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ISRAEL MARKS 34th ANNIVERSARY

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, April 28 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin called on the Israeli public to observe the Biblical injunction to "rejoice on the festival" marking the 34th anniversary of Israel's independence. In his Independence Day speech, broadcast last night, he said that Israel was stronger "and more entrenched in its homeland" than at any time since the days of the Maccabees.

With the hand-over of Sinai to full Egyptian control last Sunday still fresh in mind, Begin noted that Israel withdrew from Sinai "not as a defeated nation but as a victorious nation, of our own volition."

He said that Israel, which has lost 15,000 dead and suffered 30,000 disabled in its five wars needed and deserved a respite from war. There were "grounds for hope," he said; that the peace treaty with Egypt would bring "forty years of rest to the land," to quote the Biblical phrase. "Or perhaps 80 years," Begin added.

Theme Of This Year's Celebration

Israel's 34th Independence Day began last night at the termination of the traditional Day of Remembrance for the nation's fallen soldiers. There was the traditional torchlight parade and ceremony on Mt. Herzl. The theme of this year's independence celebration is 100 years of Jewish settlement, beginning with the Bilu movement in 1882 to present day Israel.

Today, 11 new Nahal (paramilitary) outpost settlements were established in various parts of the country. The number 11 was chosen, it is believed, to commemorate the 11 settlements established in the Negev during one night in 1946 in defiance of the British Mandatory administration in Palestine.

Whatever the theme, it was the state of the weather that concerned most Israelis and, as the early morning cool gave way to sunny warmth, tens of thousands of picnickers took to the beaches and Jewish National Fund forests. Long before noon there were no parking spaces vacant at the most popular holiday spots. The army opened several military camps to the public as did a number of military and aviation industry plants.

Security precautions were evident throughout the country. Police repeatedly warned the public to be alert for suspicious-looking parcels or individuals, noting that terrorists were likely to be active wherever crowds gather. But there were no incidents in Israel to mar this Independence Day.

Nation's Mood Is Low Keyed

Nevertheless, veteran observers detected a national mood that was sadder and more low key than on previous Independence Days. The trauma of pulling out of Sinai only three days before, the spectacle of Israeli troops dragging kicking, screaming die-hards out of Yamit and the systematic demolition of that town by army bulldozers after the evacuation stunned many Israelis who watched those events on television.

In fact, the month preceding the Sinai pull-out was a sour one for Israelis, containing as it did prolonged and violent disturbances on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the stubborn resistance to Israeli rule by Druze in the Golan Heights, and the shooting spree on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem by an American-born Israeli soldier which, rightly or wrongly, tarnished Israel's image abroad as a protector of Islamic holy places.

Unrest continued on the West Bank and Gaza Strip today. Four Israeli soldiers were injured by stone-throwing Arab youths in the Jebeliya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. The soldiers opened fire, wounding four Arab youths. Rioters and soldiers battled in several West Bank towns. Five Arab youths were wounded in a clash with Israeli troops in Nablus.

TWO FRIENDS OF ISRAEL ELECTED TO TOP LEADERSHIP POSTS IN WEST GERMANY'S RULING PARTY

By David Kantor

BONN, April 28 (JTA) -- Two proven friends of Israel were elected to top leadership posts in the ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD) at its national convention in Munich. Johannes Rau, Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, the most populous state within the Federal Republic, was elected party vice chairman by a large majority of the 400 delegates.

Hans Jochen Vogel, leader of the opposition in the West Berlin parliament, was elected to the SPD's Central Committee, the most important political body within the party. Both Rau and Vogel have consistently demonstrated displeasure with the Bonn government's pro-Arab policies. Last year, Rau demonstratively visited Israel at a time the press was reporting Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's refusal to do so despite an invitation of seven years' standing.

Vogel, as a former Minister of Justice, has made important contributions to a much debated government initiative to tighten the laws against neo-Nazi activity. According to press reports, Vogel would be the most likely candidate for Chancellor if and when Schmidt resigns, and Rau is expected to succeed Willy Brandt as chairman of the SPD. Their ascent to leadership probably would open new perspectives for German-Israeli relations.

