

GREATER U.S. INVOLVEMENT PROMISED TO RESOLVE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN DISPUTE OVER AUTONOMY TALKS VENUE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 12 (JTA) -- Yehuda Ben-Meir, Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister, said today that the State Department has promised greater U.S. involvement in helping solve the dispute between Israel and Egypt over the latter's refusal to hold any sessions of the autonomy negotiations in Jerusalem.

Ben-Meir, responding to questions at a breakfast meeting with reporters here, said that Lawrence Eagleburger, Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, told him yesterday that the U.S. had hoped that Egypt and Israel could resolve the problem themselves. But Eagleburger promised to involve the U.S. more in the issue and said it would be taken up by Richard Fairbanks, the American special envoy to the autonomy talks, who is meeting with Egyptian officials in Cairo today. Ben-Meir noted that Israel does not care whether some sessions are held in Washington, Cairo, or even in Geneva, as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak reportedly suggested. "But it must be held also in Jerusalem," he stressed. He said it would not matter if Jerusalem were first, second or last on the list in the next round of talks. But, he insisted, the issue must be resolved before the negotiations can begin.

"The business of not having talks in Jerusalem is something we cannot accept and we don't even understand," Ben-Meir said. He pointed out that if the Egyptian delegation came to Jerusalem, this "does not imply their acceptance of Israel's position on Jerusalem." He noted that Presidents Carter, Anwar Sadat and Francois Mitterrand among others, have come to Jerusalem without any implication of their "full acceptance" of Israel's position on its capital.

Israel Fully Committed To Negotiations

Most of the autonomy talks, up to now, have been held in Herzliya, near Tel Aviv or in Giza, a suburb of Cairo. Ben-Meir said he believed Herzliya was originally selected because the hotels there were cheaper than in Jerusalem. He said the present difficulties arose when President Mubarak refused to come to Jerusalem earlier this year, which caused postponement of his planned visit to Israel.

Ben-Meir added that Mubarak's position was the cause of some of the difficulties before Israel completed its withdrawal from Sinai last April 25 because many supporters of the peace agreement with Egypt were concerned about Mubarak's commitment to the peace treaty.

Ben-Meir stressed, however, that Israel accepts Mubarak's assurances that he is committed to the Camp David peace process and to the autonomy negotiations which are the next step in that process. He said Eagleburger also assured him yesterday that the U.S. believes there is no alternative to the Camp David process.

As for Israel, Ben-Meir declared that "Israel remains fully committed to the negotiations." He noted that Premier Menachem Begin is personally committed since it was he who originally pro-

posed autonomy for the Palestinian Arabs on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ben-Meir blamed the Palestine Liberation Organization for the "unrest" on the West Bank which, he said, was initiated by the PLO because it realized that the peace process was going ahead as planned. He said the PLO wants to prevent autonomy from being achieved since it knows that if conditions are improved for the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the PLO influence will be lessened. He maintained that only five percent of the West Bank population is involved in the unrest.

Ben-Meir also stressed that when residents of the West Bank and Gaza realize that the U.S. is fully committed to the autonomy negotiations and that there is no other alternative but continued military control, they will accept the process.

Israel Regrets Loss Of Lives

The American-born official who is a social psychologist, tried to explain the present situation on the West Bank. "Israel regrets any loss of lives," he said. He said the problem on the West Bank is not that Israel is confronted with announced demonstrations or riots but that a group of soldiers going through a street or alley is suddenly confronted by a mob.

Ben-Meir said the soldiers do everything possible to disperse the crowd without shooting at civilians, but if they are forced to shoot, then injuries do occur. He said the same thing happens to civilians, meaning Israeli settlers, in vehicles who are confronted by a mob on the road.

He gave as an example mini-buses carrying children to school and civilians having to shoot their way out sometimes because of the threat to their own lives. He said Israel is trying to find ways to meet the threat from mobs without causing injuries.

AGUDA ISRAEL THREATENS TO QUIT GOVERNMENT UNLESS BAN ON EL AL SABBATH FLIGHTS IS FULFILLED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA) -- The Aguda Israel threatened to quit Premier Menachem Begin's coalition government today unless his promise to ban El Al flights on the Sabbath is fulfilled. The threat was made by the Aguda's Knesset faction after the Supreme Court ruled Monday that the government could not impose the Sabbath ban without approval by the Knesset's Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee must consider the ban in light of the law which requires government-owned corporations to operate according to sound economic principles. Aguda MK Shlomo Lorincz, who chairs the committee, said he did not permit it to discuss the issue because it was clear beforehand that the ban would not be "economical." The Aguda insists that the ban must be implemented on religious and moral grounds.

Avraham Shapiro, chairman of the coalition Knesset faction, said the Aguda would remain in the government only if all coalition partners endorsed the Sabbath ban and made it clear they were not

succumbing to religious pressures. Although Begin strongly supports the ban, at least some members of Likud's Liberal Party wing are known to oppose it.

