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U.S. CONFIDENT AUTONOMY TALKS DISPUTES WILL SOON BE RESOLVED

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) -- The State Department declared today that it was "confident" the disputes which have held up resumption of the autonomy negotiations will be resolved soon.

Department spokesman Dean Fischer said he could not say "when or where" the autonomy talks would be held. But he indicated that the U.S. expected the dispute arising from Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's insistence that they be held in Jerusalem and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's refusal, will be resolved. (Related story, P.2)

"We are confident that the commitments of support for the Camp David process, as recently expressed at the highest levels by the Israeli and Egyptian governments indicate that any and all procedural matters will be satisfactorily dealt with and that progress in the autonomy talks will go forward," Fischer said.

At the same time, he would not confirm a report that Richard Fairbanks, the U.S. special Ambassador to the autonomy negotiations, will be going to the Middle East this weekend. Fairbanks has been working on suggestions the U.S. will offer to break the deadlock between Israel and Egypt over various issues in an autonomy agreement.

BEGIN TO ADDRESS UN SESSION ON DISARMAMENT ON JUNE 18

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, May 6 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin of Israel is scheduled to address the General Assembly's special session on disarmament Friday, June 18. Israeli officials noted that this will be the first time that an incumbent Israeli Premier addresses a session of the United Nations.

Among other world leaders scheduled to address the special five-day session are President Reagan, June 17; Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, June 14; and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain, June 16.

Israeli officials said they do not know if Begin will meet with any of these leaders. They also noted that Begin's itinerary is not yet finalized and it is not yet known when he will arrive in New York.

According to Israeli officials, Begin decided to address the UN after he was invited to appear around the same time before the Albert Schweitzer Institute in New York as the co-winner with the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat of the Nobel Prize for peace in 1978. While in New York, Begin will meet with Jewish leaders, Israeli officials said.

POLISH AUTHORITIES RELEASE ACADEMICIAN WHO AIDED JEWS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 6 (JTA) -- The Polish authorities have released Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, a Catholic academician who aided Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in 1943, and was imprisoned and held without charges under the martial law regime earlier this year. His release was reported to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by Stefan Grayek who just returned from a 10-day visit to Poland where he par-

ticipated in the preparation for next year's 40th anniversary commemoration of the Ghetto uprising and conferred with Polish leaders.

Only recently the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in New York had asked the Polish government to free Bartoszewski who is a professor of history at the Catholic University in Lublin. The request was made by Rabbi Ronald Sobel, chairman of the ADL's national program committee, in a letter to the Charge d'Affaires of the Polish Embassy in Washington, Zdzislaw Ludwiczak.

Grayek told the JTA that the Polish authorities also reiterated their promise to remain vigilant and prevent any anti-Semitic publication or broadcast. He said the government officials with whom he met promised to act vigorously to prevent any anti-Semitic act and to prosecute anyone guilty of such acts.

Grayek, who heads the Warsaw Ghetto survivors organization in Israel, met with several Polish ministers in Warsaw, including Religious Affairs Minister Jerzy Kuberski and senior aides. He said he was told among other things that Poland will invite a large number of Jewish and Israeli representatives, including a member of the Israeli Cabinet, to the ceremonies marking the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising next April.

The Polish government plans to treat the Ghetto commemoration as an event of great importance and will give it maximum publicity, Grayek said. Poland, in addition, will send a high-level delegation to Israel for the Ghetto uprising commemoration there next year, he said.

ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN REPS URGE ISRAEL'S ARAB NEIGHBORS TO JOIN THE CAMP DAVID PEACE PROCESS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) -- The political counselors at the Israeli and Egyptian Embassies here called on Israel's other Arab neighbors to join the Camp David process and negotiate peace treaties with Israel but gave different reasons for them to do so.

"Israel is entitled to security" and through the Camp David process Israel and Egypt "found the ways and means of achieving it" on Israel's southern border, Dr. Hussein Hassouna, a political counselor and third-ranking official at the Egyptian Embassy told some 200 persons attending the monthly B'nai B'rith Public Affairs forum here yesterday.

