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STATE DEPT. OFFICIAL SAYS REAGAN WANTS SPEEDY SETTLEMENT IN LEBANON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- Miles Pendleton, who heads the Israel Desk at the U.S. State Department, told Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Meir here today that President Reagan wants to speed up negotiations for a settlement in Lebanon. But it was not immediately clear what the U.S. means by a speedy settlement.

Following their meeting, Ben-Meir told the Voice of Israel Radio that Israel's position remains that the Palestine Liberation Organization forces must leave Lebanon first, to be followed by simultaneous withdrawals by the Syrian and Israeli armies and a security agreement between Israel and Lebanon that would guarantee that their borders would remain peaceful "forever."

Habib To Meet With Begin

U.S. special envoy Philip Habib is expected here tomorrow and is scheduled to meet with Premier Menachem Begin on Thursday. Ben-Meir insisted that negotiations between Israel and Lebanon be "direct." But he did not repeat Israel's demand that they be conducted alternately in Jerusalem and Beirut. "We will certainly cooperate in any way we can to move this forward," he said. "We will listen attentively to any suggestions and ideas that Mr. Habib will bring with him."

Senior political sources here would not confirm reports from Beirut that the renewed mission of Habib and special envoy Morris Draper was to seek a disengagement agreement between the various warring parties in Lebanon as the first stage of a settlement. The sources insisted that there is presently no military power in Lebanon capable of filling the vacuum if Israeli and Syrian forces were to withdraw from that country.

Pendleton and Ben-Meir also discussed Israeli-Egyptian relations. Ben-Meir accused the Egyptians of raising obstacles to normalization and warned that if the peace treaty with Egypt was to lose its substance, the peace prospects for the entire region would be adversely affected.

U.S., FRANCE TO KEEP THEIR FORCES IN LEBANON AS LONG AS NECESSARY

PARIS, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- France and the United States agreed today to maintain their forces in Lebanon as long as the country's internal situation warrants it and to strive to obtain the evacuation of Israeli, Syrian and PLO forces. President Francois Mitterrand and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who met for close to three hours here today, were reported to have been in near agreement on most of the concrete issues dealing with the Middle East.

The Lebanese situation was analyzed at length by Shultz and Defense Minister Charles Hernu. The two agreed to cooperate closely in the multinational force now stationed in Beirut, which also includes Italian contingents, and to "seriously consider" any call by the Lebanese government for strengthening the MNF.

Hernu later told the press that Shultz had warned, however, against involving the MNF

in any operations against any foreign troops. He said the task of the MNF must be to support the government of President Amin Gemayel "to restore Lebanon's sovereignty and enforce the government's authority."

MK URGES DELEGATION BE SENT TO ETHIOPIA TO PROBE FALASHA SITUATION

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- Michael Bar-Zohar, a Labor Alignment member of the Knesset, called today for the dispatch of an Israeli delegation to Ethiopia to investigate the situation of the Falashas, Ethiopian Jews.

Bar-Zohar made the suggestion in reaction to reports that Ethiopian officials in Addis Ababa were allowing Western journalists to visit the Falashas and have said that any foreigners, including Israelis, could do the same. "We must seize the opportunity and take the Ethiopian government at its word," Bar-Zohar said. He observed that while it was encouraging that Western journalists were allowed to visit the Falashas, it was much more important for Israelis to do so, in light of the alarming reports of mistreatment of Falashas recently received by the Knesset's Immigration Committee.

MUBARAK SAYS MAIN ISSUE NOW IN THE MIDEAST IS ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON IN SET STAGES

ROME, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt said here that Israel's withdrawal in set stages from Lebanon is the main issue in the Middle East at the moment. Finding a solution to the Palestinian problem is next in line.

Mubarak, currently on a tour of European capitals, spoke to reporters after a 40-minute conference with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz at the Egyptian Embassy yesterday. He described their talks as "frank and constructive ... brief but global in view." Their discussion included Mubarak's forthcoming visit to Washington where he is scheduled to meet with President Reagan on January 23.

