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BEGIN SEEKING NATIONAL CONSENSUS THAT NO JEWISH SETTLEMENTS WILL BE REMOVED IN FUTURE PEACE MOVES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 27 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin is seeking a national consensus that Israel will never agree to the removal of Jewish settlements anywhere, even in the context of possible future peace treaties with Arab countries. He made it clear today in an Independence Day eve interview on Voice of Israel Radio that his position on settlements has hardened after the withdrawal from Sinai and the dismantlement of Yamit and other Jewish settlements there.

At the same time, in an interview published yesterday in the Egyptian weekly, Mayo, Begin passionately reiterated what he called Israel's "paternal right" to the West Bank. Publication of the interview coincided with a speech to the Egyptian Parliament by President Hosni Mubarak in which he hailed the restoration of Egyptian sovereignty in Sinai as a "magnificent achievement" and praised Israel for returning the territory. "The people of Israel have shown an enthusiasm for peace," he said.

Begin will meet shortly with Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres and is expected to ask for the opposition's support of a parliamentary measure that would establish in law Israel's refusal to remove any settlements in the territories it occupies. Such a measure, proposed by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer of the National Religious Party, is expected to win approval at next Sunday's Cabinet meeting and be sent to the Knesset.

After The Transition Period

The text of Begin's Mayo interview was released by the Prime Minister's Office here. Referring to the five-year transition period stipulated by the Camp David accords during which autonomy would be in effect on the West Bank and Gaza Strip while the future status of those territories is negotiated, Begin said:

"My opinion is that after the transition period we shall put out the claim to our paternal right, and then, if it is decreed that it should be Israel's sovereignty over that part of the land, we will keep autonomy, full autonomy for the Palestinian Arabs under all circumstances."

In his radio interview today, Begin insisted that the next round of the autonomy talks with Egypt and the U.S. must be held in Jerusalem and nowhere else. He said if Egypt refused, Israel would refuse to meet at another location. So far, the talks have alternated between Israel and Egypt, with Tel Aviv their locus in Israel.

The Egyptians have declined to meet in Jerusalem because of the implication that it recognizes Israel's sovereignty over the city. The U.S. has offered Washington as an alternate site but the Israelis have refused.

Asked by the interviewer why Israel had decided to level Yamit and other settlements before leaving Sinai, a spectacle that shocked Israelis watching it on television, he replied that the measure was taken for urgent security reasons but refused to elaborate. He would not say who gave the orders to level Yamit.

Begin confirmed that Israel was carrying out daily reconnaissance flights over Lebanon, and warned that if the Syrians interfered with them, Israel would deal with their anti-aircraft missiles in the Beka valley of central Lebanon. He said that so far those missiles were not causing Israel much trouble.

He attributed the absence of any military response by the Palestine Liberation Organization to Israel's air raids on its bases in Lebanon last week to fear of stiff reprisals. He said warnings were relayed to the PLO via the U.S. that they faced severe consequences if they opened fire on Israeli border towns.

Begin threatened that if the PLO carried out anymore terrorist acts against Israel, Israel would respond with even more force than it used last week. If the PLO fires mortars and Katyusha rockets at Israeli towns, Israel would invade Lebanon and destroy its military infrastructure, he said.

In his speech to Parliament, Mubarak declared: "The people of Israel have shown an enthusiasm for peace and a readiness to accept the aftermath of peace, moderation and coexistence, and this is becoming more and more pronounced. The future depends on the increase of those who believe in peace to remove the acrimony of the past."

ISRAEL, EGYPT SIGN INTERIM ACCORD ON BORDER DISPUTE IN TABA REGION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 27 (JTA) -- Israel and Egypt, actively assisted by the United States, signed an interim agreement today to resolve their border dispute in the Taba region near Eilat. The issue will be submitted to "conciliation or arbitration" as provided for under Article 7 of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. The U.S. will join Israel and Egypt in talks to decide precisely how that dispute resolution process will be applied.

Premier Menachem Begin strongly supported the interim agreement at last Sunday's Cabinet session and had high praise for the American role both in this instance and throughout the peace process itself, which he said had been beneficial for Israel.

