

ISRAEL'S BUS LINE INAUGURATES SERVICE TO CAIRO VIA NORTH SINAI

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 29 (JTA) — Egged, Israel's inter-city bus line, inaugurated non-stop service to Cairo today, a 10-hour trip via northern Sinai interrupted only by a brief ferry crossing of the Suez Canal at Kantara.

Modern air conditioned buses equipped with toilet facilities and a refreshment bar will leave the Tel Aviv central bus terminal at 7:30 a.m. daily. An Egyptian bus will leave Cairo at the same time each day for Tel Aviv. The buses cross the Israel-Sinai border at Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. That border cross point and one at Nitzana were opened after some delay that followed Israel's withdrawal from Sinai last Sunday.

This evening, the first Egyptian bus ever to enter Israel arrived at the Tel Aviv bus terminal from Cairo. It discharged eight passengers, all Israelis returning from Egypt. There were no Egyptian passengers aboard.

Taba Border Crossing Opened

Meanwhile, the border crossing at Taba, near Eilat, was finally opened for vehicular traffic this afternoon and the first Israeli cars to cross the line since Egypt regained full control of Sinai last Sunday, made their way south to Sharm el-Sheikh and other beach resorts. Until today, the Taba crossing had been open for pedestrians only because Egyptian officials had not received full instructions from Cairo on compulsory auto insurance requirements.

The Taba crossing point is temporary. Its permanent location will be determined by negotiations between Israel and Egypt over a disputed beach area about one kilometer long.

Both countries signed an interim agreement this week to submit the dispute to "conciliation... or arbitration" as provided for under Article 7 of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. The Israeli Foreign Ministry was embarrassed today when it found that the hastily drawn map of Sinai which it issued with a background information paper placed Taba on the Egyptian side of the Sinai border. Ministry officials attributed the gaffe to "human error." The map was prepared by the Carta Map Co. of Jerusalem.

HIAS ENDS AGREEMENT WITH JEWISH AGENCY ON HELPING NOSHRIM

NEW YORK, April 29 (JTA) — HIAS has decided to end its experimental three-month agreement with the Jewish Agency to refrain from aiding Soviet Jewish dropouts unless they have first degree relatives in a Western country.

Leonard Seidenman, executive vice president of HIAS, responding to questions from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency about this development, said that the board of HIAS decided Monday night to accept the recommendation of its executive committee to "return to the traditional policy" of aiding all Soviet Jews who upon arriving in Vienna opt to go to countries other than Israel.

Seidenman said the view of the board and the executive committee was that the agreement which went into effect January 1 was an experiment "that

did not succeed in its objective, increased aliya to Israel." He emphasized that there was no feeling among board members of being vindicated or of being elated over the fact that their prediction, that the experiment would not succeed, had been confirmed in practice.

He added that the board asked the executive committee to try to find alternatives to achieve greater aliya to Israel and would accept any new plan that would help achieve that goal.

Background Of The Agreement

The agreement reached last year between the Jewish Agency and HIAS after marathon talks in Jerusalem on the question of aid to Soviet Jews who opt to settle in a Western country, was understood to be an interim one. Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, who was the moving spirit behind the new arrangement, had long held the view that there was a sharp dropout rate among Soviet Jews who reached Vienna from the USSR because of aid being offered by HIAS to help them resettle in the West.

HIAS officials consistently denied this, noting that under a long-standing agreement with the Agency, Soviet Jewish refugees have been met by Agency officials in Vienna and urged to continue on to Israel. If they decline, the Agency refers them to HIAS, which provides assistance to help them emigrate to lands other than Israel.

Shortly before the agreement was reached last year, Dulzin announced that the Agency would no longer give HIAS the names of Soviet Jews in Vienna who decided not to continue on to Israel. Dulzin said he hoped that the new agreement reached with HIAS would cause a sharp decline in the number of dropouts and expressed his belief that the rising dropout rate was the chief cause for the sharp reduction in the number of exit visas issued by Soviet authorities.

A resolution adopted by the HIAS executive committee several days before it worked out the interim agreement with the Jewish Agency last year stated that it "fully understands and appreciates the motivation of the Jewish Agency's efforts to increase emigration to Israel. HIAS as a world organization shares these endeavors and recognizes its responsibility to help achieve such a goal."

