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EGYPT SEEMS TO BE MOVING TO SETTLE ISSUES THAT STAND IN THE WAY OF ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA) — Egypt appears to be moving to settle several last minute issues that stand in the way of Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai on April 25. But the Cabinet decided nevertheless to reconvene next Wednesday after it has a full report from U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Walter Stoessel Jr. on what transpired at his meetings with President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo over the weekend.

Stoessel returned to Israel from Cairo today, expressing optimism that the withdrawal will take place as scheduled next Sunday.

At the regular weekly session today, Premier Menachem Begin and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon briefed the Cabinet on the latest contacts with Egypt. These included a visit here over the weekend by the Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali, and what Begin described as a "warm" letter from Mubarak. Egyptian Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier Kamal Hassan Ali is due here tomorrow for further talks.

Says Egypt Making Sincere Effort

Begin noted that the Egyptians were making a "real and sincere" effort to correct violations of the peace treaty in Sinai. He quoted several passages from Mubarak's letter that stressed Egypt's commitment to the peace process. But Cairo apparently is balking at Israel's last-minute demand for a written statement that Egypt is totally committed to the Camp David accords on which the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty is based.

Israel reportedly did not present this demand as an ultimatum. But senior political sources here would not rule out the possibility that if Egypt rejected it, Israel might reassess its policy toward Egypt. That demand, along with Israel's complaints of alleged Egyptian treaty violations, was brought to Cairo by Stoessel after two days of meetings with Israeli leaders last week.

The American diplomat reportedly indicated that Israel's insistence on a written Egyptian reaffirmation of loyalty to Camp David was worth looking into. He agreed to raise the matter with the Egyptian authorities. It is believed the Israelis brought it up, too, in their talks with Ghali here Friday.

Israel's Most Serious Complaint

Israel's most serious complaint against Egypt was that the Egyptians were aiding or acquiescing in the smuggling of arms from Sinai to Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip and were, in fact, drawing closer to the Palestine Liberation Organization as part of their effort to mend ties with the Arab world.

The Israelis also accused the Egyptians of deploying more troops than allowed under the peace treaty in the limited forces zone of Sinai which they control.

Mubarak reportedly told Stoessel that Egypt would act to correct those matters over which Israel has expressed concern. He also reportedly gave him oral assurances that Egypt intends to adhere fully to the Camp David accords after Israel pulls out of Sinai.

Before he left Israel for Cairo, Stoessel indicated that the U.S. understood the problems raised by Israel and believed Israel should be given grounds for complete confidence as to Egypt's intentions before the final stage of withdrawal. Stoessel, who is the ranking official at the State Department after Secretary of State Alexander Haig, said the U.S. for its part was fully confident that Egypt will honor its treaty commitments after it takes full control of Sinai.

No Progress On Border Dispute

According to Begin, no progress has been made toward resolving the Israeli-Egyptian dispute over the Sinai-Israel border. Begin told the Cabinet today that in the absence of an agreement, Israel would withdraw its forces to what it considers to be the border and further discussions would be held. The Egyptians reportedly warned that if there is no agreement on the border, Israelis would not be allowed to visit Sinai after the withdrawal is completed.

The dispute focusses on about 125 acres of coastal land near the Israeli town of Eilat where an Israeli resort hotel is nearing completion. The region, known as Taba, is claimed by Egypt according to the international boundary drawn in 1906 by the British and Turks. Israel insists that boundary was in error. Sharon visited Cairo last week in an effort to reach a settlement but apparently failed. The matter is expected to be on the agenda of the discussions with Hassan Ali here tomorrow.

Anti-Withdrawal Pressures Continue

Meanwhile, anti-withdrawal pressures continued to mount within the Herut wing of the Likud Knesset faction. The faction is scheduled to meet Wednesday, possibly to urge the government to postpone the withdrawal from Sinai. Begin has been invited to attend. Seven Likud MKs are demanding a meeting with Begin tomorrow to insist that the withdrawal be stopped.

One of them, Yigal Cohen-Orgad has suggested a national referendum on whether the withdrawal should be completed, given Egypt's "departure from the Camp David framework" on the Palestinian issue. The Prime Minister's Office has not confirmed a meeting with this group.

