

## ZAIRE'S RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL, OPENING OF ITS EMBASSY IN JERUSALEM, TERMED A BREAKTHROUGH WITH BLACK AFRICA

By Gil Sedan

[JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA) — Senior Israeli officials described Zaire's announcement that it will reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel as "a breakthrough in the relations with Black Africa." Zaire announced its intention to resume relations with Israel last Friday and a special envoy of President Mobutu arrived here today for talks with Premier Menachem Begin, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon.

The envoy announced that Zaire would open its embassy in Jerusalem, to become the second embassy returning to the capital. Last week Costa Rica announced that it was moving its embassy back to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv.

Zaire is the first African country to resume diplomatic ties with Israel but diplomatic circles believe that at least half a dozen other African states will follow suit. Among those generally mentioned are the Central African Republic, Gabon, Nigeria and the Ivory Coast.

### Groundwork Laid For Resuming Ties

During the 1960's more than 30 African states had diplomatic relations with Israel and practically all had their embassies in Jerusalem. Most African countries severed their relations with Israel after the Yom Kippur War in 1973, as a sign of solidarity with Egypt.

Mobutu, however, announced that his nation was breaking relations with Israel in a speech before the United Nations General Assembly two days before the war began. Now Zaire reportedly feels that with the completion of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai, the time is ripe to reestablish ties with the Jewish State.

While visiting Washington last December, Mobutu announced that he was ready to renew diplomatic ties with Israel and would probably do so after Israel's final withdrawal from Sinai. Sharon met Mobutu during a secret trip to Africa last November and laid the groundwork for the resumption of relations between the two countries.

### Present Relations With African States

Presently more than 4,000 Israeli experts are believed to be stationed in Black African nations where dozens of Israeli companies continue to operate in spite of the absence of diplomatic ties. In Zaire alone, some 300 Israeli industrial and agricultural experts as well as businessmen and banking representatives are already working in close harmony with state-owned and private firms.

Israel maintains diplomatic relations with three African states — Malawi, Swaziland and Lesotho. It also maintains unofficial relations with the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Central African Republic, Kenya and Gabon. Israel is represented in those countries by regular diplomats who operate from the missions of Denmark, Canada, Belgium

and Switzerland. Recently Israel resumed efforts to reinstitute some kind of diplomatic representation in countries such as Senegal, Upper Volta, Cameroon, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## U.S. SEEN AS ON THE VERGE OF RENEWING ITS MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA) — Political circles confirmed over the weekend reports that the United States is about to renew the Memorandum of Understanding on strategic cooperation between Israel and the U.S. which was suspended last year following Israel's extension of civilian law to the Golan Heights.

According to government sources, Secretary of State Alexander Haig sent Premier Menachem Begin a letter in which he mentioned the need to discuss the renewal of the memorandum. Haig said this should be one of the topics to be discussed during the forthcoming visit of Defense Minister Ariel Sharon to Washington. Sharon is to address the annual meeting of the United Jewish Appeal national leadership conference next week and is expected to meet with Administration officials then.

Haig's letter included compliments to Begin for the leadership he showed in completing Israel's withdrawal from Sinai and stated that this was "the most important part of the peace agreement."

President Reagan, himself, at a nationally televised press conference from the White House last Thursday night indicated in response to questions that the memorandum will be "implemented again" but he did not say when. He said the memorandum had been "temporarily ... suspended" and "we regretted having to do that."

## BEGIN: ISRAEL DID NOT TERMINATE THE CEASE-FIRE, THE PLO ENDED IT

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin, who has declared the ceasefire across the Lebanese border to be null and void, told his Cabinet today that it was not Israel but the Palestinian terrorists who ended it.

He said the Palestine Liberation Organization viewed the cease-fire as an invitation to attack Jews from any quarter except from southern Lebanon. Israel, he said, would not agree by any means to this "arbitrary and distorting" interpretation.