It is also bitterly opposed by El Al employees. Several thousand workers demonstrated at Ben Gurion Airport today against the government's decision to impose the ban. The workers, representing El Al, the Airport Authority and the Civil Aviation Administration, threatened to shut down Ben Gurion Airport to all carriers on the Sabbath if El Al is grounded. Such action would affect foreign airlines serving Israel.

The special ministerial committee set up by the Cabinet to implement the ban heard from El Al management today. The airline's directors stressed the severe economic burdens the Sabbath ban would impose on the financially troubled carrier. They said the losses would exceed the \$40 million projected by a government-appointed committee which studied the issue.

According to the El Al management, suspension of Sabbath service would cost at least \$45 million annually, not including indirect losses to competing airlines which would take over part of El Al's weekday traffic as well.

EXPERT SAYS THERE IS NO PERNICIOUS ANTI-SEMITISM IN WEST GERMANY

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA) -- Open and aggressive expressions of anti-Semitism do not exist in today's West Germany but there are signs and indications of both old and new anti-Jewish feelings among the Germans, partly disguised as anti-Zionism, according to one of West Germany's foremost leaders in the movement for improving relations between Christians and Jews in that country.

Addressing a group of Christian and Jewish religious and lay leaders at the American Jewish Committee headquarters here today, Dr. Dietrich Goldschmidt, a director of the Max Planck Institute for Education and Human Development in West Berlin, said that the anti-Zionist position in West Germany was taken both by rightwing radicals and leftwing political activists supporting the Arab cause in general and the PLO in particular.

For a long time, according to Goldschmidt, public opinion was very much in favor of the State of Israel. This, he noted, became most obvious at the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War of 1973. The feeling of sympathy, he said, "was partly due to feelings of guilt because of the Holocaust. Germans were relieved that the Jews were no longer victims, but victors, and would not have to suffer further aggression and persecution."

However, Goldschmidt asserted, Middle East politics has affected this feeling somewhat. Yet, he stated, an ever-growing section of the public has become willing to examine the history of National Socialism, of World War II, of the Jews, and of the Holocaust. Television, radio, and important national daily and weekly newspapers are constantly dealing with these topics, he said.

The TV series "Holocaust" was seen and discussed by an extremely large audience, Goldschmidt observed. "No doubt many supporters of today's peace movement will point to the sufferings of Jews especially, but also of gypsies, Poles, Russians, and others when they protest against war preparations, which they feel could

lead once again to genocide, supported by Germans," he said.

Goldschmidt noted two tendencies that raise doubts about the extent to which the attitudes of the majority of the Germans were undergoing a genuine change.

"There is little understanding of the causes that brought Hitler to power," he said, "and of the political developments and the interpretations of events from World War I until the beginning of 1933. Moreover, many of those who were driven out of their homelands in East Germany after the war, still feel that their suffering, including the destruction of cities like Dresden toward the end of the war, was similar to that of the Jews."

Such people, he added, maintain there is no need to give special attention to the fate of the Jews or to deal with it more than with their own losses.

Commenting on a recent analysis of school curricula, textbooks, and teaching, Goldschmidt said it showed that serious attempts were being made to come to grips with the past, "but there is still a considerable lack of deeper understanding, sometimes a certain helplessness of the authors." In teaching the history of Nazism, Goldschmidt said, facts like Hitler and his party's rise to power, concentration camps, war, and Holocaust are described, but "Hitler and the Nazis remain strangers who descended upon Germany like a thunderstorm."

PACKWOOD: TERM 'JEWISH LOBBY' SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A 'STATEMENT OF HONOR'

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 12 (JTA) -- Sen. Bob Packwood (R. Ore.) told members of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) yesterday that when they are called a "Jewish lobby" they should consider that a "statement of honor."

"Do not apologize for your background," he told the persons attending a luncheon meeting of AIPAC's 23rd annual policy conference at the Washington Hilton Hotel. "When people say, 'Oh, that is a Jewish lobby,' to my mind that is a statement of honor."

Packwood noted that there was "no criticism" when Americans of Polish descent were "justifiably upset" by the imposition of martial law in Poland; little criticism when Americans of Greek descent gave their views on the Turkish invasion of Cyprus; or when Americans of Hungarian descent opposed the return of the Crown of St. Stephen to Hungary. "Love of your roots, tradition, history, is America," Packwood declared.

The Oregon legislator, who led the fight against the sale of AWACS reconnaissance aircraft and other arms to Saudi Arabia last year, said he grew up in Portland and knew no Jews until he went to law school at New York University. He said he has been committed to Israel since he went there after his election to the Senate in 1966. He stressed that this commitment "will not change" regardless of the "vagaries of domestic politics" or whether Israel is popular or unpopular at any particular time.

Packwood praised AIPAC for alerting members of Congress to issues and providing them with needed information. But he stressed that "the most effective lobbying is done at the grass roots" by the people from the area served by a Senator or Representative. Some 1,000 delegates from across the country ended the two-day conference today by visiting their Senators or Representatives.

CONGRESS OFFICIALLY WARNS UN

WASHINGTON, May 12 (JTA) -- Congress has gone on record as warning the United Nations

that if the General Assembly or any UN specialized agency expels Israel or denies Israel's right to participate in any matter, the United States will suspend its participation in that body and withhold all funds for it. The House approved a resolution containing the warning by a 401-3 vote. A similar resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 14.

