an essential and integral part of the chronicle of Western civilization."

The Psychology Of Fear

Ivan Novick, president of the Zionist Organization of America, said that the museum's decision to cancel the Israeli exhibit because it created a "security risk from radical elements" demonstrates how "the psychology of fear" operates. He added: "If Arab pressure can dictate the price of fuel, influence foreign policy, and determine what exhibits the Metropolitan Museum of Art presents, have we not forfeited our right as Americans to be the advocate of freedom throughout the world? At issue is not Israeli land or ancient relics. It is the soul of America and the pride and independence of its people that are being challenged."

JEWISH WOMAN FACING DEPORTATION

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Public sympathy and support has been aroused by the plight of a 57-year-old Jewish woman from Yugoslavia who faces deportation from Canada for having resided in the country illegally for six years.

The woman, Gisella Confino-Levi, has been supporting herself by selling flowers outside a downtown subway station, always in the company of her dog. She left Yugoslavia in 1957 for Israel. There she met a man whom she married and the couple move to Uruguay later that year. In 1973, her husband was arrested after he expressed outspoken criticism of government policies. He has not been heard from since. In 1975 she came to Canada with her son as a visitor and stayed on, contrary to the regulations that visitors who want to remain in the country permanently must return home and apply officially.

Had Sought To Obtain Amnesty

Ironically, Confino-Levi's trouble stems from the fact that three years ago she voluntarily applied to the Canadian authorities for permission to remain in the country under the impression that the government would grant "amnesty" to illegal aliens with no criminal record who came forward voluntarily. The granting of amnesty under these conditions was in effect about a decade ago, but not since then.

Since Confino-Levi's story appeared in the press, people have come forward to act as her sponsors, calls have flooded the Immigration Department, the Mayor of Toronto was photographed kissing her and promising to intervene on her behalf, her flower patrons have come to her defense, and Immigration Minister Lloyd Axworthy promised to give the matter his personal attention.

It is believed that no Jewish individual has been deported from Canada since before World War II. In all cases where such a possibility existed, Jewish community agencies, most often the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society, have intervened.

PICKOL, TEL AVIV LAWYER, NAMED ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC MINISTER TO U.S.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25 (JTA) -- Israel Pickol, a lawyer specializing in the field of business investment, took office this week as Israel's Economic Minister to the United States, it was announced by the Israel Economic Mission here. Pickol, whose headquarters are in New York, succeeds David Rotlevy, who has returned to Israel after completing his 2 1/2-year term of office.

Pickol, 50, will supervise the activities of the Israel Government Investment Authority, the Israel Trade Mission and the Israel Government Tourism Office here. Last year Israeli exports to the U.S. exceeded the \$1 billion mark in a single year for the first time, and investments by Americans in Israel's economic enterprises also rose to a new high.

Since 1970 Pickol has headed his own law firm in Tel Aviv, following a 15-year period during which he served as a partner and a chief attorney in the law office of Shmuel Tamir, a former Israeli Minister of Justice. Pickol received his law degree cum laude from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1955.

He has served as a board member and business manager of the Caesaria Beach Resort Corporation, the first apartment hotel built in Israel by American investors. He has also been a board member of the Israel Motion Pictures Company and the Israel-Canada Television Company, which own the largest private film and television studios in Israel.