

JTA daily news bulletin

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Monday, December 20, 1982

No. 239

ISRAEL DROPS ITS DEMAND THAT TALKS WITH LEBANON BE HELD ALTERNATELY IN JERUSALEM AND BEIRUT

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- The Cabinet announced today that Israel has dropped its demand that negotiations with Lebanon be held alternately in Jerusalem and Beirut and stated that "the venue of the negotiations will be determined in contacts between the governments of Israel and Lebanon."

The announcement appeared to remove a major obstacle to the start of formal negotiations between the two countries for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon and security arrangements. It followed a statement by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon that he had personally achieved a "breakthrough" on negotiations in talks with undisclosed Lebanese leaders in Beirut last Thursday.

It also followed comments to the media by President Reagan in Washington over the weekend characterizing the armies of Israel, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization forces still in Lebanon as "armies of occupation," a description which he seemed to apply most emphatically to the Israeli army. In addition, U.S. special envoy Philip Habib delivered a letter from Reagan to Premier Menachem Begin last Thursday in which the President forcefully urged Israel to pull out of Lebanon without further delay.

The contents of Reagan's letter were not disclosed, but informed sources said it put the onus primarily on Israel for the negotiations impasse of the past few weeks.

Optimism In The Cabinet

Nevertheless, there was optimism in the Cabinet today that negotiations could begin shortly. Habib and U.S. special envoy Morris Draper, just back from Beirut, confirmed to Israeli officials that there seemed to have been a major advance and indicated that formal talks between Israel and Lebanon might begin in a few days and could be concluded successfully within a short time.

After meeting with Habib and Draper this morning, Begin convened his Cabinet to announce the government's change of position on the issue of venue. While some ministers wanted to blur what they saw as a backing down by Israel, Begin insisted, according to Cabinet sources, that the announcement be made straightforwardly and clear.

He insisted that the national interest required that Israel make the concession so that agreements already concluded informally with Lebanon can be formalized without delay.

Israeli sources did not reveal the identities of the "very senior Lebanese figures" with whom Sharon has been in contact for several weeks. They acknowledged that there are counter-pressures at work within the complex and less than stable government in Beirut. But they seemed confident that the principles secured by Sharon and endorsed by the Cabinet today could be incorporated into a formal accord between Israel and Lebanon.

A high government source told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that those principles would "largely answer our requirements." The source said

they provide for "satisfactory security arrangements" in south Lebanon, for "normalization" of relations between the two countries and for an "official end to belligerence."

Nevertheless, some key sources took issue with claims by Sharon and his associates that the major "breakthrough" was achieved by the Defense Minister in a solo effort without the help of the Americans. According to Sharon's circles, Habib and Draper were "surprised" by Sharon's success.

The sources emphasized today that the U.S. role would be vital, not only in mediation between Israel, Syria and the PLO for total withdrawal but also in the protracted formal negotiations between Israel and Lebanon. The sources said several Cabinet ministers had expressed their appreciation of the American efforts.

They stressed that Israel was not being asked by the U.S. or by Lebanon to pull back its forces unilaterally. They said simultaneous withdrawal by Israel and the Syrians was under consideration, probably in stages, to begin after the PLO pulls out its estimated 6-7,000 armed men.

Reagan's comments in Washington indicated that he was fast losing patience over the lack of movement in Lebanon. He told the Washington Post in an interview published Friday that "the time has come now for the foreign forces that are there -- Syria, Israel and the remnant of the PLO" to pull out of Lebanon. "For these countries to delay in getting out now places them in the position of being occupying armies," he said, according to the Post.

He added, the Post reported, that for Israel to be in Lebanon on invitation or when it was being attacked from across the Lebanese border was one thing, but for them to be there now was something else. "The Lebanese government has enough confidence in itself that it has asked them (the Israelis) to leave and to not leave is, as I say, to make themselves an occupying force," the President was quoted by the Post.

Defines 'Armies Of Occupation'

He sounded the same theme in comments to radio reporters yesterday. "The main thing right now that we have Ambassador Habib and Draper working on in the Middle East is to get what now constitutes armies of occupation -- the PLO, the Syrians and the Israelis -- out of Lebanon and let the Gemayel government have the sovereignty of their own country," Reagan said.