"I think the old equation of peace against territory which was the beginnings of the foundation of peace is still valid," Hassouna said. He said Israel's Arab neighbors, can be convinced by Israel that "you can get these territories if you guarantee us peace and security."

But Robbie Sabel, political counselor at the Israel Embassy, said that "we're not asking for recognition" from Israel's Arab neighbors. "We are there. What we are suggesting is that for their own good, the Arab states follow Egypt and reach an agreement with us." He said both Jordan and Syria, as neighbors of Israel, must begin to realize the best way to solve disputes is through negotiations.

Sabel's comments came after he had collapsed three times during his opening remarks at the forum sponsored by B'nai B'rith Lodges. But he refused

attention from a para-medical unit and was able to answer questions from the audience later.

Agreement On Egypt's Role

Both officials, who participated in much of the Camp David negotiations which were held in Washington, agreed that Egypt has continued to be the leader of the Arab world despite the break in relations that resulted from Arab protests over Egypt's negotiations with Israel.

"We signed the peace treaty with Egypt knowing that Egypt was the leader of the Arab world," Sabel declared. "It has never left" its status in the Arab world. Hassouna stressed that since Egypt has relations now with both Israel and the Arab world, it can now serve as a "bridge" between the two and act as a "broker of peace" in the Middle East.

The two diplomats agreed that the next step is to achieve an autonomy agreement for the Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But Hassouna said this must be "full autonomy" with legislative and judicial powers and not just the executive powers Israel wants to give. He also said the Palestinians have to be able to fill their aspirations for a "homeland" of their own.

Urges U.S. Dialogue With Palestinians

Hassouna called on the United States and the American Jewish community to take the lead in helping to bring this about. He called on the U.S. to begin a "dialogue" with the Palestinians although he stressed that he was not asking the U.S. to break its pledge not to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization until it recognizes Israel. He said the U.S. could begin by talking to Palestinians living in the U.S. itself and to "moderate Palestinians" in Beirut and the West Bank.

Sabel said it was "touch and go" whether autonomy would be achieved because the PLO was trying to prevent this from happening just as it was seeking to destroy the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. He said the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza would accept the autonomy process if they believed that the PLO did not have the power to interfere.

In his remarks, Hassouna noted that the peace process began in November 1977 when Egyptian President Anwar Sadat went to Jerusalem. Jack Spitzer, president of B'nai B'rith International, noted that for many at the B'nai B'rith International headquarters here, the peace process began in March 1977 when Egyptian Ambassador Ashraf Ghorbal led a group of Moslem envoys in negotiating with a group of Hanafi Moslems the release of hostages held in the very same eighth floor meeting room in which yesterday's forum took place.

CLOUD OF CONCERN OVER EFFORTS TO RESUME LONG-STALLED AUTONOMY TALKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 6 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin's firm insistence on Jerusalem as a venue for the soon-to-be-resumed autonomy talks has cast a cloud of concern over efforts to get the long-stalled talks resumed.

The U.S. special envoy to the autonomy negotiations, Richard Fairbanks, will be in Israel and Egypt early next week to try and break through the venue impasse and arrange an initial ministerial meeting in Washington.

Begin repeated forcefully last night, at a dinner for a visiting American Jewish Congress

delegation, that he would not countenance a "boycott" of Israel's capital, Jerusalem. If there were to be no talks at Jerusalem since Egypt refuses to hold the autonomy talks there, then Israel's team would not go to Cairo or Washington, Begin vowed. The responsibility for the breakdown would rest with Egypt, he declared.

Basis For Begin's Line

Israeli sources say the Premier has taken this tough line because of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's refusal to visit Jerusalem earlier this year. His planned official visit to Israel has been postponed indefinitely because of this problem.

In the past, Israel agreed to the autonomy talks being held in Tel Aviv or Herzliya, but now, in the face of Mubarak's behavior, Begin has ruled that this must stop. The Premier did not, it was learned, consult the Cabinet on this decision, and some ministers, including the chief autonomy negotiator, Yosef Burg, are said to be uncomfortable with it.

The Egyptian position is that Jerusalem is itself an issue in the autonomy talks and therefore cannot be a venue for them. Israel has always maintained that Jerusalem was specifically omitted from the Camp David accords and is not an issue in the autonomy talks — since the autonomy is not to apply to Arab Jerusalemites.