Meanwhile, a ranking Egyptian official accompanying Mubarak strongly affirmed the durability of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and implied that peace with Israel took precedence over other matters in the Middle East conflict.

Permanent Egyptian-Israeli Peace Affirmed

Osama Al-Baz, the Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs, stressed at a separate press conference that nothing has changed fundamentally in relations between Egypt and Israel despite Egypt's criticism of many Israeli actions. The peace between the two countries is "neither fragile nor disputable, but permanent," he said. He added that "Egypt will use persuasions, not pressure or threats to influence Israeli public opinion."

Al-Baz disclosed that "there have been recent contacts between the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the Egyptian government in Egypt" because Egypt considers the PLO to be a "bridge" to the other Arab states. He said those contacts were not publicized but that Egypt was urging the PLO to recognize Israel.

Egypt is defending Palestinian rights and by so doing is defending its own, the Egyptian diplomat said.

He added, however, "There is no rush. Peace is the first choice and in light of this Egypt is insisting that the PLO must recognize Israel."

Al-Baz said Egypt and the U.S. shared the goal of getting all foreign forces out of Lebanon. The difference in their positions is that Egypt wants Israel to withdraw unilaterally while the U.S. seeks the simultaneous withdrawal of all foreign forces.

Mubarak was in Bonn today for meetings with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other officials on the Middle East situation. He will fly to Vienna tomorrow for a meeting with Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

Jordan-PLO Agreement Announced

Meanwhile, reports from Amman today said that the PLO and Jordan have announced their agreement on a "special and distinctive relationship" between Jordan and a potential Palestinian entity on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. One of the main points of President Reagan's Middle East initiative was the creation of a self-governing Palestinian entity in those territories in association with Jordan.

The announcement in Amman came after two days of top level talks between King Hussein and a PLO delegation headed by PLO chairman Yasir Arafat. It stated that Jordan and the PLO would continue "political moves together on all fronts" aimed at establishing Palestinian rights. The announcement said nothing about a joint Jordan-PLO delegation to participate in future peace talks in the region.

HABIB, DRAPER ENROUTE TO THE MIDEAST By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- The State Department announced today that U.S. special envoys Philip Habib and Morris Draper are enroute to the Middle East but, as a matter of policy, would not disclose their first destination.

Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg also refused to discuss details of the "new ideas" they were taking with them to advance negotiations for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. He disclosed, however, that those ideas were developed after Habib and Draper talked with President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz.

Romberg said "It is quite possible" that the envoys will return to Washington to be on hand for Jordan's King Hussein's meeting with President Reagan on December 21.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's Foreign Minister Elie Salem, who is in Washington this week for meetings with American officials, met today with Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam and Nicholas Veliotis, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs. Salem will meet with Shultz in London on Thursday.

Romberg was asked if the U.S. supported Salem's proposal that the multinational force now in Lebanon be expanded to include units from other European countries and Latin American countries. He replied: "We have indicated before that is clearly one of the options in terms of filling in during the departure of foreign forces. It is something that already has been discussed between our governments. (U.S. and Lebanon). It simply is premature to discuss the possibilities of other countries" taking part "although the Lebanese have talked publicly about such participation."

Romberg had no comment about reports from Amman today that Jordan and the PLO had reached agreement on "joint" political moves.

VILLAGE LEAGUE LEADER SAYS U.S. IS ACTING AGAINST PALESTINIANS WHO WANT TO NEGOTIATE WITH ISRAEL By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- Mustapha Doudin, head of the Israel-backed Village Leagues on the West Bank, accused the United States today of acting against Palestinians who want to negotiate with Israel.

Doudin charged that many of the problems of the Palestinians were caused by policy-makers in Washington. He accused the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem specifically of hypocrisy. The Consulate frequently declares its desire to achieve peace but at the same time it assists Arab extremists and neglects the moderates, he claimed.

Doudin, who has been invited by several Congressmen to visit the U.S. was reacting to a reported statement by the State Department that talks with him would not advance efforts to bring Jordan and the Palestinians into peace negotiations. He said the Americans had put him at the bottom of the list of possible negotiating partners.