He added: "I call them armies of occupation because there was a time when Lebanon with all its troubles and divisions did have to welcome them in an effort to create order. But now that government has enough confidence to ask them to leave. For them to continue to stay against the will of Lebanon makes them technically armies of occupation."

The President also said the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon was a first step in resolving the Middle East conflict. "Then we move on to the peace process in solving the Palestinian problem, Israel and guaranteeing the security of Israel's borders," Reagan said.

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REAGAN-HUSSEIN TALKS NOT SEEN AS A 'MAKE OR BREAK' MEETING

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- The U.S. wants Jordan to join in the Middle East peace process but "it would be a mistake to characterize as a 'make or break' meeting" President Reagan's upcoming talks with King Hussein this Tuesday, a senior Administration official said.

"We are talking about a very important meeting that we hope will bring us to a new plateau of cooperation and bring that date of broadened negotiations much closer," the official said at a White House briefing for reporters Friday. "But we are going to have to continue conversations with the government of Israel and other governments and Jordan as we move ahead down the months," he added.

Hussein arrived in Washington yesterday for what will be his second meeting with Reagan. They first met here in November, 1981. The official said Hussein "will be sharing his views with the President on where we stand in the peace process and together they will assess the present and discuss the future. While there are no deadlines, we strongly believe that an early move toward broadened negotiations offers the best hope for progress because the momentum must not be lost."

Notes Key Development

The official noted Hussein's public support for Reagan's Middle East peace initiative which the President announced last September 1. He referred to Hussein's December 13 statement on BBC radio that Jordan recognized Israel and called on the Palestine Liberation Organization to do so as well.

"Clearly, this is a key development and central element in the peace process," the Administration official said. "Clearly Jordan has taken the lead with respect to the other Arabs, most importantly with the Palestinians, in an effort to move toward broadened negotiations. Jordan is now involved in a major effort with the PLO and others to develop a formula whereby the Palestinians would participate with Jordan in broadened negotiations with Israel."

The official stressed, however, that a failure by Hussein to commit himself to joining the peace process at Tuesday's meeting would not mean the end of Reagan's initiative. The Administration has been stressing that the President is firmly committed to his plan and intends to pursue it. The Reagan plan calls for a self-governing Palestinian entity on the West Bank and Gaza Strip in association with Jordan.

Issue Of Arms Sale To Jordan

Another aspect of the Reagan-Hussein meeting is expected to involve U.S. arms sales to Jordan, strongly opposed by Israel and its friends in the U.S. The Administration official noted, "We have a long-standing and mutually beneficial security relationship with Jordan which we intend to continue."

He said that "we have been holding discussions with the Jordanians in the context of the joint military commission. This a long-standing bilateral body that meets twice a year. Here, the focus was on modernizing Jordan's armed forces to meet its legitimate defense needs. For some months, we have been discussing with the Jordanians the type of aircraft that would best meet their defense needs. If and when we re-

ceive requests for the sale of new weapons systems, these requests will be given serious consideration by the Executive branch." The official added that "consultations with the Congress are an integral part of any such consideration" and that the sales of arms are studied "on their own merits," indicating they would not be contingent on Jordan joining the peace process.

The official warned that a Congressional move to block new U.S. arms sales to Jordan appeared intended to embarrass Hussein on the eve of his meeting with the President. "I can't see how anyone could believe that this serves the interests of the United States," he said.

Arens Warns Against Coaxing Hussein

Meanwhile, Israel's Ambassador to the U.S., Moshe Arens, said Hussein must announce his willingness to negotiate with Israel directly and without conditions. According to the envoy, such an announcement is not likely.

Arens warned that the U.S. must not "attempt to coax Hussein to the (negotiating) table" by guaranteeing him concessions from Israel. "He should be told that he must do what (the late Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat did -- come to Jerusalem or invite Menachem Begin to Amman," Arens said in reply to questions at an International Club luncheon here last Thursday.