POPE TERMS SHOOTING INCIDENT AT TEMPLE MOUNT A 'RASH GESTURE'

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, April 18 (JTA) — Pope John Paul II referred to the Easter Sunday shooting on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem as a "rash gesture" that has had repercussions in other parts of the Middle East. The Pontiff included that statement in an address last week to a crowd of 40,000 in St. Peter's Square who he called on to pray for the "situations of conflict" in the world.

In earlier messages, the Pope made reference to the current aggravated conflict between "the two peoples" in "the Holy Land." He also spoke of the tension between Britain and Argentina and the war between Iraq and Iran.

With respect to the April 11 incident in Jerusalem where an American-born Israeli gunman opened fire on Moslem worshippers in the Dome of the Rock Mosque, killing two and wounding 30, the Pope observed that "... Reasons for anxiety for the painful perturbations which are taking place in the Holy Land and particularly in Jerusalem, in Trans-Jordan and in Gaza are mounting following the rash gesture" on the Temple Mount "causing innocent victims and giving rise to other sorrowful facts."

He added: "Let us pray so that these and other clouds of concern which are thickening upon the land of Jesus and in the Middle East region dissipate and the commitment to understanding and reconciliation may prevail in the consideration of all interested parties."

GOODMAN TO UNDERGO PSYCHIATRIC TESTS TO SEE IF HE IS FIT TO STAND TRIAL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA) -- The Jerusalem District Court issued an order today for Allan Harry Goodman to undergo psychiatric observation. Goodman, the American-born Israel army reservist, was arraigned last Wednesday for the shooting spree three days earlier at the Temple Mount in which two Arabs were killed and 30 were wounded. The district psychiatrist will rule on whether Goodman was sane when he committed the alleged crime and whether he is fit to stand trial.

Meanwhile, the violence and general strike on the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem which followed last Sunday's incident abated today in East Jerusalem. Stores reopened and no disturbances were reported there.

Violence Continues On West Bank, Gaza

However, a 15-year-old boy was wounded today by the Israel Defense Force near the village of Hussan in the Bethlehem district as the youth blocked off the nearby road and threw rocks at cars which were forced to stop. Two cars were badly damaged. Violence also continued over the weekend in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Two Arabs were killed in clashes, and an undetermined number of people were injured. Demonstrations also continued today in Nablus and in the Gaza Strip worshippers emerged from their mosques to attack military patrols and vehicles.

A delegation of Israeli Arab local council leaders called on the Supreme Moslem Council in East Jerusalem yesterday to express solidarity with the Arabs in the administered territories over the deaths and injuries caused by the shooting spree at the Temple Mount. However, most of the Arab mayors in Israel opposed this gesture. Those who called on the Supreme Moslem Council were the leaders of Hadash (Communist) dominated councils.

CARTER SEEKING TO BECOME ACTIVE AGAIN IN MIDEAST PEACE PROCESS

WASHINGTON, April 18 (JTA) -- Former President Carter is seeking to involve himself again in the Middle East peace process. He said in an interview with the joint Sunday editions of The Atlanta Journal and The Atlanta Constitution that he might travel to the Mideast to join negotiations on Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"I'll use my influence, whatever it is, to continue the process," Carter said. "Particularly in Egypt, I think to a major degree in Israel, I'm still trusted. As a private citizen working in a proper way, I'll use my influence if a time of trouble

comes." Carter criticized the Reagan Administration for what he said was its failure to take a more active role in the Mideast. This failure, he noted, has jeopardized the Camp David peace process and has contributed to the current tensions between Israel and Egypt. Nevertheless, he added, Israel's scheduled withdrawal from Sinai April 25 will take place "without a hitch."

MILITANTS VOW TO COMMIT SUICIDE IF ISRAEL COMPLETES SINAI WITHDRAWAL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 18 (JTA) -- A group of die-hard followers of Rabbi Meir Kahane who have threatened mass suicide if Israel completes its withdrawal from Sinai, refused to be persuaded to leave their booby-trapped air raid shelter in Yamit despite an appeal by Army Chief Rabbi Maj. Gen. Gad Navon who visited them today.

They also rejected appeals over the weekend by Israel's two Chief Rabbis, Shlomo Goren and Ovadia Yosef, who reminded them that suicide is against Jewish law.