Begin won the support of the Cabinet majority against strenuous opposition from Defense Minister Ariel Sharon who objected because the interim agreement established a precedent for an American role in negotiating other border disputes with Egypt.

Begin insisted there was no reason for Israel to reject or fear the proposed American participation in the negotiations. Israeli officials expressed warm appreciation for the part played by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Walter Stoessel Jr., who spent nearly two weeks in the region and apparently succeeded in allaying Israeli and Egyptian fears and suspicions that had been blocking agreement on how to settle the Taba issue.

Both Sides Made Points

Both sides won points. Israel's most important achievement was a clause in the interim agreement stipulating that "activities which have been conducted" in the disputed area until now may be continued pending conciliation or arbitration. That means that the large hotel and resort complex under construction on the Taba beach can be completed.

The Egyptians won a clause forbidding any "new" construction at Taba. Israeli sources said the Egyptians apparently feared that anti-withdrawal die-hards might infiltrate the Taba region during the interim or any of the 14 other points along the international boundary still disputed. Taba itself is an area of only a few kilometers and the other disputed territories are even smaller.

Another Israeli gain under the interim agreement was the omission of any target date for completion of the conciliation or arbitration process. Egypt had argued strenuously for a deadline, apparently fearing foot-dragging by Israel. But the Israelis felt a target date would create new friction. Israel is also said to prefer conciliation to arbitration. The former is not binding on the parties whereas a ruling by an arbitrator is.

REAGAN'S SOLID COMMITMENT TO CAMP DAVID PROCESS WAS A FACTOR IN PERSUADING ISRAEL TO RETURN SINAI
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 27 (JTA) -- A solid commitment by President Reagan to the Camp David peace process and the autonomy negotiations and his personal appreciation of the "sacrifices" Israel has made by returning Sinai to Egypt were a major factor in persuading the government to complete the withdrawal from Sinai last Sunday, it was disclosed here today.

The text of the letter Reagan sent to Premier Menachem Begin on April 20, while the Cabinet was deliberating over the withdrawal, was released here today. Although it contained no new commitments, the Israelis were pleased to have a reiteration of past American pledges to Israel, particularly the endorsement of the Camp David accords and the autonomy scheme from a President who had no part in negotiating those accords. Reagan stated, in his letter to Begin:

"You, President (Hosni) Mubarak (of Egypt) and I are in agreement that the Camp David framework is the only agreed plan to solve (the Palestinian) problem ... The U.S. remains committed to make its best efforts to pursue an early and successful conclusion of negotiations for full autonomy and the establishment of a self-governing authority (administrative council) for the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza, as called for in the Camp David framework."

Pledge To Support Israel's Security

Reagan's letter also contained a pledge to support the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in Sinai. "It is in the U.S. abiding security interests to ensure that the treaty of peace is rigorously applied and respected and that challenges to it from whatever quarter are met and overcome. I am committed to this end," he wrote.

The letter dwelt at length on Israel's security needs. Reagan wrote, "I am determined to see that Israel's qualitative technological edge is maintained and am mindful as well of your concerns with respect to quantitative factors and their impact upon Israel's security." He added that "It goes without saying" that all U.S.-Israeli agreements "particularly since 1973" remain valid.

Israeli sources said that reference includes military supply agreements and the 1975 Memorandum of Understanding by which the U.S. refused to have any contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization unless and until it recognized Israel's right to exist and accepted UN Security Council Resolution 242.

Finally, Reagan wrote of his "sensitivity" to the "anguish" suffered by Israel in the course of its withdrawal from Sinai. "History will show that your sacrifices have ensured the security of the State of Israel and the Jewish people," the letter said. Israeli sources believe that Deputy Secretary of State Walter Stoessel Jr. was closely involved in drafting Reagan's letter.

FEDERAL COURT VOIDS AIR FORCE YARMULKA BAN

NEW YORK, April 27 (JTA) -- A federal district court judge in Washington today voided the United States Air Force's restriction on the wearing of yarmulkas by Air Force personnel.

According to Howard Zuckerman, president of the National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), Judge Aubrey Robinson ruled that wearing a skull cap for religious reasons is a constitutionally protected right.