WEST BANK SITES UNDER CURFEWS FOLLOWING RIOT IN NABLUS

By Gil Sedan and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force imposed curfews today on three West Bank sites -- the casbah in Nablus, and the refugee camps of Balata near Nablus and Daheisha near Bethlehem -- following a riot yesterday in Nablus during which Israeli border police killed a 19-year-old Arab high school student. The dead youth was identified as Samir Ghazal Taflaq.

According to military sources, Taflaq and a group of his friends were demonstrating on the main road just outside Nablus where residents of the Balata refugee camp were stoning passing Israeli vehicles. Taflaq and his friends surrounded a three-man border patrol and hurled rocks at them from the school grounds and nearby buildings.

The three border policemen, feeling that their lives were in danger, first fired warning shots into the air and then, when this failed to halt the stone-throwing by the youths, fired at their feet. One of the bullets hit Taflaq in the chest. He was rushed to a local hospital where he was declared dead.

Nablus residents near the high school told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the shooting yesterday was not justified by the rock-throwing by a few youngsters. Labor Alignment MK Mohammad Wadat and Communist MK Tawfiq Toubi issued protests against "the cheap value of Arab blood in the territories."

The curfew at the Balata refugee camp was imposed last week and then lifted but reimposed today. The camp has been a focus of unrest for some time, since a 14-year-old boy from the camp had been shot by a Jewish West Bank settler last October. Tempers have also been running high in Nablus because a group of Gush Emunim settlers have taken up residence at a newly established yeshiva and study group at what is known as Jacob's Well in the town.

The refugee camp at Daheisha near Bethlehem has also been under curfew for several days, following unrest in the Judea area south of Jerusalem. In that area Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe has complained that Jewish residents of Kiryat Arba Jewish suburb of Hebron who have moved into the heart of the Arab

town have not paid their water or electricity bills for over a year.

The Kiryat Arba residents have countered by threatening to remove an electricity pylon which they claim stands on their land. The pylon carries electric power to Hebron, and the Arab municipality claims that all power pylons are built on municipal land.

UN ASSEMBLY ADOPTS A SERIES OF ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTIONS By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 19 (JTA) — The General Assembly has urged all UN member-states to totally isolate Israel by ceasing all military, economic and diplomatic contacts with her. The call was included in a resolution overwhelmingly adopted last Thursday night by a vote of 87-22 with 31 abstentions.

This resolution was part of a score of resolutions which sharply criticized Israel and its occupation of Arab territories. The resolution also called for unconditional withdrawal by Israel from all territories it has occupied since 1967. The resolutions said that unless Israel withdrew there can be no just and lasting settlement in the Middle East.

The same resolution also strongly condemned the negative votes of the United States in the Security Council on resolutions regarding the Middle East. The resolutions said that the United States veto prevents the Council from taking appropriate measures to solve the Middle East conflict. The resolution also demanded that Israel rescind its decision to impose its laws and jurisdiction on the Golan Heights and reiterated a previous General Assembly statement that Israel was not "a peace-loving member-state."

Another resolution adopted Thursday night condemned the massacre of civilians in Beirut and called for the strict respect for Lebanon's sovereignty. Israel joined the vote condemning the massacre but voted, in a separate vote, against the provision that said that the massacre was an act of genocide. The basic vote was 145 for, none against.

Another resolution condemned what it called the plundering of the Palestinian cultural heritage during the Israeli occupation of Beirut and called on Israel to make full restitution, through UNESCO, of all the archives and documents removed by Israel. The vote on this resolution was 138-1. The negative vote was cast by Israel. The United States, the Dominican Republic, Malawi, Papua and New Guinea abstained.

Another resolution deplored the transfer by some states of their diplomatic missions back to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv in violation of the 1980 resolution of the Security Council. The vote on this resolution was 137 in favor with only Israel voting against it, and four abstentions — the United States, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Malawi.

Still another resolution called for strict respect for Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. The resolution received 145 votes, with no opposition.