But the consensus among political observers here is that the SPD has little chance to stay in power much longer and a change of government may come about even before October, 1984 when its term of office expires.

CLASH ON WEST BANK BETWEEN PEACE NOW MOVEMENT MEMBERS AND SOLDIERS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 28 (JTA) -- Soldiers used teargas today in an effort to prevent members of the Peace Now movement to reach a new Nahal (paramilitary) outpost on the West Bank dedicated by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon.

Although most of the Peace Now demonstrators, accompanied by local and foreign journalists, were

held up by police roadblocks, some managed to get through to Telem, in the Hebron Hills, where they disrupted Sharon's speech.

To prevent the demonstration, the army declared the area of the new Nahal settlement a closed area and the police set up roadblocks on the cross-Judea road leading to it. While some were held up near Hebron others left the road and began walking around the roadblock. The army used teargas to disperse them.

Some got through to Telem where they heckled Sharon during his speech. Fist fights broke out between the Peace Now demonstrators and the largely Gush Emunim supporters of the new settlement, one of 11 to be dedicated in the coming days.

In his speech, Sharon said the time had come for renewed national unity around the "true banner of Zionism -- settlement." He said there was no connection between the evacuation of Sinai and new settlements on the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights.

He said that Israel had made clear to the whole world that it would continue to build settlements. Israel's contention that Jews could also live in Sinai had not been accepted, and hence Israel had agreed to withdraw its settlements from there. But he added that on the West Bank, "Jews and Arabs will continue to live side by side, forever."

Peace Now circles noted that the army had not used teargas on anti-withdrawal die-hards in Yamit who had physically battled soldiers trying to remove them, beating the troops with wooden and iron bars and trying to throw them off ladders.

CARTER: ISRAEL, EGYPT COMMITTED TO CONTINUING THE PEACE PROCESS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 28 (JTA) -- Former President Jimmy Carter said that he had "no doubt" that both Israel and Egypt are committed to continuing the peace process and are ready now to "move aggressively" toward negotiating an autonomy agreement for the Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Carter, interviewed Monday night on ABC-TV's "Nightline" program from Plains, Ga., stressed that for an autonomy agreement to be achieved requires the U.S. to place "the full weight and prestige of the White House, the President and the Secretary of State" behind the effort.

The former President, who helped Israel and Egypt negotiate the Camp David agreements and their subsequent peace treaty, said he had "extensive telephone conversations" Monday with Israeli Premier Menachem Begin and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

He said both had assured him that with Israel's withdrawal from Sinai completed, they were "absolutely committed on their words of honor, backed by their own parliaments and their nations, to carry out the Camp David accords."

Carter rejected the notion that there was pessimism in Egypt and Israel last Sunday, the day Egypt regained full control of Sinai. He said both Israel and Egypt want peace; Egypt has the Sinai back and Israel can only be relieved that Egypt, without which no Arab country can make war on it, is now "friends" with Israel. But he conceded there had been sadness because of the absence of Anwar Sadat whose assassination last October "left a vacuum which could not have been possible to fill."

The return of Sinai to Egypt was the "first step and might even be the most difficult step" in

the effort to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, Carter said. He said that now the U.S., Israel and Egypt have no other "agenda" than seeking an autonomy agreement.

Carter maintained that if the three countries could come up with an acceptable formula, the Palestinians might be persuaded to accept it. He said the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinians had "made a very serious mistake" by refusing to join the talks. He also noted the PLO chief Yasir Arafat was mistaken in not accepting the U.S. conditions of recognizing Israel's right to exist and accepting UN Security Council Resolution 242.

Carter said that during his Administration he had contacts with the PLO through third parties such as Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia. He said the Camp David agreements did not bar PLO members from participating in the negotiations, either in the guise of West Bank municipal officials or as members of one of the delegations from Arab countries.

STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS RESUMPTION OF AUTONOMY TALKS DELAYED BY DISPUTE OVER THE SITE OF FUTURE TALKS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 28 (JTA) -- The State Department indicated today that the resumption of the autonomy talks is being held up by a dispute over where negotiations should be held.