Rep. Dante Fascell (D. Fla.) warned on Monday there is reason to believe that the General Assembly may be pressed this fall to take action on a resolution expelling Israel. He said if it did so, it "would trigger United States withdrawal" from the General Assembly.

Rep. Jack Kemp (R. N. Y.), who with Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D. N. Y.) authored the measure, said "the real threat is not to Israel, but to the integrity of the United Nations. If the General Assembly should attempt illegally to expel Israel, the United Nations would be casting aside what vestiges of respectability and honor it may retain."

The resolution adopted by the House differs from the Senate version in that it deleted a reference to action against "any other democratic states." Fascell explained that while the United States is concerned about the universality of the UN, "if we are concerned here about Israel, then let us name our concern and not couch it in broad language."

However, it is believed that there was a fear that efforts might be made to embarrass supporters of Israel by using the resolution in support of South Africa which has been suspended by the General Assembly. The Senate is expected to go along with the change.

The three Representatives who voted against the House resolution today were John Conyers (D. Mich.), Robert Kastenmeier (D. Wisc.) and Gus Savage (D. Ill.).

SHARP DEBATE BETWEEN LIKUD AND LABOR OVER WEST-BANK POLICIES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA) -- A Hadash (Communist) no-confidence motion on the government's West Bank policy provided the arena for a sharp debate today in the Knesset between Likud and Labor. The vote itself was a foregone conclusion; only the Hadash MKs voted for their own motion while Telem and Tehiya joined the coalition parties and Labor and Shinui abstained.

But during the debate there were blistering exchanges between Premier Menachem Begin, from his seat, and Labor's Mordechai Gur, on the rostrum. Following Gur's savage attacks on the government, Likud sent its young firebrand, Ehud Olmert, to speak and he accused Labor's former Chief of Staff of having a "psychological complex" about anything to do with Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. Sharon himself demonstratively left the Knesset chamber as Gur began to talk.

Terms West Bank Policy 'Immoral'

Gur charged that the government's West Bank policies were "aggressive and immoral" and were "giving the Israel Defense Force a bad name." He said the policies were putting soldiers into "impossible situation." Replying for the government, Justice Minister Moshe Nissim said the tough measures taken of late to quell disturbances on the West Bank "give no enjoyment to any of us" but were essential to "the fight to preserve the peace process."

Gur's strictures were especially effective as they came one day after an unprecedented press conference by six reserve officers, two of them majors, who charged that the IDF was "losing its human face" in the administered territories.

The six, among them Maj. Yuval Neriya, one of only eight Israelis decorated for valor, said the "threshold of squeezing the trigger" had become dangerously low, and they hinted at frequent and widespread acts of physical repression by the security forces.

The press conference -- the first time army officers have spoken out against the IDF like this in public -- was organized by the Peace Now movement and it drew sharp criticism from the Defense Ministry for "political exploitation." But the Ministry said the officers' specific allegations would be investigated.

Mapam MKs said subsequently that their party will watch closely for results of the Army's investigation. Peace Now itself has indicated that if the investigation is unsatisfactory, the allegations will be made public.

A Wave Of Complaints

Peace Now said today the six officers' public appearance had triggered a wave of complaints channelled to Peace Now from other IDF reservists who had witnessed excesses in the administered areas. These, too, would be passed on to the military for investigation.

The Mapam-affiliated Kibbutz Artzi movement last week issued guidelines to its serving soldiers urging them to obey all orders while on duty in the territories unless such orders were grossly and palpably illegal and immoral. The movement urged its soldiers to obey first -- in all but the most extreme cases -- and then file complaints with the Kibbutz leadership.

Over recent weeks soldiers in both the Kibbutz Artzi and the Labor-affiliated United Kibbutz Movement have been urged to report to Kibbutz elders at weekends on any excesses that they have witnessed during their week's service. Many of the cases are then transmitted to the army on an informal basis with the demand that they be investigated.

ISRAELI DRUZE PROHIBITED FROM TESTIFYING AT UN HUMAN RIGHTS PANEL

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA) -- An Israeli Druze, restricted to his village, lost an appeal to the Supreme Court today when it refused to order the ban lifted so that he could travel to Geneva to testify before the United Nations Human Rights Commission on the condition of Arabs in occupied territories.

Salman Natour, a Druze author, was ordered confined to his village of Daliyat Al Carmel, near Haifa, for a period of six months. The Administrative restriction, issued 10 days ago, was signed by the military commander of the northern region. Natour is secretary of the Committee of Solidarity With the "Arab People of the Golan."

During the 40-day Israeli army blockade of Druze villages on the Golan Heights, lifted late last month, Natour transmitted information from the four villages involved in contravention of military orders. He is also a member of the Hadash Communist Party and of the Druze Initiative Committee which actively opposes the drafting of Israeli Druze into the armed forces.

The court gave no reason for rejecting Natour's appeal, but issued an order giving the military authorities 11 days to show cause why the restriction on Natour should not be lifted.