The militants, members of Kahane's Kach faction, barricaded themselves in the shelter last Thursday and so far have resisted attempts by the army to remove them. On Friday they hurled gasoline bombs at Israeli troops but caused no casualties or damage.

Quoting the late Rabbi Yehuda Kook, spiritual leader of the Gush Emunim, to the effect that martyrdom is honorable, they said they would kill themselves in a pre-determined order. But they indicated their final decision would be made only when they are joined by Kahane whom they have urgently summoned from New York.

The forced evacuation of Yamit and surrounding villages is expected to take place this week. There are believed to be about 2,000 members of the "Halt the Withdrawal" movement in the region, many of them small children and yeshiva students.

ALLEGATIONS ABOUT IDF ROLE ON GOLAN SPARKS STORM OF CRITICISM

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA) -- Former Supreme Court Justice Haim Cohen has come under withering criticism for charging last week that the Israel Defense Force (IDF) is violating the human rights of the Druze on the Golan Heights and for claiming that the army had imposed a "barbaric law" on the Golan. Cohen, who is the president of the Association for Civil Rights, made these charges at a press conference here last week.

Sources close to Premier Menachem Begin advised Cohen to "see if Israel's neighbors have human rights, not to speak of human rights organizations." Interior Minister Yosef Burg rejected the term "barbaric" and asserted that no violence has been used to force the Druze to accept Israeli identity cards in place of their military ID cards which have been withdrawn.

Burg, a National Religious Party member of the Knesset, said Cohen's allegations were "vicious," based on false information. He said Cohen's past as Supreme Court justice did not give him the right to make such charges.

IDF Reacts Sharply

The IDF reacted sharply to the charges. It issued a statement over the weekend totally rejecting the allegations. An army spokesman said the IDF has been acting "wholly in accordance with the law, with patience, tolerance and considerable restraint." The spokesman said the army resorted to force only

in cases where it encountered violence. The IDF complained that Cohen and the Association had completely overlooked a "reign of terror imposed by a minority of Druze on the majority" on the Golan by imposing a religious and social boycott on those Druze ready to accept Israeli ID cards. The spokesman refuted several specific cases which were raised by the Association last week.

The army spokesman said that the IDF was implementing emergency regulations, which are "a legitimate and integral part of the Israeli law." The IDF, the spokesman added, was called upon to install law and order to four Druze villages in the Golan only after "a minority of the local population imposed a strike on the entire population with force and violent means."

Some Public Support

Several public figures supported Cohen. Labor Alignment MK Yossi Sarid said the army should have disobeyed what he termed illegal commands. Alignment MK Uzi Baram demanded a special session of the Knesset to discuss the charges. Attorney General Yitzhak Shamir said he would not react to the charges and the counter-charges since some of the issues raised, such as the legality of requiring Druze to hold Israeli ID cards, was being dealt with by the Supreme Court.

The Association, reacting to the charges against it, said it was standing by its original complaints and demanded an official commission of inquiry to investigate the situation on the Golan. The Association's allegations referred to the 40 days of military blockade of four Druze villages during which the population was confined to the immediate area, deprived of basic services and allegedly subjected to physical abuse for refusing to accept Israeli ID cards.

The blockade was imposed February 25 after Druze leaders called a general strike to protest Israel's annexation of the territory February 14. The blockade was lifted April 5 but the strike is continuing and is now in its 10th week.

THOUSANDS MARK YOM HA-SHOAH, 39th ANNIVERSARY OF WARSAW GHETTO REVOLT By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 18 (JTA) -- Thousands of people gathered today at Temple Emanu-El, outside on Fifth Avenue and inside the sanctuary, for the annual ceremony marking Yom Ha-Shoah and the 39th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

In a somber ceremony attended by survivors of the Nazi concentration camps and those who fought in the ghetto resistance movements, speaker after speaker attacked revisionist historians who claim the Holocaust a hoax or who distort the truth of the Nazi crimes which took the lives of an estimated six million Jews.

Addressing the gathering was noted author Eli Wiesel, himself a survivor of the concentration camps. He accused those "vicious, ugly, morally demented" revisionists who deny the Holocaust as taking sides with "the killers." He stressed that is imperative for those survivors to retell the story of the Holocaust as a tribute to those who perished at the hands of the Nazis.