"We and the governments of Israel and Egypt have emphasized our determination to move forward," on the negotiations for "full autonomy" for the Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Department spokesman Dean Fischer said. "Both the calendar and venue for the resumption of talks have been discussed and the discussions continue."

Fischer's remarks were in reply to a question about Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's statement in a radio interview yesterday that if the next session of the talks will not be held in Jerusalem, they will not be held at all. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has refused Begin's demands that when the talks are held in Israel the site be Jerusalem and not Tel Aviv as previously. Fischer would not comment on a report that the U.S. has suggested that talks resume next month in Washington.

Future Of The West Bank, Gaza

The State Department spokesman also stressed that the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be determined by negotiations as required by the Camp David accords. He said that "continued settlement activity (on the West Bank) is unhelpful to the peace process." A similar statement was made today by White House deputy press secretary Larry Speakes.

Fischer would not comment directly on the announcement that new settlements would be built on the West Bank. Nor would Speakes comment on reports that Israel considers the Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria as permanent.

These were references to Begin's reiteration Monday of what he called Israel's "paternal right" to the West Bank, to Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's statement Sunday that "We shall turn to increasing and consolidating our settlements on the Golan Heights, in Judea and Samaria and the Gaza District," as well as the announcement that 11 new Nahal settlements are to be established on the West Bank.

Fischer noted that the U.S. was helping Egypt and Israel to establish an elected self-governing authority to provide full autonomy for the people of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. However, he would not give a definition of what the U.S. considers "full autonomy," noting that "this is what the negotiations are all about."

UN RESOLUTION, ADOPTED BY 86-20 VOTE, DEMANDS INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, April 28 (JTA) -- The General Assembly adopted a resolution today declaring that Israel "is not a peace-loving member state" and demanding international sanctions against it. The vote was 86-20 with 36 abstentions. Voting in favor were the Arab countries, except Egypt which abstained, the Communist bloc and Third-World nations.

The opposition voters included the United States, whose representative branded the resolution "an ill-inspired, offensive document" that would harm the UN, and all of the Western bloc nations, except Greece which departed from its fellow European Economic Community (EEC) members, and supported the resolution.

Abstaining were most South American countries, a few African states and Japan. Among the South American abstainers were Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Panama.

Today's vote concluded the debate on the "Palestinian question" which the General Assembly had been conducting in emergency session. The harshly worded resolution was somewhat softer than an earlier proposed draft which called for a review of Israel's status in the General Assembly when it holds its next regular session in September. That call was withdrawn.

But one provision of the resolution adopted today declared that Israel "has carried out neither its obligations under the (UN) Charter nor its commitment under General Assembly Resolution 273 of 11 May, 1949." Resolution 273 was the one by which Israel was admitted to membership in the UN.

Israeli diplomats said today that by declaring that Israel did not fulfill its obligations under Resolution 273, the Arab states were preparing the ground for suspension of Israel from the General Assembly in the future.

The resolution also condemned Israel for its "repressive measures" in the occupied territories, called for the establishment of a Palestinian state and called on the entire UN membership "to renounce the policy of providing Israel with military, economic and political assistance."

Israel, Egypt Condemn Resolution

Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Yehuda Blum, speaking before the vote, characterized the resolution as a "despicable, mendacious concoction" and denounced those who would vote for it as "moral pervers." He said Israel's enemies had "hijacked" the UN and turned it into an "anti-peace organization."

The Egyptian Ambassador, Esmat Abdel Meguid, said the draft resolution did not advance the cause of the Palestinians "a single inch" as it varied little from the wording of some 300 resolutions previously adopted on the question. He said for that reason, Egypt would abstain.

Meguid added that the resolution contained certain negative and critical provisions which disrupted the delicate balance and ignored, without reason, Security Council Resolution 242 which, he said, "a valid point of departure" toward a settlement in the Middle East.

The Egyptian envoy further observed that Israel's withdrawal from Sinai marked a significant step forward in the Middle East peace process and provided a new incentive toward a just solution in the area.

