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POSSIBILITY OF HUSSEIN JOINING THE PEACE TALKS IS GAINING GROUND

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA) — The possibility that King Hussein of Jordan will soon make a move to join the Middle East peace talks is gaining ground among some Israeli government analysts. They expect he will do so on the basis of support for President Reagan's initiative, announced last September 1, and on condition that Israel freezes settlement activity on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as Reagan has urged.

The analysts seem to be in agreement with William Quandt of the Brookings Institution, who predicted in a lecture in Tel Aviv Sunday that Hussein would shortly announce his intention to join the peace process. Quandt was the National Security Council's Mideast expert in the Carter Administration.

That possibility received further support today from Sen. Paul Tsongas (D. Mass.) who is currently visiting the region. He told reporters at Kibbutz Afikim that "specifically, a decision has been made (by Jordan) to negotiate as soon as the environment is correct."

Tsongas said he was informed of this in conversations with top Egyptian leaders in Cairo earlier this week. The "most important part" of the "correct environment" is the situation in Lebanon, according to Tsongas who went to Amman today for talks with Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan and will be back in Israel Friday for a meeting with Premier Menachem Begin.

Hussein To Meet Again With Reagan

According to Israeli analysts, Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir Arafat will continue to insist publicly that he has given Hussein no mandate to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians. Privately, however, the two men will have reached an understanding, the nature of which Hussein is expected to convey to Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz when he makes a return visit to Washington later this month or early in February.

The Jordanian ruler is expected to visit the White House again before Begin's visit which is now scheduled for the third week of February. Begin was to have met with Reagan last November but was forced to cancel because of the death of his wife, Aliza.

Quandt, who met with Hussein before coming to Israel, said the King would seek to obtain maximum support from other Arab leaders before entering the peace talks. He also said he was more optimistic over the prospects of the talks getting under way than he was for their successful outcome.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir warned last night that if Hussein entered talks with Israel under an all-Arab mandate, his proposals would be unacceptable "even to the most moderate Israeli."

Addressing the sixth international convention of Bnei Akiva, the youth movement affiliated with the National Religious Party, Shamir said Israel's experience showed there could be peace with an Arab state only when the state freed itself from pan-Arab

pressures, as the late President Anwar Sadat of Egypt had done in 1977. According to Shamir, in terms of hopes for peace, an Arab "mandate" or a PLO "mandate" was "an illusion."

Shamir claimed that over the years, Hussein's position over territorial compromise, in secret contacts with Israelis, was always "not an inch." The Foreign Minister implied strongly that this was also Israel's position. Israel has "no need for such slogans," he told his audience of Orthodox youth.

"We say Eretz Israel (land of Israel) and I don't have to tell you in Bnei Akiva what that means," he declared to wild applause. "We learned about it, we yearned for it, we lived it and we shall live it in the future. We shall settle it and it shall all of it be ours."

ISRAEL-LEBANON ACCORD STYMIED OVER INCLUSION OF NORMALIZATION AS ITEM ON AGENDA OF THE TALKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA) — The formulation of an agenda item on normalization of relations continues to be the main obstacle delaying an agreement on an agenda in the talks between Israel and Lebanon. A 90-minute meeting today in Jerusalem between the American mediator, Morris Draper, and Israel's Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir apparently failed to produce a breakthrough on this issue.

(It was reported today in Washington that special envoy Philip Habib was summoned to the capital from a Florida vacation for policy-making meetings as the Reagan Administration prepared a new drive to break the stalemate in the Israeli-Lebanese talks. State Department sources said it is likely that Habib will return to the Middle East within a few days in an effort to break the deadlock.)

Israeli sources said Draper, who is Habib's deputy, had brought "new ideas" on the issue that had been discussed between himself and the Lebanese leadership. But Israel Radio reported that Shamir had "rejected" the ideas and had insisted that the concept of normalization be clearly spelled out in the agenda.

After the meeting with Draper, Shamir and his Director-General, David Kimche, who heads Israel's delegation to the talks with the Lebanese, met with Premier Menachem Begin and other top aides for a briefing session prior to the next round of the talks tomorrow at Kiryat Shmona.

Upbeat Remarks By Draper

Draper himself sounded upbeat in brief remarks to reporters after his meetings with Shamir and Kimche at the Foreign Ministry. The talk had been "good" he said. "The negotiations are going to go forward ... We have high hopes for a successful conclusion as soon as possible."

Draper's effort was set against the backdrop of some tough public rhetoric from Shamir the evening before. In a speech to Bnei Akiva youth movement leaders from around the world, the Foreign Minister charged that certain Moslem leaders in Lebanon who were opposed to peaceful relations with Israel did not really represent the great majority of the Lebanese people but were "agents of foreign interests

These Moslem leaders, whom Shamir did not name, were "the instruments of pressure" in the hands of the Arab states -- Syria, Saudi Arabia, even Egypt, too" -- which were urging Lebanon not to conclude a normalization accord with Israel.