The Village Leagues were established by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon to counter PLO influence on the West Bank. Israel has provided money and arms to Leagues' leaders. Last month, the village Leagues, consolidated under Doudin, mounted a peace offensive of their own. They challenged the Israeli government to negotiate with them on the future of the occupied territories. They say they are the only Palestinians ready to negotiate with Israel.

SHOUF AREA OF LEBANON REPORTED QUIET

TEL AVIV, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- The Shouf mountain area of Lebanon and Aleh, its largest village just south of the Beirut-Damascus highway, was reported quiet today after days of heavy fighting between local Druze and Christian villages and sections of villages.

Joint Druze-Christian patrols today toured the main highway to keep it open for traffic, and in a show of joint force to dissuade denominational fighting. Israeli troops and armor were not involved in the patrolling, though Israeli forces stood by ready to intervene if necessary. Meanwhile, further north, in Tripoli, fighting continued between pro-Syrian and anti-Syrian Lebanese groups.

UJA NATIONAL 'YACHAD' MISSION WILL BRING 1,500 YOUNG AMERICANS TO ISRAEL IN APRIL

NEW YORK, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- More than 1,500 American Jews between the ages of 25-40 will visit Israel April 10-20, 1983, as participants in "Yachad," the United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Mission, David Greene, chairman of the UJA National Young Leadership Cabinet, and Nita Levy, Young Women's Leadership Cabinet chairperson, have announced.

Carl Kaplan, Young Leadership Cabinet Missions chairman, and Karen Adler, Mission chairperson of the Young Women's Leadership Cabinet, both of Washington, D.C., will lead the Mission, which is jointly sponsored by the two Cabinets.

"Yachad" is the Hebrew word meaning 'together', Greene and Levy said in their announcement.

"and we look upon this Mission as a time for young American Jews to stand together with the young Jews of Israel, an historic opportunity to express their solidarity with them."

The joint announcement said that this is the only National Young Leadership mission UJA is offering this year and that it is being designed for those who have never been to Israel before or who have never been on a UJA mission to the Jewish homeland. The Yachad Mission Itinerary will begin on April 10 -- with special Holocaust Day remembrance ceremonies at each of the gateway airports throughout the U.S. from which participants will depart for Israel.

Highlights of the Mission include a celebration of Israel's 35th anniversary on April 18, Yom Haatzmaut, Israel Independence Day; participation in Israel's commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising on April 19, and home hospitality with the next generation of Israeli leadership. Also planned are a torchlight ceremony atop Masada and intensive Project Renewal programming.

SCINDLER CHARGES ARZA WAS DENIED PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION AT THE 30TH WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- Rabbi Alexander Schindler, a leader of Reform Judaism in the United States, charged here today that the Zionist arm of the American Reform movement, ARZA, was denied representation at the 30th World Zionist Congress in proportion to its numerical strength.

Schindler, who is president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said at a press conference that the Zionist establishment, determined to hold on to its political power, was deliberately keeping out new groups that want to be part of it. He noted that since the last Zionist Congress in 1978, ARZA membership grew by 700 percent -- from 9,000 to over 68,000 -- but the number of mandates they received was only 55 percent.

Even so, Schindler said, the American Reform movement did better than its British affiliate and MERKAZ, the Zionist organization of Conservative Judaism in the U.S., which were denied any representation at the Congress. This was due to high-handed political machination, he charged.

He insisted that basic changes in the organization of the World Zionist movement were a "must" to make it more democratic. The present leadership, he said "are magnificent sloganeers. They tell us that they want to develop new Zionists all over the world from every stream of Jewish life. But they refuse to open the door to new Zionists and they put obstacles in their way," Schindler declared.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

VIEW THAT ISRAEL AND THE U.S. ARE AT LOGGERHEADS IS CHALLENGED

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (JTA) -- The common perception since the start of Israel's "Peace for Galilee" operation last June is that Israel and the United States are at loggerheads and are drawing apart. This is a view that has been encouraged by the statements of some Israeli and American officials and of course, the press.