At The 30th World Zionist Congress ASSEMBLY ENDS WITH NO CONSENSUS ON GOVERNMENT'S SETTLEMENT POLICIES
By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 19 (JTA) — The 30th World Zionist Congress ended here on an uncertain note. No consensus was reached on the fiercely controversial issue of the government's

settlement policies in the occupied territories and inter-party wrangling over the composition of the new World Zionist Organization Executive continued to the very end.

Leon Dulzin, who ran unopposed, was unanimously re-elected chairman of the WZO Executive which, it was agreed, will be composed of 35 members. There was some reshuffling of portfolios but the final allocations were not completed when the weary delegates wound up the Congress at dawn Friday with the singing of Hatikva. It was supposed to have ended Thursday night.

The issue of settlement policies came to a head last Wednesday when the Labor Zionists and the World Confederation of United Zionists, comprising a majority of the Plenum, approved a resolution pointing to the dangers of increasing Jewish settlements in the heavily Arab-populated regions of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Congress presidium refused to accept the resolution and a "good-will" subcommittee made up of delegates from all of the major parties went to work to try to reach a formulation acceptable to all. But after laboring for two days, the Congress declared that it "could not reach consensus on the settlement subject."

It approved instead a general resolution expressing hope for the establishment of peace "based on secure and defensible borders, a peace that will allow blossoming and creativity" in the territories.

Begin Intervenes For Tami Faction

Congress sources confirmed that Premier Menachem Begin's personal intervention helped secure one Executive seat for Aharon Abu-Hatzeira's Tami faction although on the basis of its Knesset strength it sent only 18 delegates to the Congress, five short of the minimum necessary for representation on the WZO Executive. Abu-Hatzeira reportedly threatened to pull his three-man Sephardic-based faction out of Begin's coalition government if Tami was denied a place on the Executive.

Similarly, Mizrahi retained its three seats on the WZO Executive despite the fact that the National Religious Party with which it is affiliated dropped from 12 to six seats in the last Knesset elections. Mizrahi reportedly was prevailed upon to relinquish its youth aliya department portfolio and settle for the less prestigious hasbara (information) department.

HUBERMAN'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY MARKED

TEL AVIV, Dec. 19 (JTA) — The 100th anniversary of the birth of violinist Bronislaw Huberman on December 19, 1882, was marked by a gala concert here today, described by some musicologists as "the greatest concert in the history of the violin," with the participation of six of the world's greatest violinists.

The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, which Huberman founded in 1932, has honored the great violinist with a special week of concerts, under the baton of its musical director and conductor Zubin Mehta. The violinists playing in this evening's concert are Isaac Stern, Pinhas Zuckerman, Yitzhak Perlman, Ida Haendel, Shlomo Mintz and Itzhak Gliklis.

A seventh violinist to have taken part in tonight's final festive concert was Henrik Schering, whose father, a Warsaw businessman, had paid the fares of many Jewish members of the Warsaw Symphony Orchestra in 1936 to go to Palestine to help found the new Palestine Symphony Orchestra under the baton of its first guest conductor, Arturo Toscanini. Schering left last Friday at the invitation of the Mexican government to play at the ceremonial swearing-in of the new Mexican President.

ALBERT EINSTEIN ARCHIVES TRANSFERRED TO HEBREW UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- The Albert Einstein Archives, containing 43,000 documents including much of the scientist's correspondence and more than 30 unpublished scientific manuscripts, has been transferred to its ultimate home at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Scholars at the university will immediately begin work with the papers, said Prof. Reuven Yaron, who has over all charge of the archives.

Since Einstein's death in 1955, the papers were housed at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, N.J., where the scientist spent the last years of his life. They were flown to Jerusalem a week ago. According to Yaron, the Hebrew University will undertake the preparation of a detailed catalogue of the contents of the archive which, he said, he hoped will be published by Princeton University Press.

The Princeton University Press is editing and publishing the Einstein papers, a project which is now a joint effort with the Hebrew University. The Hebrew University plans a full program involving the papers, considered by many to be one of the greatest scientific, cultural and historical collections extant. The archives will be housed in a special section of the Jewish National and University Library, located at the university's Givat Ram campus in Jerusalem.

"We will pursue a liberal policy of access to the papers," Yaron said, adding that most work would be done from photocopies, while access to the original documents are also available at Princeton University.