William Sherman, the U.S. representative, who spoke before the vote, said that with this resolution the UN was pushed one step closer to a precipice beyond which looms "a political and moral abyss." He said the resolution was intended to intensify the struggle against Israel and not to promote peace and was therefore contrary to the purposes of the UN Charter.

Sherman noted that Israel completed its withdrawal from Sinai only a few days ago and asked: "But where in the resolution now before us is note taken of this hopeful development? On the contrary, the state that withdrew from occupied territory for the sake of peace is vilified as not a peace-loving member-state, language never used against any other member-state of the UN and intended, as we all know, to question the legitimacy of Israel's membership in this body."

The American representative added: "Can the UN prevent the further erosion of its reputation if the General Assembly abuses its authority and the Charter in pursuit of this single-minded and self-destructive vendetta against Israel?"

Sherman spoke out strongly against the clause of the resolution that condemned the U.S. for vetoing Security Council resolutions on Palestinian rights. He said that clause, aimed against the exercise by the U.S. of its constitutional prerogative of voting against resolutions which in the U.S. view could harm the cause of peace, was "profoundly and specifically hostile" to the U.S.

The entire resolution, he said, "is an ill-inspired, offensive document that will re-enforce an attitude of cynicism toward the General Assembly and thus to the UN itself among people of good will."

Blum, in his remarks before the vote, declared: "Today the people of Israel and the Jewish people around the world celebrate the 34th anniversary of the restoration of Jewish independence in our homeland after 19 centuries of persecution, exile and desperation. On their behalf, let me tell the enemies of Israel and the Jewish people that no amount of distortion, fabrication, bigotry and hallucinations in this building can undo so central a fact of the political, spiritual, cultural and religious history of the world, as the inseparable bond between the Jewish people and its land."

SENTIMENT GROWING TO CONVERT EL AL TO A PRIVATE CORPORATION

TEL AVIV, April 28 (JTA) -- Sentiment is reportedly growing in the Cabinet to convert El Al from a government-owned air carrier to a private corporation in order to avoid a clash with the Orthodox Aguda Israel party that could bring down Premier Menachem Begin's narrowly based coalition government.

The Aguda Council of Sages has demanded that Begin deliver immediately on his promise to halt El Al flights on the Sabbath and religious holidays. If he wants continued Aguda support in the Knesset. But a public committee investigating the issue found that El Al, in deep financial trouble for years, would lose an additional \$40 million a year if it didn't fly on the Sabbath. The cost to Israel's tourist industry could run as high as \$100 million, the committee found.

Although Begin personally supports the Aguda demands, a majority of Cabinet ministers could be expected to favor the status quo in face of what Transportation Minister Haim Corfu calls a "staggering loss." The Aguda has threatened to order its Orthodox constituents to boycott El Al if it continues Sabbath flights.

Some ministers reportedly feel the only way out of the impasse is to put the airline into private hands.

ABC-TV PROGRAM ON ISRAEL IS RAPPED AS BIASED AND DEFAMATORY

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, April 28 (JTA) -- Two representatives of leading American Jewish organizations have rapped as "biased" and "defamatory" the recently broadcast one-hour ABC-TV News closeup, "Fortress Israel," which purported to show what effect Israel's policies in the occupied territories coupled with the increased militarization of the Jewish State has had on Israeli citizens.

In a letter to ABC-TV News president, Rooney Arledge, Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, said the program aired April 21 failed to "demonstrate the fact that Israel's ideals of human rights, cultural and spiritual revitalization and political and economic determination are a living reality despite her struggle for existence."

Mrs. Jacobson said that she and "many other viewers will turn to other channels" for a more balanced news coverage. "I cannot imagine that your advertisers can be happy at the fact that it has become impossible for so many of their prospective consumers to continue to watch ABC-TV" and in "their ... outrage at your blatant anti-Israel bias, will turn away from their products in protest," Mrs. Jacobson wrote.