Begin praised Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan for his remarks in radio and press interviews over the weekend suggesting that if Israel responds to PLO attacks, it should be with the massive use of force. According to Begin, it was Eitan's duty to explain the real situation to the Israeli people.

Eitan and Begin, himself, came under fire from the opposition Labor party over what the latter claimed to be "war talk." Labor members of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee clashed with Begin last Thursday when the Premier declared that the cease-fire was null and void and warned that the PLO would not be allowed to shed Jewish blood with impunity. Labor spokesmen also accused Eitan of contributing to war fever by dis-

cussing military plans in public. The Laborites were aroused by Eitan's disclosure that Israel has been massing troops along the Lebanese border and his insistence that the Israeli response to terrorist activities must be on a massive scale and not limited to relatively small retaliatory actions as in the recent past.

They also wanted to know why Begin is raising the issue of the PLO interpretation of the cease-fire at this time when, as former Premier Yitzhak Rabin observed at the Knesset committee meeting, the differences of interpretation were known all along. Begin retorted that the new element is that the PLO is acting according to its interpretation.

He said that Israel's view is that the cessation of hostilities across the Lebanese border, worked out last July with the help of U.S. special envoy Philip Habib, applies to all borders and to Israeli diplomatic installations and personnel abroad. Begin claimed that the U.S. agrees with Israel's interpretation.

Other Labor MKs and Avraham Melamed of the National Religious Party, a coalition partner, counselled against any large-scale response by Israel's armed forces lest the country become embroiled in war. Yossi Sarid of the Labor Party charged that "certain circles" in the government actually want war, which Begin hotly denied.

#### Differing Views Expressed

Eitan told the media that "the terrorists can be weakened seriously only by a military action, not political action." He said Israel has spent "billions of dollars" building up an "unusual system" to counter terrorist activity and should be allowed to use it.

He hinted that he had in mind an Israeli response that would include a direct attack on Beirut or ground action to completely destroy Palestinian artillery in Lebanon. According to Eitan, the knowledge that such force could be brought to bear might deter terrorist activity.

In a television interview Friday night, Rabin, himself a former Chief of Staff, said Israeli army action inside Lebanon, regardless of its size, would not destroy the PLO and would not give the Israel-backed Christian forces control of Lebanon.

Eitan disclosed, in another radio interview, that the PLO launched rockets into Israel from Jordanian territory on five occasions but none hit their target. He denied a PLO claim that its retaliatory rocket attacks on towns in northern Israel, following Israeli air raids over Lebanon last week, were deliberately intended not to cause casualties or damage and thereby demonstrated restraint. Eitan said Israel escaped casualties because the PLO rockets were poorly aimed.

#### U.S. VIEWS LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER SITUATION AS 'DELICATE'

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 16 (JTA) -- The situation across the Lebanese-Israeli border continues to be "delicate" but it is not now "more tense" than it has been in recent weeks, according to the State Department. The Department's deputy spokesman, Alan Romberg, said that despite press reports from Israel, the U.S. believes the cease-fire is still in effect and that all sides accept this view, too. But he called on all the parties involved to exercise restraint.

Romberg's remarks last Friday followed Israeli Premier Menachem Begin's statement that the cease-fire, which went into effect last July, was null and void because of continued violations by the Palestine Liberation Organization. President Reagan, in a nationally televised press conference from the White House last Thursday night, said that "the word we get from both sides is that they want to continue" the cease-fire.

Reagan also said that he would have a "better assessment" of the situation after his meeting with Philip Habib, his special envoy to the Lebanese situation. The two men met yesterday but there was no immediate sign that Habib would return to the area. Meanwhile, Romberg noted that Morris Draper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, will leave for the Mideast tomorrow and go to Lebanon.

#### BEGIN URGES EUROPE NOT TO SUPPORT PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA) -- Premier Menachem Begin urged the western European nations not to support Palestinian self-determination on grounds that it posed a threat not only to Israel but to Western interests in the Middle East. He argued that point at a meeting here Friday with Italy's Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo. Begin said the Europeans failed to understand that support for Palestinian self-determination would mean the creation of a Palestinian state.