TEL AVIV U. TO HAVE COURSE ON HISTORY, HERITAGE OF POLISH JEWRY

NEW YORK, May 6 (JTA) — The Center for the Study of Polish Jewry at Tel Aviv University's School of Jewish Studies will in its next semester "teach the history and heritage of Polish Jewry and will make the results available to the public at large in Israel and abroad, and to the scholarly community in all universities," it was announced here by Prof. Shlomo Simonsohn, director of the School of Jewish Studies.

Simonsohn, who along with Tel Aviv University president Yehiel Ben Zvi addressed 300 members of the World Federation of Polish Jews at a gala reception for Nobel Laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer, added that the Center "will also serve as an information center for those inquiring into theirs' and their families' past in the shtetl in the days gone by."

Both Ben Zvi and Simonsohn told of the work of the School of Jewish Studies in documenting and researching 1,000 years of Jewish history in Poland. The school's faculty members will be available to the Center for the purpose of teaching the history and heritage of Polish Jewry.

Eryk Spektor, chairman of the reception-dinner, announced the establishment of a major scholarship endowment fund in Polish Jewish studies by Milwaukee industrialist Larry Rochlin who was present at the event. The goal of the fund is \$5 million.

It was also announced that Singer will receive an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Tel Aviv University. Kalman Sultanski, president of the World Federation of Polish Jews which with the American Friends of Tel Aviv University sponsored the dinner, presented the World Federation Award to Singer.

PARIS (JTA) — The French Chief Rabbi's office has decided to award an annual prize for Jewish education to encourage Jewish schools and individual educators. The prize, whose amount has not yet been decided, will be awarded in conjunction with the Jewish Agency's Department for Torah and Religious Education. More than 6,000 Jewish students attend Jewish day schools.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

LONG-TERM THREAT TO ARGENTINE JEWRY IS ASSIMILATION, NOT ANTI-SEMITISM

By Sheldon Kirshner

Editor's note: Sheldon Kirshner, a reporter with the Canadian Jewish News of Toronto, visited Argentina just before the Argentines invaded the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands.

BUENOS AIRES, May 6 (JTA) — Assimilation, not anti-Semitism, poses the long-term threat to the integrity of the Jewish community of Argentina, according to communal leaders here. No one interviewed by this correspondent underestimated the seriousness of anti-Semitism in this country, torn by political and economic crisis. But practically everyone agreed that assimilation is the real danger.

"It is our main worry," said Mario Gorenstein, the president of DAIA (Delegacion de Asociaciones Israelitas de la Argentina), which represents the community in its political dealings with the military junta. "Anti-Semites won't make the community disappear. But assimilation, together with anti-Semitism, will weaken it."

The vice director of the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary, Rabbi Mordecai Edery, believes that the intermarriage rate is about 70 percent — a figure which seems high. Edery, a native of Morocco, insists that it is accurate, and he points out that the University of Tel Aviv recently estimated that a mere 50,000 Jews will be left in Argentina within several decades if current patterns of assimilation — and emigration — persist. "Assimilation, by far, is the biggest problem we face," he said.

There are some 350,000 Jews in Argentina today, but this is only an educated estimate. But, once there, were probably more. If Gregorio Faingersich, the general manager of the weekly Mundo Israelita, is right, approximately 100,000 Jews have left the country in the past 30 years, mainly for economic reasons. Up to 50,000 of the emigrants have gone to Israel, and the remainder have immigrated to other Latin American nations, North America and Europe. In the last decade, as a result of the political and economic turmoil that grips this essentially European outpost in South America, about 2.5 million Argentines have left their homeland in despair.

Two Seemingly Contradictory Impulses

Jews in Argentina, this reporter learned, must cope with two seemingly contradictory impulses.

This is a highly nationalistic country which has been suspicious of foreigners but which expects them to integrate once they decide to settle here. Lip service is paid to the notion of cultural pluralism, yet minorities, Protestants and Moslems included, are tolerated and are expected to renounce glaring group traits.