The resolution added, however, that HIAS "is not prepared to refuse its services to Soviet Jewish emigrants who have not been specifically referred by the Jewish Agency." It added: "The HIAS tradition is to serve every Jewish refugee in need, anywhere in the world, with compassion and understanding."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES EXPECTATIONS AND REALITIES

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 29 (JTA) — The general lack of celebration over Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai Sunday, which marked the last step in the implementation of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, was evidence that the high expectations of three years ago were still far from realization.

Israel's other Arab neighbors had not joined the peace process and Israel and Egypt are still deadlocked over the next stage of the Camp David accords -- autonomy for the Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Adding to this gloom is the concern by Israel's friends in the United States that the government of Premier Menachem Begin is not being given enough credit for what it has given up in the pursuit of peace. The focus for the last several months has been on whether Israel would return the Sinai as scheduled, a commitment Begin maintained throughout he would keep.

Forgotten in all this was that for peace Israel gave up the Sinai oil fields, the source of 80 percent of its oil requirements. Supporters of Israel have been asking this week if anyone knew of any other country that had willingly given up its oil source in recent years.

Tangibles And Intangibles

Nor has much mention been made of Israel's abandonment of two modern air bases in the Sinai or that, by leaving the Sinai, Israel gave up defensive depth which could cost the Jewish State greatly in lives if Egypt ever abandoned the peace treaty.

For these tangible moves, Israel gets the intangible asset of peace with Egypt, a peace which will be tested in the coming months as President Hosni Mubarak seeks to improve Egypt's relations with its fellow Arab states. Mubarak has pledged to keep his commitments to Israel, but will the U.S. retaliate if he doesn't?

At the same time, the peace established by Begin and the late President Anwar Sadat, with the assistance of former President Carter, is still a major achievement which is continuously belittled by some segments of the media and even some people in the U.S. government.

These are the same people who call for pressure on Israel to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza instead of demanding that the U.S. put pressure on its "moderate" Arab friends to join the Camp David process, a process which both Carter and President Reagan stress as the only means of achieving peace in the Middle East.

What Israel's friends would like to see was put succinctly at a rally here last week by Howard Squadron, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "Give Israel credit for what it does do and stop blaming Israel for what it does not do," Squadron demanded.

The Administration's Responses

But the Administration's first response may be to reward the Arab countries with arms sales as it did last year when it agreed to sell AWACS and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia. Despite the Administration's denials that it has decided whether or not to sell Jordan the F-16 jets and Hawk mobile missiles it wants, there is a strong belief here that some type of arms sale to Jordan will be recommended, probably after the November general elections.

There is also a belief in Washington that the Administration feels now is the time to wean Syria and Iraq away from the Soviet camp. The first steps in this move was the removal of Iraq from the list of countries which support terrorism and the decision to allow the sale of civilian planes to Syria and South Yemen even though they are still on the terrorism list. In addition,

the Administration is expected to sell six cargo planes to Iraq, a sale that will have strong opposition in Congress.

Another move expected now is the revival of the so-called "peace plan" proposed by Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia as an alternative to the Camp David process. The Administration, despite its avowed commitment to the Camp David process, is expected to give the Saudis encouragement as they did last November.

The Chief Question

But the chief question now revolves around the autonomy talks. The Reagan Administration has pledged to "move swiftly" in helping Israel and Egypt agree on a plan to provide autonomy for the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has been occupied with the Falklands crisis but his special assistant for the autonomy talks, Richard Fairbanks, has been familiarizing himself with the issues and has reportedly been working on a set of ideas to offer Israel and Egypt.

Begin said in a NBC-TV interview last Sunday that if Israel finds the U.S. proposals "good and proper we shall then accept them. If we do not find them good and proper we will reject them."

The basic question is whether the U.S. will use undue pressure in an attempt to force Israel to accept unpalatable proposals. Although there are still many differences between Israel and Egypt, including Egypt's refusal to hold some sessions of the negotiations in Jerusalem, there are two main differences that have to be breached.