According to Begin, such a development would allow Soviet penetration of the area. He repeated Israel's unqualified rejection of the European Economic Community's 1980 Venice declaration which called for the "association" of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Middle East peace process and self-determination for the Palestinian people.

Begin claimed that "Europe, more than anybody else, because it was the scene of so much shedding of Jewish blood, should refrain from supporting any proposals which posed a threat to the existence of Israel."

Colombo replied that Europe had no intention of imposing a political settlement on Israel. He said the European countries respected Israel's autonomy plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but the difficulty is that the Palestinians reject it. He suggested that Israel should negotiate with the Palestinians "and the organizations representing them." He did not mention the PLO by name.

Begin told his visitor that there were presently 40,000 Syrian soldiers, 500 tanks and hundreds of guns and missiles in Lebanon which, together with PLO forces, not only endangered Israel but threatened the existence of the Christians in Lebanon. He said Israel has supplied the Lebanese Christians with \$100 million worth of arms and ammunition to resist the threat.

#### REPORT ISRAEL NEGOTIATING TO PURCHASE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA) -- Energy Minister Yitzhak Berman disclosed that Israel is negotiating with several countries to purchase a nuclear power plant. He mentioned the U.S., Canada, England, France and Belgium as possible suppliers.

He said, in an interview published in Yediot Achronot Friday, that because of the slump in the nuclear power market, manufacturers in many countries are trying to persuade their governments to drop their objections to the sale of nuclear plants to Israel. Those objections arose from Israel's refusal to

sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and its refusal to allow international inspection of its own nuclear facilities.

Berman said he gave top priority to Israel's entry into the "nuclear power era" and has ordered the preparation of an appropriate, safe site to locate a nuclear power plant. He said the preparations include ecological studies, protection methods and the recruitment of skilled personnel.

#### U.S. OPTIMISTIC THAT DEADLOCK OVER AUTONOMY TALKS CAN BE BROKEN

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 16 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration expressed optimism last week that the deadlock over Egypt's refusal to hold any sessions of the autonomy negotiations in Jerusalem could be broken, although it did not appear to have, at least in public, any plans for accomplishing this.

President Reagan, in a nationally televised press conference last Thursday night, refused to make any proposals for solving the Jerusalem issue, noting that "this is one to be worked out between Egypt and Israel." "But I do have faith that both President (Hosni) Mubarak and Prime Minister (Menachem) Begin intend to pursue ... the autonomy talks and we stand by ready to help them," Reagan added.

Earlier in the day, a State Department official, answering questions at an Overseas Writers luncheon here, said both Egypt and Israel had "good reasons" for their positions on Jerusalem. But, he added, "I think it really has to be understood that it is something that really can't be allowed to stay in the way" of resuming the autonomy talks.

Israel has declared that the autonomy talks will not be resumed until it is agreed that Jerusalem will be one of the sites for the negotiations. Israel has refused to meet in Jerusalem.

#### Down To The Hard Issues

The official, who asked not to be named, conceded it is a difficult problem. But he said that Richard Fairbanks, the U.S. special envoy to the negotiations, has expressed a "positive" attitude in his reports from the Middle East to Washington on the issue. At the same time, the official indicated that there was no "stalemate or paralysis" in the talks, noting that he expects them to start slowly "like a freight train and build up gradually."

He said "we are down to the hard issues" on autonomy. These were the size of the self-governing authority and what its powers would be, whether the Palestinian Arabs in East Jerusalem would be allowed to vote for the authority and various issues involving the land itself. He did not elaborate.

The official expressed hope that some of these issues may be resolved when Premier Menachem Begin meets with President Reagan, as expected, in June either at the United Nations special disarmament conference in New York or more probably in Washington.