Benjamin Meed, president of the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization (WAGRO), sponsor of the event, stressed a similar theme in his opening remarks to the filled synagogue. "We find our tragedy minimized by some--vulgarized by others-- and even completely denied," Meed

declared. But he stressed that those who survived "must speak out, must bear witness as the truth of the Holocaust is obliterated..." He called the revisionists, "the distorters of history."

"It occurs to me, that perhaps the most potent force that we can rise against the revisionists, the deniers, and the slanderers of our tragic past, is our statement, ringing loud and clear -- We are here," he said.

Arens: The Struggle Is Not Over

Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Moshe Arens, said that today, the struggle is still not over. He noted that Jews have Israel and a Jewish army capable of defending it against "terror and aggression." He said that when Israel is asked to make concessions, "to accept risks and let down our defenses," the answer "must be clear."

Arens emphasized that Israel will not take the risk of facing another onslaught that could threaten the Jewish people's very existence. "This we recall and state on the day when the banner of life and revolt was raised in the Warsaw Ghetto," he said.

With Metropolitan Opera tenor Misha Raitzin chanting memorial prayers and ghetto songs, school children marched on to the presidium to light memorial candles for those killed by the Nazis. Following this, six survivors, joined by their children, lit six large white candles in memory of the six million Jews who perished. Following the lighting of the candles, Kaddish was chanted by Hirsch Altusky.

Also, as part of the final ceremonies today, there was a re-enactment of the reading of the Legacy of the Holocaust which was part of the final ceremonies culminating last year's World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust survivors in Jerusalem. Joseph Tekulsky, survivor of Warsaw, read the Legacy, while Joyce Celnik, daughter of survivors, read the Pledge of Acceptance. It was the first time this ceremony was performed in the United States.

Also announced at the mass memorial gathering today were plans for an American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors in Washington, D.C. in 1983 to mark the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Similar to last year's World Gathering, the four-day meeting from April 11-14, represents "an important change (that) has taken place in Jewish life, not only in Israel, but throughout the world," according to Jack Eisner, vice president of WAGRO who made the announcement. "The survivors have become a voice to be heard and a force to be reckoned with."

Reagan Sends Message

In a message to the gathering, President Reagan said that the historic uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto 39 years ago is "a shining example of mankind's struggle for dignity" and serves as "an inspiration to those striving for freedom throughout the world."

"The Warsaw Ghetto uprising marks the unparalleled courage and determination of a people to resist one of the most treacherous and brutal tyrannies in all history," the President's statement declared. "The men and women who endured fighting, torture, and extreme privation to oppose great evil fully demonstrated for the entire world the heroism of the human spirit. The terrible spectre of death camps and savage oppression are a memory this and following generations must never forget."

As part of the statewide Holocaust memorial observances, Governor Hugh Carey proclaimed Tuesday April 20, corresponding to the 27th day of Nissan, as "Holocaust Commemoration Day." Mayor Edward Koch proclaimed today "Warsaw Ghetto Commemoration Day."

ORTHODOX JEWS MOBILIZE FOR TUITION TAX CREDIT DRIVE

NEW YORK, April 18 (JTA) -- The announcement by President Ronald Reagan that he was submitting to Congress a tuition tax credit bill to aid parents in private schools has sparked an intensive drive by the "Campaign to Relieve Independent Education" of Agudath Israel of America to win passage of the measure in this session of Congress.

According to Prof. Laurence Katz, chairman of the special nationwide network spearheading the effort for Orthodox Jews, Agudath Israel believes tax credits has its best chance since the organization began the effort more than a decade ago.

The President, speaking to a convention of Catholic educators last week, announced that he would submit legislation which would allow a family with an adjusted gross annual income of \$50,000 or less to take a maximum tax credit of \$500 for each child.

In anticipation of the announcement, Rabbi Menachem Lubinsky, director of Government and Public Affairs of Agudath Israel of America, personally thanked the President for his initiative at a White House luncheon for religious leaders last Tuesday. Lubinsky also met with White House officials to plan strategy for the legislative offensive to pass tuition tax credits.