At issue in the ruling was the case of Captain Simcha Goldman who served at March Air Force Base in California when he brought a lawsuit against the Air Force. Goldman was permitted to wear his yarmulka while in uniform since 1977. However, in the early part of 1981 a new commanding officer at the base ordered him to remove it. Discussions with the Air Force broke down and when Goldman was threatened with disciplinary action if he continued to wear his yarmulka he went to court.

David Butler, a member of COLPA's Board of Directors and one of the attorneys who represented Goldman, said Judge Robinson found that the Air Force did not provide "reasoned and deliberate" grounds for denying Goldman the right to wear the traditional symbol of the Jewish faith.

Significance Of The Decision

Butler said that Robinson, in July 1981, had issued a preliminary injunction against the Air Force in the case pending his final decision in the matter. He said that the Air Force opposed Goldman's wearing of the yarmulka on the grounds that it would compromise the government's concern for discipline and "esprit de corps."

The Air Force also expressed concern that allowing Captain Goldman to wear his yarmulka would mean that they would have to accommodate other individuals who might have other religious dress or grooming requirements.

Butler said that not only is Robinson's decision welcome because of the fact that a basic symbol of the Jewish faith was involved but it will also require the military to justify in real terms any infringement on religious practices in general.

ARGENTINE PRESIDENT SAYS HIS ADMINISTRATION WILL PURSUE POLICY TO ELIMINATE ANTI-SEMITIC TRACTS AND APPREHEND ANTI-SEMITIC VANDALS
By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 27 (JTA) -- While blatant anti-Semitic material continues to appear on newsstands in Argentina, the ruling military junta led by President Leopoldo Galtieri has assured a delegation of representatives from the American Jewish Committee that his Administration will pursue its policy to eliminate anti-Semitic tracts and apprehend anti-Semitic vandals.

Moreover, according to Howard Friedman, chairman of the Board of Governors of the AJ Committee, who acted as the principal spokesman for the delegation at a news conference here today after having recently returned from their 15-day study mission to four South American countries, the delegation

departed with the impression from discussions with leading officials in Argentina that they are "being truthful" and "realize the image" Argentina has among United States public opinion.

The purpose of the seven-person delegation, which visited Chile, Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina, was to "renew our relationship" with the Jewish community and at the same time obtain information on conditions in these countries through discussions with government officials and representatives; Israeli and United States officials; and representatives of the Jewish community.

The general perception, Friedman said, was that the Jewish community in South America is "strong and vibrant" which possesses good schools, institutions and communal life and activities, "which could be a model in this field." He noted Uruguay as a country with a "particularly vibrant" Jewish community, young and involved in governmental affairs. But he added that there continues to be some instances of anti-Semitism in Uruguay.

Concern Over Disappeared Persons

Of particular concern to the delegation was the situation in Argentina, focusing on its record of repeated human rights violations and those persons the government has listed in the past years as "disappeared." The delegation said that upon presenting a list of 13 Jewish individuals listed in this category, the Interior Minister told them that "several" on the list were scheduled for release. According to information reaching the AJCommittee offices here today, four persons on the list presented to Argentine officials are about to be released.

Friedman said that sooner or later there will have to be an accounting done on the reported 9,000-10,000 people who have "disappeared" over the past years. But he said that according to information the delegation received, the military will not allow "a Nuremberg to occur in Argentina." He said there were "substantial numbers of Jews among" the missing persons reported in Argentina.

In discussing anti-Semitism, Friedman said it has become a "reality" in the life of Argentina's Jewish community, adding that it has also become "deeply embedded" in the military. In noting this, he pointed out that there were no Jews to speak of in the military or foreign service. He said anti-Semitism is an "endemic feature of Argentine life but it is not finding expression" on the government level.

In their discussion with President Galtieri, whom they met for an hour, Friedman said that the delegation brought to his attention that anti-Semitic material continues to be disseminated freely throughout Buenos Aires. But according to Galtieri, despite this, the Jewish community is fully secure and functions without interference from the government.