The official also expressed hope that if an autonomy agreement is reached, the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza will realize that it is better to take something less than they want in hope of getting more in the future and will join the autonomy process. But he ruled out any participation by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"The ball is in their (The Palestinians') court," he said. If they want to play the game they have to follow the rules." The official stressed that the U.S. "takes the Camp David process seriously," as do Israel and Egypt. "There is no alternative to the Camp David process," he said. "This is pretty much it."

He said other plans that have been proposed, such as the eight points offered by Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia, are not alternatives to Camp David because they are outcomes rather than a method of negotiations. He said the final peace agreement could conceivably look like the Fahd plan but not before there would be hard negotiations in which every point would be argued out.

The official rejected the view that Egypt may now go back on its peace treaty with Israel in order to rejoin the Arab world. "The Arab world is awakening to the idea that they ought to rejoin Egypt" since it has been successful, he said.

#### STATE DEPARTMENT OPPOSED TO REINSTATING CURBS ON IRAQ

WASHINGTON, May 16 (JTA) -- The State Department said that it opposes a House amendment designed to reinstate curbs on Iraq because it would reduce "flexibility" of U.S. foreign policy.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee by a 17-11 vote last Thursday adopted an amendment to the foreign aid bill, introduced by Rep. Jonathan Bingha (D. NY), which would reinstate curbs lifted by the Reagan Administration on Iraq and South Africa.

The Administration announced earlier this year that Iraq had been removed from the list of countries supporting terrorism. Later it was revealed that the U.S. will allow Iraq to buy six L-100 transport planes on condition they will be used only for civilian purposes.

"Fixing controls by legislation reduces our flexibility to respond to changes in the international arena and to insure that export controls further our foreign policy objectives, as is required by the Export Administration Act itself," State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said, reading from a prepared statement. "Changing course at this time will also confuse foreign governments and call into question the credibility of the U.S. as a reliable supplier."

Romberg stressed that the decisions on both Iraq and South Africa "were made after a lengthy review which is required annually."

#### APRIL'S C.O.L. SKYROCKETS

TEL AVI, May 16 (JTA) -- The cost of living index rose by 10.7 percent in April, the highest increase for this month in 29 years, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Since the beginning of the year the index has risen by 33 percent. If the rate continues at its present figure, inflation this year will reach 136 percent, the highest ever and far higher than the two figure inflation forecast by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor. The Central Bureau of Statistics said the sharp April rise was due to a 100 percent increase in municipal taxes and steep hikes in prices of fruit and vegetables and clothing and footwear.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- An Arab woman from the West Bank village of Ein-Sinya near Ramallah died over the weekend, at the reported age of 114. Hajja Nu'zha Mohammed Nasar, who had 340 descendants in her lifetime, worked on her family's land until her last days, family members said.

## JWB EXECUTIVE CALLS FOR BUILDING JEWISH FAMILY AND STRONG COMMUNITY

CHICAGO, May 16 (JTA) -- "The weakening of a sense of identity among American Jews can only be countered by strengthening the Jewish family and building a strong Jewish community." That was the assertion of Arthur Rotman, executive vice president of JWB, at that organization's biennial convention at the Chicago Marriott Hotel.

"A majority of American Jews are uncommitted and unaffiliated," Rotman said. "Jewish community and continuity today are threatened by the increasing rate of intermarriage. The children of these mixed marriages are in particular need of the community's attention."

Rotman singled out the Jewish Community Center (JCC) as the one institution in American Jewish life that can best deal with these problems. "Many otherwise unaffiliated families and individuals who seem to reject any direct involvement in anything Jewish do become involved in the center. For many, it is their only connection with Jewishness."

"Similarly, the Jewish Community Center is the one connection that many intermarried families and their children have with Jewishness."

### Problem Of Jewish Education

Turning to another key problem, Rotman said that "less than 40 percent of Jewish children receive any kind of Jewish education. Even among those who do, a recent study shows that Jewish education alone is not enough to build a sense of Jewish identity."

"The Jewish Community Center provides reinforcement to the more formal Jewish educational institution. It is also a primary place of Jewish learning for many of the more than 60 percent of our young people who receive no formal Jewish education."