Israel wants the self-governing administrative council which will provide autonomy to have only administrative functions and be limited to 14 members. Egypt, which envisions autonomy as the first step to a Palestinian state, wants it to have legislative and judicial powers and to have at least 30 members.

Another Major Dispute

The other major dispute is over whether the residents of East Jerusalem should vote for the self-governing authority. Egypt demands that they be allowed to do so; Israel, which fears that this would be a challenge to its sovereignty over all of Jerusalem, does not want to allow the Arabs there to vote.

All this means that the months and years ahead in the Middle East will continue to be full of tension. It is too often forgotten that even if autonomy is agreed upon, it is not the end of the story. The Camp David agreements provide for the other Arab nations and the Palestinians to join the process. But so far they have refused.

Autonomy itself is only an interim process. For after five years the final status of the West Bank and Gaza will be decided. Negotiations for this, under the Camp David agreements, must start within three years of the establishment of the self-governing authority.

The success of this process and perhaps the future of the region and the world depends on how the U.S. acts on these issues. The Reagan Administration has pledged to continue as a "full partner" with Israel and Egypt, but to do so it must pay closer attention to the effort than it has up to now.

VIOLENCE ON THE WEST BANK

TEL AVIV, April 29 (JTA) -- Two Arab youths were killed and five were wounded when Israeli soldiers opened fire to quell riots in the Hebron and Nablus regions of the West Bank today. An army officer and two other Israelis were injured in stone-

throwing melees and several army and civilian vehicles were damaged. The outbreaks have been almost continuous during the past few days, following a by now familiar pattern:

Young Arabs block traffic on main roads with stone barricades and piles of burning tires. When they refuse orders to disperse, Israeli troops fire tear gas, then shoot into the air and finally fire rubber bullets. When these fail to break up the disturbances, live bullets are shot, aimed at the legs of the rioters. In today's incidents, the demonstrators did not disperse until two of their number fell dead from gunfire.

CONCERN OVER WEST BANK SITUATION

WASHINGTON, April 29 (JTA) -- The State Department expressed concern today about increased tensions on the West Bank and "the use of potential lethal force against demonstrators."

Department spokesman Dean Fischer, in response to a question, said the Department had seen press reports about the demonstrations on the West Bank. "We are concerned about the heightened level of tensions and the use of potential lethal force against demonstrators," he said reading from a prepared statement.

"We deeply regret the tragic loss of life," Fischer continued in an apparent reference to the reported deaths of two West Bank residents. "We strongly urge all concerned to exert their best effort to restore calm and to avoid further violence by bloodshed."

In another matter, Fischer refused to comment on reports that Israel had been poised to move its troops into Lebanon twice last week but had been dissuaded by the Reagan Administration not to do so, one time 30 minutes before the Israeli troops were ready to move.

KIRKPATRICK: NO ALTERNATIVE TO THE CAMP DAVID PEACE PROCESS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 29 (JTA) -- Jeane Kirkpatrick, the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, declared today that she believes that the Camp David peace process is the only basis for achieving a comprehensive peace in the Mideast and that it has "no alternative." She asserted that efforts at the UN to undermine the Camp David peace process are not likely to succeed.

Speaking at a luncheon at the Sheraton Centre Hotel, sponsored by the American Red Magen David for Israel (ARMDI), Kirkpatrick, who, together with Eliezer Shostak, Israel's Minister of Health, received the 1982 ARMDI International Humanitarian Award, said that the conjunction of Israel's 34th anniversary and Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai is very important "in symbolizing Israel's commitment to peace."

Noting that Israel's return of the Sinai to Egypt was "the biggest voluntary return of land in the Mideast," Kirkpatrick said the return refutes all arguments and accusations that Israel is "inflexible" and unwilling to make sacrifices for peace.

Charging that the amount of slander and hate expressed at the UN against Israel is "mind boggling," Kirkpatrick said that yesterday's anti-Israeli resolution adopted by the General Assembly was "outrageous." She said that the resolution's declaration that Israel is "not a peace-loving member state" was laying the ground for efforts to expel Israel from the world organization, and another chapter in the Arabs' drive to delegitimize Israel.