In this monolithic, Hispanic-inspired, Catholic-oriented society, assimilation — as total as possible — is the desired goal of most integrationists. It is no coincidence that the regime recently tried, but failed, to introduce a curriculum on Catholic religious values to state secondary schools. The Jewish community opposed the plan.

Because of their traditions, religion, distinct communal life and solidarity with Israel (which has good relations with Argentina), a great many Jews have tried to resist the allure of a homogenous society. But, in increasing cases, they succumb, given the high mixed marriage rate.

"We have tried to integrate ourselves in the general cultural life of the country without losing our religious, cultural and spiritual particularities, a rather difficult task where cultural pluralism is not rooted," explained Nehemias Resnitzky, the former president of DAIA.

Community Has Withstood Assaults

In this very traditional society, which has historically swung between democracy and authoritarianism, anti-Semitism has seldom been absent. Recently, for example, a Jewish cemetery in the seaside resort of Mar del Plata was desecrated.

Nevertheless, the community has withstood the assaults. "We have flourished here for over 100 years, often under crisis," said Eljas Zviklich, the president of B'nai B'rith, referring to the anti-Semitism and the economic and political troubles which ail this country.

"Jewish life is normal," added Gregorio Faigon, the head of the Latin American Jewish Congress. "Our institutions function without interference." Herman Schiller, the editor of Nueva Presencia, a Jewish newspaper published in Spanish, told this reporter that Jews care more about the state of the economy than the repressive nature of the junta. "They prefer the order of a military government."

Reports Of Anti-Semitism

What seems clear to this writer is that reports of anti-Semitism have been misleading and exaggerated. "There is a distortion of our situation and it doesn't help us," remarked Nehemias Resnitzky. "It's ridiculous to compare us to Russian Jews."

James Neilson, the editor of the liberal Buenos Aires Herald (who was forced to leave Argentina several weeks ago because of threats to his life,) agrees. "Anti-Semitism here is not clear-cut," he noted. "It varies in tone and shade. There are a lot of gray areas."

It seems clear that the government, which has often been accused of violating the human rights of its citizens and of taking part in the kidnapping of thousands of Argentines, is publicly against anti-Semitism. Indeed, its spokesmen have denounced it.

"Why do people talk of anti-Semitism when there is no racial discrimination in Argentina?" asked Rodolfo Baltierrez, the secretary for public information. "The Jewish community has contributed to Argentina's development in every way," the former ambassador to Israel added. "It is respected, has been respected and will be respected."

Col. Bernardo Menendez, the deputy minister of interior, said Jews are "totally integrated" into Argentine society.

Low Levels of Anti-Semitism Tolerated

But not everyone here is so sanguine. Reliable sources who prefer anonymity said that the junta tolerates low levels of anti-Semitism because its officer corps has a general dislike of Jews. "There's a Roman Catholic tradition in the armed forces and when the military comes to power, it's logical that relations between them and Jews won't be ideal, even if some officers say they have Jewish friends."

Accordingly, he explained, the junta makes no special efforts to find, and arrest, those who have desecrated Jewish property in the last few years. And the regime, although it has banned the sale of anti-Semitic magazines such as Cabildo and Ideario, still reportedly permits other neo-Nazi publications to be sold on newsstands.

Yet the generals, led by President Leopoldo Galtieri, realize that major anti-Semitic disturbances

could be counter-productive. First they might bring disorder to a junta which, above all else, values stability. Second, they might further tarnish Argentina's already battered reputation at a time when it seeks to improve relations with the U.S. The Reagan Administration has displayed a favorable disposition toward the junta.

Despite the government's insistence that Jews are as integrated into Argentine society as any other group, the reverse appears to be true. Jews, more or less, are excluded from the key centers of power — the armed forces, judiciary, government ministries and diplomatic corps.

In some cases we're second-class citizens, conceded Resnizky, speaking personally. "Some parts of Argentine life are cut off (to Jews).... Jews have to fight, with the help of democratic forces, for full equality." But he made it clear that Jews are accorded full civil rights and are free to manage the affairs of their communal organizations and institutions.

Gorenstein does not think that the absence of Jews from influential government positions since the 1976 coup is a function of anti-Semitism. "There have been governments before that haven't had Jewish officials," he said. "This isn't necessarily anti-Semitism." He said that the almost complete absence of Jews in the diplomatic service has more to do with class than with racism, since it is a bastion of the conservative Catholic elite.