Katz said that the committee, which Agudath Israel had organized in 1980, would begin working immediately to win approval in the Congress. He said that although "we recognize that it will be an uphill battle, the President's support will hopefully spell the difference."

'A Concept Whose Time Has Come'

The news of the President's actions were warmly greeted by Rabbi Moshe Sherer, president of Agudath Israel of America. He said: "Tuition tax credits is a concept whose time has come. Those who have feared nonpublic education are beginning to recognize the enormous contribution that this sector has made to American society."

Sherer expressed the hope that those secular Jewish leaders who have consistently opposed tuition tax credits "would do some soul-searching in a pragmatic evaluation of the justice of the issue, and at long last put down their weapons in order not to harm the benefits which would accrue to Jewish education."

Agudath Israel leaders testified at hearings of the Senate Finance Committee last June at which it called "freedom of choice in education a cardinal principle which deserves the support of all Americans." They also said that the opposition of some Jewish leaders should not be confused with the feelings of grassroots Jews who support the rights of parents to provide their children with a Jewish education. Agudath Israel said it would join with leaders of other faiths in an all-out effort to help the President win approval in the Congress.

STUDYING TALMUD FROM TAPE CASSETTES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA) -- The World Zionist Organization Torah Education Department in cooperation with the Beit Midrash Letorah Yeshiva in Jerusalem are pioneering in an innovative project -- studying Torah from tape cassettes. The project has already recorded onto cassettes some 1,500 pages of the Babylonian Talmud, and the hope is that the remaining 1,000-odd pages will be recorded in a few months.

The tapes consist of readings and straightforward explanations (based on Rashi's commentary) of the Talmud text. So far some 800 cassettes have been produced, each 90 minutes duration and embracing an average of three Talmud "amudim" (pages). The reader and commentator is Rabbi Shabbtai Sabbato of Yeshivat Bet-El.

The original purpose of the project, according to the WZO, was to enable the mostly overseas students at the Beit Midrash Letorah Yeshiva to continue studying Talmud by themselves when they end their terms at the Yeshiva and return home. But given the success of the idea, the tapes are expected to serve far wider audiences.

BRAZIL'S PRESIDENT SAYS HE HOLDS ISRAEL IN HIGH ESTEEM

By David Markus

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 18 (JTA) -- President Joao Baptista Figueiredo told a delegation of American Jewish Committee officials that "I hold the people of Israel in high esteem."

In a 40-minute meeting with the delegation, headed by AJCommittee president Maynard Wishner, the President recalled that before taking office, while he was a general in the army, he spent six weeks in Israel, including two days in a kibbutz near the Golan Heights. He said he was "deeply impressed" by Israel's hard working people, especially the kibbutzniks.

Figueiredo also praised Brazil's Jewish community which he said was "fully integrated into the economic, industrial, academic and political life of the country." He also assured the delegation that no Brazilian government would tolerate any kind of discrimination against Jews or any other ethnic group.

While in Brazil, the AJCommittee delegation also met with the Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro, Dom Eugenio Salles, who told the 11-member group that he will order all the churches in his archdiocese to delete from prayers and textbooks all remaining negative references to Jews.

The delegation, which is on a study mission of Jewish life in South America, will also visit Argentina, Chile and Uruguay where they will meet with the nations' Presidents and Jewish communal leaders.

C.O.L. INCREASED BY 5.1% IN MARCH

TEL AVIV, April 18 (JTA) -- An average urban family needs 13,000 Shekels (\$750) a month to maintain its standard of living, compared to 3,680 Shekels in 1980, according to figures released last Thursday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The Bureau reported that the cost of living index rose by 5.1 percent during March, the last month of fiscal year 1981-82. The monthly increase brought the total for the fiscal year to 104 percent, a little above Finance Minister Yoram Aridor's hoped-for two digit inflation target.

During the first three months of the calendar year the cost of living index rose by 20.3 percent, for an annual average rate of 112 percent. Manufacturers and trade union representatives signed an agreement for payment of a 16.6 percent increase on monthly salaries for April. The increase in calculated at 80 percent of the cost of living increase.

PARIS (JTA) -- President Francois Mitterrand will inaugurate the national exhibition April 24 retracing the Nazi occupation of France and the deportation of hundreds of thousands of Jews and non-Jews.