Kirkpatrick pledged to the more than 1,000 members and leaders of ARMDI present at the luncheon that the United States will continue its effort to achieve "full recognition for Magen David Adom by the International Red Cross."

Shostak, a member of the Knesset for 30 years, and a leader in the expansion of the services of Magen David Adom, said: "My country is passing through difficult days. We do not know a moment of rest. But I promise you that, whatever the obstacles, we shall not be deflected from our chosen path. For every act of destruction inflicted upon us we shall respond with deeds of construction. We shall answer jealousy and hatred with an outstretched hand of friendship, goodwill and peace. We believe in peace with all our hearts and we shall pursue it everlastingly."

CONVICTION OF MINISTER STIRS ANGER

JERUSALEM, April 29 (JTA) -- The conviction of Aharon Abu-Hatzeira on charges of larceny, fraud and breach of trust, for which he received suspended sentences by a Tel Aviv district court last Friday, has triggered angry repercussions here. Interior Minister Yosef Burg responded sharply to attacks on his ministry by leaders of Tami, the three-man Knesset faction headed by Abu-Hatzeira.

President Yitzhak Navon strongly admonished some of Abu-Hatzeira's supporters who contended that the conviction was a slur by the "Ashkenazic establishment" against Israel's Sephardic community.

Abu-Hatzeira, who resigned as Minister of Labor, Welfare and Absorption after his conviction, was given suspended sentences of 30 months, 18 months and three months on the three counts, and fined 3500 Shekels (about \$170). He is appealing his sentence and intends to hold on to his Knesset seat pending a ruling by the Supreme Court.

His former aide and co-defendant, Moshe Gabai, convicted on the same counts, received a 12-month suspended sentence and was fined 500 Shekels (about \$25). Both men had faced penalties of up to seven years imprisonment.

Judge Victoria Ostrovsky-Cohen justified the suspended sentences on grounds that both defendants had already suffered from the publicity attending their case. Abu-Hatzeira's supporters took this as a victory for the Moroccan-born minister and carried him from the courthouse on their shoulders.

Navon, who is himself of Sephardic origin, condemned the defamatory slogans scrawled on the courthouse building and on walls around Tel Aviv denouncing the judge and the "Ashkenazic establishment." He said these manifestations "must abhor and shock every citizen of Israel." Navon blamed the Tami leadership directly for the vandalism and declared, "Without regard for political party or ethnic origin, we must all decry this phenomenon."

The charges on which Abu-Hatzeira was convicted stemmed from his administration of a State-supported charitable fund when he was Mayor of Ramle seven years ago. Abu-Hatzeira has been at odds with Burg's National Religious Party since he defected from the NRP last year and formed Tami to participate in the 1981 Knesset elections.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY SETS UP CENTER TO STUDY ANTI-SEMITISM

JERUSALEM, April 29 (JTA) -- The Hebrew University has set up a "Center of the Study of Anti-Semitism." The center which will be chaired by Holocaust scholar Prof. Yehuda Bauer will be directed by Shmuel Almog, longtime director general of the Israel Broadcasting Authority.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

NEW YORK, April 29 (JTA) -- The 34th anniversary of Israel's independence was celebrated at festive gatherings in the United States, Canada and overseas. Diplomats from many countries mingled with their Israeli counterparts, local civic leaders, prominent American Jews and other friends of Israel to honor the achievements of the Jewish State since its founding a generation ago and to wish it a peaceful, prosperous future.

Israel's progress in the fields of science, education, agriculture, arts and letters were underscored by Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, who delivered the keynote address at the American Zionist Federation (AZF) assembly for Israel's independence attended by some 700 people at Town Hall here.

Although Blum's speech stressed the positive, the Israeli envoy could not ignore what he referred to sardonically as the "birthday present" given Israel by the United Nations General Assembly yesterday.

This was the resolution, strongly opposed by the United States and virtually all Western nations, which declared Israel to be "not a peace-loving" nation. The people of Israel have "given ample evidence of its love for peace in recent days," Blum said, noting Israel's "supreme sacrifices for peace" by withdrawing from Sinai last Sunday.

Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the AZF, called on American Jews to stand firm behind Israel. He warned against self-doubts among American Jews concerning Premier Menachem Begin's policies. "The only Jews who are frightened by Begin are frightened Jews," he declared, to the applause of the audience.