But at a panel discussion on "U.S. Influence in a Changing Middle East" during the American Enterprise Institute's (AEI) recent Public Policy Week, this view was challenged by Robert Tucker, a professor of international relations at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington.

Noting that the Reagan Administration has taken a basically passive attitude toward the actions of the government of Israeli Premier Menachem Begin, Tucker said that Israel has not been perceived in Washington as pursuing policies which are seen as "fatal to American interests." But, he added, "when that point comes, and particularly if it involves oil, you will see very different behavior on the part of any government, any government, in Washington."

U.S. Position Has Improved In The Mideast

Tucker noted that while Israel is both an asset and a liability to the U.S., it has been mostly an asset. He stressed that when the war in Lebanon ended "the American position in the Mideast was a good deal stronger than it had been before."

A "lack of congruence" between Israel and the U.S. would "become very apparent," Tucker argued, if King Hussein of Jordan "shows up at that famous negotiating table" as President Reagan has urged in his September 1 peace initiative and if the Begin government then maintains its "intransigent opposition" to the Reagan proposals. This "could have very serious consequences," Tucker warned, adding, "before that occurs the argument is largely in the abstract."

Tucker also did not appear to be too much concerned about Israel's refusal to heed Reagan's plea for a freeze on the establishment of Jewish settlements on the West Bank. He said that while the Arab states attach significance to the Palestinian issue they did not see it as "that significant" that they would endanger American and European interests in the Persian Gulf.

On this point, there was sharp disagreement from Tucker's colleague at SAIS, Fouad Ajami, who is director of Middle East studies at the school. While saying that he agreed that the Arabs do not care about the Palestinians, Ajami said they do care about having their weakness "put on display." He said that if this continues it could threaten U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf.

Need To Deal With Constituencies

The panel discussion was based on a paper by Judith Kipper and Harold Saunders, AEI resident fellows. Saunders, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs in the Carter Administration, in outlining the paper stressed the need for the U.S. not only to deal with Mideast governments but also to take into account the various groups within a country which that country's government has to satisfy. "Insensitivity to the constituencies upon which governments depend can undercut them and damage U.S. interests," he warned.

Several persons present suggested that this view might encourage interference in the internal affairs of other countries. Saunders rejected this. He said that in dealing with democracies like Israel, any thing the U.S. does tend to create an internal debate as is occurring now with Reagan's peace initiative. But he said all governments have constituencies and this should be taken into account as a "fact of life." He stressed that the U.S. must be able to understand what a government is able to do before it is asked to do something.

KOCHUBIEVSKY SENTENCED TO TWO-AND-A-HALF YEARS IN LABOR CAMP

NEW YORK, Dec. 14 (JTA) — Feliks Kochubievsky, a Soviet Jewish activist from Novosibirsk, was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in a labor camp last week, it was reported here today by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. The 52-year-old electrical engineer was convicted for "circulation of fabrications known to be false which defame the Soviet state and social system." He faced a maximum penalty of up to three years imprisonment.

Kochubievsky has been the target of KGB harassment since he first applied to emigrate to Israel in 1978, the National Conference said. He and his wife, Valentina, were denied permission to join their two sons in Israel on the grounds of "regime considerations." His subsequent efforts to re-establish a "USSR-Israel Friendship Society" exacerbated his already strained situation.

According to the National Conference, Kochubievsky is presently in very poor health. He is suffering from a kidney ailment which requires immediate surgical attention.

\$8 MILLION IN GIFTS AND PLEDGES ANNOUNCED AT YESHIVA U. DINNER

NEW YORK, Dec. 14 (JTA) — Gifts and pledges totalling some \$8 million — highlighted by a \$1 million from Leonard Stern, chairman of the Board of Hartz Mountain Corp. — were announced at Yeshiva University's 58th annual Chanukah dinner Sunday night.

The dinner, at the Waldorf Astoria, attended by more than 1,000 people, honored Ghity Stern, widow of Max Stern, noted philanthropist, founder of Hartz Mountain, and long-time vice chairman and member of the university's Board of Trustees. Max Stern died last May. One of his first major gifts to the university resulted in the establishment of Stern College for Women, the nation's first undergraduate liberal arts and sciences school for women under Jewish auspices.