Cites Continued Failure Of Police Officials

The delegation brought to the attention of Galtieri the continued failure of the police officials to apprehend anti-Semitic vandals, particularly those responsible for the desecration of the main Jewish cemetery in Mar del Plata, Argentina's major seaside resort some 250 miles south of Buenos Aires, more than two months ago.

Friedman said the delegation pointed out that if the government would arrest and prosecute such vandals, "a message that could never be approximated by words" would be sent from the government to deter other incidents.

Because the Reagan Administration has become less vocal on the issue of human rights, a drastic turn from the previous Carter Administration, the delegation was informed by government officials in both Chile and Argentina that relations with the U.S. are improving. Friedman noted that the Chilean government officials, particularly the Foreign Minister, stressed that human rights was not the business of Washington.

Good Relations With Israel

Friedman said that the countries the delegation visited have good bilateral relations with Israel while the same could not be said when it came to multi-lateral relations. But he pointed out that there was expressions of sympathy and support for Israel. He said the four South American countries did not appear to have a desire at the moment to establish an office for the Palestine Liberation Organization. But he said there was an effective PLO "functionary" operating out of the Syrian Embassy in Brazil.

The AJCommittee mission members, in addition to Friedman, were: Maynard Wishner, president, who led the delegation during its South American tour; Theodore Ellenoff, chairman of the national executive council; Philip Hoffman, honorary president; Bertram Gold, executive vice president; Rita Hauser, chairperson of the foreign affairs committee; and Jacobo Kovadloff, director of South American affairs.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN GUATEMALA

MEXICO CITY, April 27 (JTA) — The appearance of two anti-Semitic articles in the Guatemalan press in the wake of the military coup led by Gen. Efraim Rios Montt last March 23 has deeply disturbed Guatemala's small Jewish community, according to reports by the American Jewish Committee's office here for Mexico and Central America.

One article, titled "The Greatest Coalition in History" and circulated by "Servi-Prensa," a Guatemalan news service, charges that Jews constantly have tried to introduce vile and immoral currents of thought and action among non-Jews. This news service is used by papers in neighboring El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua as well as in Guatemala itself.

Another article, headlined "The Jewish Hebrew People," alleges that "... Whoever has read one of the different editions of the books of 'The Protocols of the Elders of Zion' will know the truth, the reality (of) ... the international Jew; and who and what is the direct author of the world's evil" The Protocols is a well-known 19th century anti-Semitic tract, a forgery of the Czarist police.

The appearance of anti-Semitic articles comes at a peak of Guatemala's political unrest and confusion following the March coup, whose direction is still unclear. Many believe these articles are the work of extreme rightwing elements in the country, seeking to exploit domestic turmoil to promote hatred of Jews.

Over the past few years, Guatemala's Jewish community of almost 2,000 had already been shaken by the kidnappings, murders, and other acts of violence that brought the country to the brink of war before the surprise coup earlier. Thus, almost two years ago a well-known member of the Jewish community, Alberto Habie Mishaan, was murdered by a group of armed men waiting outside his factory in Guatemala City. All Jewish institutional activity has decreased significantly, and the Jewish school of the community has been closed. There is no rabbi.

CONSERVATIVE RABBIS URGED TO MOBILIZE AGAINST MORAL MAJORITY

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., April 27 (JTA) — Rabbi Seymour Cohen, the outgoing president of the Rabbinical Assembly, criticized organizations within the Conservative branch of Judaism for failing to deal with a broad range of social action issues. He also urged Conservative rabbis to mobilize in opposition to the Moral Majority and particularly, Sen. Jesse Helms (R. NC), who he charged was trying to undermine the authority of the Supreme Court on such issues as bus-ing, abortion and public school prayer.

Cohen, of Anshe Emet Synagogue in Chicago, speaking at the 82nd annual convention of the Conservative rabbinical group, declared that the 1,200 Conservative rabbis it represents in the U.S. and abroad, must "arouse the conscience of our people and others to fight these groups who are threatening the power of the highest judicial authority in our nation."

He noted in that connection that Helms and his colleagues and the Moral Majority among others were trying to "limit the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court by taking cases relating to these issues out of their hands and putting them in the state courts where more favorable decisions, from their point of view, would be attained."