A Glittering Array Of Diplomats

At the United Nations itself, a glittering array of diplomats, celebrities and local dignitaries were among the more than 1000 guests attending an Israel Independence Day reception sponsored by Ambassador Blum and Israel Consul General Naphtali Lavie. The guests included UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Egyptian Ambassador Esmat Abdel Meguid and Mayor Edward Koch of New York.

The U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Jeane Kirkpatrick, was among the several hundred guests attending an Israel Independence Day celebration at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, hosted by Ambassador Moshe Arens and his wife, Muriel Arens. For the envoy, who took his post last January, it was the first Independence Day reception in Washington.

The guests included Nicholas Veliotis, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs; his deputy, Morris Draper; Richard Fairbanks, Secretary of State Alexander Haig's personal representative to the autonomy talks, and other Reagan Administration officials.

More than 1,000 people attended an Israel Independence and Remembrance Day celebration in Montreal, held under the auspices of the Canadian Zionist Federation. CZF chairman David Azrieli observed that "the creation of the State of Israel was made possible by the sacrifice of six million Jewish martyrs and of many thousands of Israeli soldiers who died in Israel's wars."

Yitzhak Meir, the Israeli Consul General, brought greetings from Jerusalem which stressed the tremendous efforts made by the Israeli people

to achieve a better life under the banner of peace.

In Paris, the French government conveyed its warmest greetings to Israel on its 34th anniversary. Three senior Cabinet ministers and dozens of lesser rank diplomats attended a celebration at the Israel Embassy. The guests included Justice Minister Robert Badinter, Defense Minister Charles Herbaut and Welfare and Social Security Minister Nicole Questiaux.

ISRAELI UNIONS PLAN TO STRIKE

TEL AVIV, April 29 (JTA) -- The 13-largest trade unions in the country have given two weeks' notice of a planned strike which, if effected, will paralyze the country.

The workers, supported by the Histadrut, are protesting government and employers decisions to cancel, as from this month, payment of an extra five percent wage to compensate for the gap between cost of living allowance payments and the increase in the cost of living index itself. C.O.L. payments are pegged at between 70 and 80 percent of the index increase.

The Finance Minister claims that the five percent payment was a one-time payment. The Histadrut claims that it should have been a continuing monthly payment. Under Israel's labor laws, unions must give 14 days' notice of planned strikes.

APPEAL TO THE POLISH GOVERNMENT

NEW YORK, April 28 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has asked the Polish government to release an historian on the staff of the Catholic University of Lublin who is being held without charges by martial law authorities.

Rabbi Ronald Sobel, chairman of the ADL's national program committee and senior rabbi of New York's Temple Emanu-El, said the imprisonment of Prof. Wladyslaw Bartoszewski violates basic civil and human rights. In a letter to Zdzislaw Ludwiczak, Charge d'Affaires of the Polish Embassy in Washington, Sobel added:

"We are asking you and through you the Polish government for the immediate release of Dr. Wladyslaw Bartoszewski and his freedom to choose a place to live and work. Our request is shared by millions of American Jews and Catholics concerned over his future. We look forward to immediate and positive action regarding his case."

Sobel observed in his letter that Bartoszewski participated in the war against the Nazi invaders and Nazism, before and during World War II. He assisted the Jewish community in Warsaw in the ghetto uprising and afterwards. He was the co-founder and leader of the Council for Aid to Jews from 1942 to 1944 and in his work and declarations stressed the urgent need for a closer Polish-Jewish relationship as the foundation of the moral reconstruction of Poland.

Continuing, Sobel wrote: "As professor of Polish history at the Catholic University of Lublin he shared his vast knowledge and his belief in the importance of a new Catholic-Jewish relationship as an example of Polish responsibility and commitment. His book, 'The Samaritans: Heroes of the Holocaust' ... expressed the hope for a renewed dialogue between the two communities. In 1963 the Israeli government presented him with the 'Righteous Among Nations' award and decorated him again in 1966."

LONDON (JTA) -- The Jon Roseman Television Company here is planning a TV documentary on the history of Yiddish cinema.