At the same time, Phil Baum, associate executive director of the American Jewish Congress, charged that ABC-News, in presenting "another defamatory show on Israel," has "put forward the thesis that Israel's policy toward the West Bank consists of nothing but expansionism and brutal repression of its Palestinians Arab inhabitants and that this policy threatens to consume Israel's 'very meaning as a nation'."

Additional Shortcomings Cited

In a statement released here, Baum said that ABC failed to mention Israel's policy to grant autonomy to the West Bank Palestinians under the provisions of the Camp David accords; that the "driving" force behind the recent unrest in the occupied areas is the Palestine Liberation Organization; and that Israel's withdrawal from Sinai was presented in "negative terms."

Furthermore, Baum charged that the Zionist movement's struggle to create a Jewish State was reduced in the documentary "to a seemingly neurotic response to the Holocaust." While Israel is at peace with Egypt and the Jewish State "remains a colorful and attractive country," Baum pointed out, Israel "is shown only as a somber fortress bristling with deadly weapons and surrounded by barbed wire."

This is the second time in two months that members of the Jewish community have criticized an ABC-News presentation on the conflict in the Mideast. Last February, a 16-minute documentary, "Under the Israel Thumb," telecast as part of the ABC-TV News magazine, "20/20" program, which presented Israel as a relentless occupier of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, was similarly denounced by American Jewish leaders and by the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem for its "unbalanced presentation."

REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN N.Y.C. HOLD NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT CONFAB

NEW YORK, April 28 (JTA) -- The first Jewish religious conference in the city on nuclear disarmament and "the threat of nuclear war" was

attended by some 600 people. It was sponsored by 10 Reform Jewish congregations of New York.

Rabbi Balfour Brickner, senior rabbi of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, where the conference was held last Sunday, declared that the participation of the 10 Reform congregations in the meeting "clearly demonstrates that organized religious Jewry cannot and will not remain silent in the shadow of the nuclear menace."

Brickner, who played a leading role in convening the conference, added that "this historic religious gathering reflects the anger and fear of the people of New York as they see our so-called national leaders rearming us to Armageddon."

The Unthinkable Can Happen

Rabbi Leonard Beerman, spiritual leader of the Leo Baeck Temple of Los Angeles, who was the keynote speaker, said that the Jewish people "out of its own historic experience knows that the unthinkable can happen. The destruction of European Jewry by the Nazis provides a model for destroying the human race. That is why we Jews have a unique duty to warn that this planet can be transformed into a crematorium and why we must be among those engaged in the quest for peace."

Beerman stressed that "the greatest Jewish problem in the world today, and the greatest moral, religious, ethical, theological, political and economic problem is the threat of nuclear war."

Judith Hertz, a Central Synagogue lay leader and a board member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, told a workshop dealing with "Organizing the Jewish Community" that "if we don't achieve a commitment for a nuclear freeze, all our other achievements, goals, purposes and projects for sustaining life will be for naught. Everything that we are working for will be for naught."

SWEDISH LABOR PARTY CANCELS INVITE TO PERES TO ATTEND MAY-DAY FETE

TEL AVIV, April 28 (JTA) -- Israel's Labor Party has expressed surprise and shock at the Swedish Labor Party's action in cancelling its invitation to Shimon Peres to attend May Day observances in Stockholm this year. Peres has sent a cable to Swedish Social Democratic leader Olaf Palme protesting the cancellation.

The Swedes said the cancellation was due to differences within their party on recent Israeli actions, especially Premier Menachem Begin's extension of Israeli law to the Golan Heights. Another reason given was the possible danger of reactions by anti-Israel Nicaraguans and Palestine Liberation Organization delegates who have also been invited to the Swedish May Day celebrations.

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- Shmuel Eisenstadt, professor of sociology at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and visiting professor at Harvard University, is one of 12 scientists elected as a foreign associate of the National Academy of Sciences, it was announced here.

JOHANNESBURG (JTA) -- Statistics released by the South African Board of Jewish Education showed that there are 8,568 pupils enrolled in 342 classes in 18 day schools throughout the country. They are being taught by 160 Hebrew teachers and 505 teachers for secular studies.