The university, he said, will continue the process of acquiring additional material for the archives, either copies or originals or original documents and in some cases will purchase the originals. Plans are also being made, he said, for a major Einstein exhibition in April, 1985, marking the 30th anniversary of Einstein's death.

Some Of The Documents Involved

Einstein gave several important documents to the university during his lifetime, including the original manuscript of the 1916 article outlining his theory of general relativity.

The 43,000 documents which arrived in Jerusalem include scientific and non-scientific material, with the non-scientific items outnumbering the scientific by a margin of about three to two. The great majority of the material has never been published, including most of the correspondence.

Einstein corresponded with many of the world's leading figures -- fellow scientists, political leaders, philosophers. The archive's scientific correspondence includes letters to and from such personalities as Niels Bohr, Max Planck and H. A. Lorentz.

The archives contain more than 30 unpublished scientific manuscripts, both complete and incomplete, as well as several notebooks from his student days in Zurich. An incomplete list of the world figures with whom Einstein corresponded and whose letters are found in the archives includes Sigmund Freud, Mohandas Ghandi, Albert Schweitzer, President Franklin Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt and George Bernard Shaw.

Among the historic documents in the archives is a copy of Einstein's famous 1939 letter to President Roosevelt warning him of the military potential of atomic energy, as well as the original of Roosevelt's answer, informing Einstein that he was convening a board to investigate the situation, a step which led to the Manhattan Project and the eventual development of the first atomic bomb.

Einstein identified closely with his Jewish heritage and was active on behalf of the Zionist movement. The archives include a large amount of correspondence with Chaim Weizmann. He was closely associated with the development of the Hebrew University and served on its Board of Governors for several years.

He was honorary president of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, and the archives contains correspondence reflecting his deep concern for the organization's activity on behalf of the university in the United States.

Affected By Persecution Of Jews

Germany's persecution of Jews in Europe deeply affected Einstein. One letter sent to Eleanor Roosevelt in July, 1941, pointed out the difficulties faced by Europeans trying to find a haven in the United States.

The letter told her of a "policy now being pursued in the State Department which makes it all but impossible to give refuge in America to many worthy persons who are the victims of fascist cruelty in Europe." The archives contains her reply stating that she had brought the letter to the attention of her husband.

Yaron is a professor of Roman Law and ancient Near East Law. From 1967 to 1971, he served as dean of the Faculty of Law at the Hebrew University and from 1973 to 1978 as director of the Jewish National and University Library, which serves as both the university's main library and as a national repository similar to the Library of Congress.

ISRAEL HAS NEW SEA-TQ-SEA MISSILE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- The Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) announced it has a new sophisticated sea-to-sea missile in advanced stages of development.

It is the Gabriel Mark 3 sea-to-sea missile -- a new development based on the IAI-designed and produced Gabriel sea-to-sea missile, which has had a great success in Israeli sea battles, with a very high hit rate.

The new missile can be launched from a wide variety of aircraft at an undisclosed maximum height. Fitted with a radar target-seeking device, the missile drops to near sea level and can then continue to its target in either one of two ways.

It can be sent in the general direction of the target with its course amended by the aircraft pilot, or it can be fired to use its radar to seek its target independently of its launching aircraft which can then leave the area.

The range of the Gabriel Mark 3 is over 36 miles. It strikes its target just above the waterline. It is fitted with a 150-kg warhead.

CLARA MALRAUX DEAD AT 85

PARIS, Dec. 19 (JTA) -- Clara Malraux, former wife of French author Andre Malraux, and herself a noted writer, died last week at the age of 85. She will be buried Tuesday in Paris. Clara Malraux, born to a family of German Jewish bankers, the Goldschmidts, met Malraux in the 1920's and, according to most literary historians inspired his first works and helped his literary and journalistic evolution.

They separated in the late 1930's but Malraux refused to divorce Clara, thus enabling her to enjoy the protection his name provided during the Nazi occupation of France. Involved with Jewish issues and a Zionist, Mrs. Malraux wrote extensively about these subjects. One of her best known works is a sociological study of life in Israeli kibbutzim.