The \$1 million pledge from Leonard Stern will go toward turning a 50-year-old dream into a reality for the university. The funds will be used to build an athletic center on the university's main campus in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan. The building will include a modern, regulation-sized gymnasium, something the University never has had.

The projected athletic center will be the first major construction on the university's Washington Heights campus since 1970. By planning this center, the university reaffirms its commitment to Washington Heights and to the development of the campus and the neighborhood that surrounds it, Dr. Norman Lamm, president of the university, said.

Other Projects Announced

At the dinner, Lamm announced other projects to honor the memory of Max Stern, including the following:

- * \$3.75 million from the Max Stern Foundation will fund the largest single scholarship program ever established at the university, the Max Stern Scholars Program. It will offer financial assistance to exceptionally gifted high school students who wish to attend the undergraduate colleges — Yeshiva College for men and Stern College for women.

- * The Board of Trustees of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, an affiliate of the university, has renamed the seminary's community service arm the Max Stern Division of Communal Services.

- * Many gifts of \$100,000 or more were made to the university to endow the Division of Communal Services and other projects. The gifts were inspired by

Ludwig Jesselson, chairman of the university's Century Campaign; Ludwig Bravmann, dinner Special Gifts chairman; and Herbert Tenzer, chairman of the university's Board of Trustees.

Another announcement at the dinner was a major contribution by Hermann Merkin, president of Merkin and Company, Inc., a member of the Yeshiva University Board of Trustees, board member of both the university's Benjamin Cardozo School of Law and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and co-chairman of its \$100 million Century Campaign.

In recognition of Merkin's contribution, the university will rename its Teachers Institute for Men as the Isaac Breuer College of Hebraic Studies in honor of Merkin's late father-in-law, Isaac Breuer, an intellectual leader of German Jewry, an attorney, and a founder of the Poalei Agudat Israel, of which he became president. Born in Hungary in 1883, Breuer was brought to Germany as a child. In 1936, he left Nazi Germany and settled in Jerusalem. He died in 1946.

Proceeds from the dinner went towards the university's Century Campaign, an effort initiated in 1979 to raise \$100 million to commemorate the university's centennial in 1986.

ISRAELI ARAB YOUTH IS A FINALIST IN THE 1982 SCIENCE FAIR

TEL AVIV, Dec. 14 (JTA) — An 18-year-old Israeli Arab boy, Muhamad Mustafa Agabria, of Uum El-Faham village, was one of 19 finalists in the 1982 Weizmann Institute of Science-Discount Bank science fair which ended with prize awards in Rehovot today.

Agabria, who submitted a paper analyzing Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, was also the first Arab youngster to participate in the annual science fair held on campus for talented young people.

Other finalists included first prize winner Ron Karidi of Tel Aviv who designed a mathematical model for solving the Rubik cube and variations of it, and Leah Orbach of Eilat who placed second for her study of the effect of light on a certain type of giant clam which lives in symbiosis with single-cell algae in the Red Sea.

Gilad Bendel of Rehovot and Amos Lapidot of Ramat Gan shared the third prize for computer programs. Another shared third prize went to Ravid Sagyn of the Bnei Yehuda settlement in the Golan Heights, who built a sophisticated model of a greenhouse controlled by a microprocessor. The youngest prize winner, for his project on the homing sense of dogs, was Robert Alterson, 13. He received a consolation prize.

DEMONSTRATION FOR SHCHARANSKY

PARIS, Dec. 14 (JTA) — Demonstrators in dozens of cars blocked all the streets leading to the Soviet Embassy to protest the continued imprisonment of Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky. The demonstrators blocked all traffic to the Embassy and paralyzed a central part of Paris for close to three hours Sunday night.

The protestors lit Chanukah candles outside the Embassy while chanting "Freedom for Shcharansky" and "Exit visas for all Russian Jews." Shcharansky, who is serving a 13-year prison sentence, began a hunger strike September 27 in Chistopol prison to protest the denial by authorities of visitation rights and correspondence with his family.