Neilson said he isn't surprised that the officer corps is Judenrein, since the military caste in Argentina is infected by anti-Semitic sentiments. Communal leaders appeared puzzled and disturbed by these exclusions, but nobody thought they were "inconvenient" to the community's existence.

ISRAEL AND THE UN CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, May 6 (JTA) — Although Israel joined the United States in voting last Friday against the approval of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea by the General Assembly, the reason for Israel's negative vote was entirely different than that of the United States.

Speaking after the Assembly adopted the Convention by a vote of 130-4, with 17 abstentions, the Israeli delegate, Shabtai Rosenne, said that Israel voted against the Convention because it gave "standing" to the "so-called PLO."

The Convention provided provisions for the PLO to enjoy the "common heritage of mankind" under which the exploitation and exploration of the resources of the deep sea-bed are to be conducted, Rosenne said. He added that "if the PLO signs the Final Act of the Conference, it will become entitled to the status of observer" in the Preparatory Commission for the Conference next year.

The United States opposed the Convention mainly because it said the sea-bed mining provision would deter the development of deep sea-bed mineral resources. The PLO did not figure in the reasons of the U.S. opposing the Convention. The two other countries that voted against the Convention were Venezuela and Turkey.

As for Israel's attitude to the Convention in general, Rosenne stated: "In view of a number of last minute changes and additions and explanations, we will have to examine it in its final form very closely before we reach our final decisions on it. Israel's interests on the sea are complex, including

the maintenance of freedom of navigation and overflight through all kinds of geographical formations, security interests, fisheries (on small scale), the preservation of the marine environment and related ecological issues.

"We would also like to take advantage of the new arrangements for the diffusion of marine technology and scientific research, and are happy that our own expertise on the topic, centered above all in our oceanographic institutes of higher learning, is available to others."

COLOMBIA'S LEADING COMPOSER WRITES SYMPHONY IN HONOR OF GOLDA MEIR

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) — "Brachot Para Golda Meir," a symphony in honor of the late Israeli Premier Golda Meir by Colombia's leading contemporary composer, will have its world premier performance at the Kennedy Center here on May 15. It will be performed at the 13th Inter-American Music Festival by the Festival Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Jorge Mester.

The composer, Blas Emilio Atehortua, who is of Sephardic Jewish descent, said the inspiration for his work was the universal admiration of Mrs. Meir. Admission to the concert is free by courtesy of grants from the Gwendolyn and Morris Cafritz Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and corporate patrons. Harold Boxer, general director of the Inter-American Music and Arts Festivals Foundation, said the concert will be taped for world-wide broadcast by the Voice of America.

ADMINISTRATION SAID TO BE CONCERNED OVER THE NUMBER OF SOVIET JEWS WHO ARE OPTING TO COME TO THE U.S.

WASHINGTON, May 6 (JTA) — The Reagan Administration is concerned that the percentage of Soviet Jews opting to go to the United States is feeding Soviet propaganda and leading to a clamp down on emigration, a U.S. official said here.

But Ambassador Eugene Douglas, coordinator for Refugee Affairs, told the Leadership Conference of the World Assembly of Jewish War Veterans, that the U.S. could accommodate any Soviet Jews who wanted to come to this country after leaving the Soviet Union. He noted, however, that the Russians claim to be angered that Soviet Jews given visas for Israel, end up in the U.S.

Memie Deshalit, head of the Israeli war veterans delegation, observed that the Soviets use visas to Israel as a means of limiting emigration by other Soviet minorities. Their containment of the other minorities becomes a problem for the Russians when Soviet Jews can come to the U.S., he said.

Replying to a question by Robert Zweiman, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, about U.S. financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the use of that money for Palestine Liberation Organization purposes, Douglas explained that UNRWA is a "UN operation with all that this implies."

He said that while the U.S. does audit how the funds are spent, such as salaries for teachers, the U.S. cannot control what the teachers are teaching. He said the U.S. is complaining more about anti-Semitic propaganda, but realistically, it cannot stop it.