Failing that, Helms and these groups are seeking a Constitutional amendment. "They are prepared to follow a variety of tactics to achieve their goals even if they change the Constitution without amending it," he said.

Cohen also took issue with affiliates in the Conservative movement who, he said "have been too quiet on the entire question of social action. The budgets we allocate for social action are extremely small," he said. "We do so because too many of our Jews do not wish to get involved... We are zealous in dealing with such problems as Israel and Soviet Jews, but in the main we have been basically quiescent on other matters," he said.

Goodman Elected Rabbinical Assembly President

Rabbi Arnold Goodman, of Adath Jeshurun Congregation, Minneapolis, was elected president of the Rabbinical Assembly, succeeding Cohen. A nationally known educator, author and authority on constitutional law, Goodman holds a law degree from DePaul University, in addition to his ordination in 1952 from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In 1972, during a sabbatical year in Israel, he qualified as a member of the Israel Bar Association.

For the past 15 years, Goodman has been a lecturer on Jewish Studies at the College of St. Catherine for Women in St. Paul. His articles defining various phases of constitutional law as applied to Jewish concerns regarding such themes as church and state, abortion or medical ethics all over the country. He writes a regular column for the Clarion, a Minneapolis weekly, and writes regularly for various local and national publications.

RABBI SAYS REAGAN'S POLICIES VIOLATE JEWISH VALUES

GROSSINGER, N.Y., April 25 (JTA) — The Reagan Administration's domestic and foreign policies are an attempt to "turn the clock back" to the days portrayed by the late John Wayne and his Western movies, but they are con-

trary to American and Jewish values of mutual aid and compassion, the American Jewish Congress was told.

Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld of Cleveland, a former president of AJCongress told more than 300 delegates to the organization's national biennial convention here that current White House policies were characterized by "rugged selfishness" and "meanness." He called the approach "antithetical to our founding vision and our basic Jewish values."

In a sweeping criticism of the Administration, Lelyveld charged in a convention keynote address that the President's program sought to "gut" the civil rights program, "pillage" natural resources and "subvert" existing environmental agencies by staffing them with appointees whose goal has been to oppose the principles and purposes of the agencies they head.

Says Foreign Policy Is Amoral Pragmatism

He also said the Administration was "chipping away" at the wall of separation between church and state through such proposals as the tuition tax credit to benefit private and parochial schools. Lelyveld continued:

"America is bold too in the amoral pragmatism of its foreign policy. Designed to protect the interests of great corporations, it is a policy that offers assistance to nations blatantly violating the human rights we pretend to cherish...."

"How else explain our confused and ineffective role in El Salvador? What are the motivations for ignoring Argentina's torture, repression and innumerable 'disappearances' as we prepared to certify Argentina's eligibility on human rights grounds to receive United States arms sales -- a policy that has borne bitter fruit in the current crisis over the Falkland Islands?"

The theme of this year's AJCongress convention is, "What Kind of America Do We Want?" In his address, Lelyveld called on the organization to continue to fight for policies under which "human life will be a supreme value, in which respect for the individual will not be smothered in unfeeling bureaucratic structure, but in which the beckoning openness of an upward-moving society will be preserved and the enriching distinctiveness of diversity will be encouraged."

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO DIED IN ISRAEL'S WARS By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 27 (JTA) — More than 600 people attended last night a memorial service for the men and women who fell in Israel's wars. The "Yom Hazikaron Memorial," which is marked every year on the eve of Independence Day, was held in Town Hall and was organized by the Consulate General of Israel in New York, on the occasion of Israel's 34th anniversary.

Naphtali Lavie, Israel's Consul General, told the gathering: "Tonight we commemorate the thousands of young men and women who gave their lives for our independence and for our existence, as a free people in its own ancient land. Nearly 12,000 young men and women were lost during the wars that Israel's neighbors launched against her -- more than 6,000 of them on the Egyptian front."

Lavie underscored the great sacrifice Israel made to achieve peace with Egypt. He declared: "Let us hope that the rest of the Arab countries surrounding Israel will follow the example set by Egypt and join with Israel in searching for a peaceful solution of coexistence."