The JCC "is not in competition with the synagogue and the formal Jewish school. It complements the synagogue and the school. But more important, the JCC reaches a significant portion of the community not reached by any other Jewish institution," Rotman said. He noted that unlike other Jewish institutions in this country, the Jewish Community Center is native to America. The first one having been established in Baltimore in 1854.

Rotman said that Israel, Europe and South America have "imported the JCC" as an institution able to build Jewish communities.

**ARENS ASKS U.S. TO ASSUME FAIR SHARE OF ECONOMIC BURDEN TAKEN BY ISRAEL IN WITHDRAWING FROM SINAI**  
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, May 16 (JTA) -- Moshe Arens, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, called for increased U.S. aid to Israel in view of the "economic burden" that Israel has assumed as a result of its final withdrawal from Sinai.

Addressing the American Jewish Committee's 76th annual dinner, held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel last Thursday night, Arens said the withdrawal cost Israel about \$21 billion. "So far, the U.S. government did not assume its fair share of this economic burden taken by Israel," the envoy said. He added that the U.S. has an "obligation" to share Israel's burden in view of the role it played in achieving the peace between Israel and Egypt.

Arens told the more than 1,200 guests at the dinner that Israel's greatest concession in signing the Camp David agreement was not refusing Sinai to Egypt but the agreement to grant an autonomy to the Palestinians in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District.

"Although I do not believe that autonomy for the Palestinians would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state, the risk is there," Arens declared. "We took the risk for the sake of peace," he said.

### Israel Will Not 'Walk Away' From West Bank, Gaza

The Israeli Ambassador said that despite the "difficult times" Israel is facing in the territories, the majority of the Israelis "do not want to walk away" from Judea, Samaria and Gaza. He said that Israeli withdrawal from these areas would mean the establishment of a PLO state controlled by Moscow, "a Cuba in the Mideast." He said that such a state would pose a mortal danger to Israel's civilian population.

During the dinner, Dr. Emanuel Rackman, president of Bar Ilan University in Israel, was presented with the AJC's third annual Akibah Award, named after Akibah Ben Joseph, the great first century Jewish scholar. Rackman was given the award for his "service to the Jewish people."

### 1 MILLION SIGNATURES GATHERED ON PETITION FOR SOVIET JEWRY

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 16 (JTA) -- A petition in favor of Soviet Jewry, bearing over one million signatures was presented to the President of the European Parliament, Piot Dankert, last Friday by a five-man delegation led by Claude Kelman of France, vice president of the Brussels Conference for Soviet Jewry. They met in Strasbourg, seat of the European Parliament.

Copies of the petition were circulated among the European Parliaments some of which plan to submit a resolution asking the foreign ministers of the 10 member states of the European Economic Community (EEC) to officially ask the Soviet Union to fully apply the text of the Helsinki accords and end its anti-Jewish discrimination.

Another resolution due to be discussed by the Assembly and expected by observers to be adopted with an overwhelming majority expresses its "deep concern" and calls on Russia to grant exist visas to Israel to all Jews who demand them.

Demonstrations on behalf of Soviet Jewry continued throughout France. Friday night, 30 demonstrators interrupted the show of the Leningrad Kirov Ballet Company demanding the liberation of the Jewish activists detained throughout the Soviet Union. The demonstration was organized by a new group, "Defense Cells for Oppressed Judaism," which later announced that it will step up its activities on behalf of such persecuted communities as those in the USSR and Syria.

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PARIS (JTA) -- The Association of Former Jewish Deportees appealed to President Francois Mitterrand to initiate some action against a notorious Nazi war criminal who now lives openly in West Germany. The appeal said that former SS Obersturmfuhrer Arnold Strippel carried out a massacre of Jewish children in April, 1945, in the closing days of the war. The appeal said that Strippel seems to enjoy complete immunity and had not been tried for the murder. Among the victims were French children.