"The world is silent and no one protests" against this pressure upon Lebanon, Shamir noted. Instead, Israel is accused, in a Beirut newspaper, of seeking to pressure Lebanon into peaceful relations with her, he said. In fact, the Foreign Minister said, such peaceful relations were a vital common interest shared by Israel and Lebanon.

Throughout its history, and especially since 1948, Lebanon had been a prey to outside pressures from Syria and Saudi Arabia. Its role in the Arab-Israeli conflict had been forced upon it against the will of its people, Shamir noted. Similarly, in 1969 the "Cairo agreements" by which Lebanon allowed the PLO to operate from its territory had been forced upon it "by Nasser and his allies," he said.

Israel had "freed Lebanon from these pressures. The great majority of the Lebanese people want peaceful relations with Israel. That includes a great many of the Moslems in Lebanon. They want Lebanon out of the framework of the Israel-Arab conflict," Shamir said.

BENJAMIN ROSENTHAL DEAD AT 59

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Rep. Benjamin Rosenthal (D. N.Y.), the senior Jewish member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, a staunch supporter of Israel in Congress, an opponent of the Vietnam war and a leading consumer advocate, died yesterday at the age of 59 in Georgetown University Hospital after a long battle with cancer. His death reduced to 37 the number of Jewish legislators in the House.

Rosenthal, of Queens, who was elected last November to his 11th term in the House in a newly-drawn Seventh District in Queens, had been in the forefront of Congressional battles for continued support to Israel, such as increases in United States financial and military aid to Israel, and in seeking to prevent Administration actions he considered harmful to Israel.

Among these, he took part in the unsuccessful battle to prevent the Reagan Administration from selling AWACS reconnaissance planes to Saudi Arabia in 1981 and had joined in warnings to the Reagan Administration over reports of planned sales of weapons to Jordan. Many non-Jewish Congressmen looked to him for guidance on issues concerning Israel.

Rosenthal was operated on for cancer of the colon in January, 1981, and received 10 months of chemotherapy which left him gaunt and weak. He managed to resume his duties in the House, but his condition became worse last month and he was forced to take the oath of office for the 98th Congress Monday in his hospital room.

Elected By Huge Majorities

Rosenthal had been elected by huge majorities from the Eighth Congressional district since he was first elected in 1962. At one point, in 1969, he held the House in session all night to show his support for demonstrators who had come to Washington in opposition to the Vietnam war. At that time, he said "One Congressman with a fair amount ofchutzpah can awaken the public conscience."

Born in The Bronx in 1923, he attended City College of New York. In 1949, after wartime service in Iceland, he returned to study at Brooklyn Law School, where he earned his law degree.

Patrick Mulhearn, counsel to New York City Mayor Edward Koch, said yesterday an interim successor would be chosen by the Queens County Democratic Committee. Under New York State election law, Mulhearn added, Governor Mario Cuomo will call a special election which must be held no sooner than 30 days and no more than 40 days after the date the Governor signs the proclamation for the special election. The law does not specify when the Governor must take that action.

A general election for the vacated Seventh District seat will be held on election day in November. A spokesman for the family said funeral arrangements had not been completed.

ISRAELI SOLDIERS ACCUSED OF BEATING WEST BANK ARAB DEMONSTRATORS SAY THEY WERE CARRYING OUT ORDERS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Seven Israeli army officers and other ranks accused of using excessive violence to subdue Arab demonstrators on the West Bank, continue to insist that they were carrying out orders by their superiors which originated at the highest echelons of the defense establishment.

Capt. Mordecai Artzi, identified as "Operations Officer" of the Hebron Military Government, bolstered that line of defense in his testimony at a court martial yesterday. He said the area military commander, Lt. Col. Shalom Lugassi, had given him and other officers instructions which included beating up local residents, harassing them and smashing their wristwatches as forms of punishment.

told To 'Collect' Whoever Was Around

"We were told to collect them, 150 or 200 at a time, whoever happened to be around, it didn't matter if they had demonstrated or not. We brought them back to headquarters for questioning," Artzi said.

He was testifying as a witness for Maj. David Mofaz, one of the seven accused of beating and persecuting local Arab residents in the Hebron area during disturbances there last March and April. Mofaz, who was Deputy Military Governor, testified last week that his orders to use violence came directly from Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon.

Mofaz repeated his allegations in court yesterday, despite the prosecutor's insistence that all Israeli soldiers were under standing orders not to strike local West Bank residents. According to Mofaz, "When a senior officer ordered us to deal with detainees, we understood from the spirit behind the words that we had to beat them up." The prosecution contends that the accused acted in a brutal manner of their own volition, in violation of standing orders.

Court Martial Follows Allegations

The seven men were ordered court martialled after reserve officers of the Peace Now movement who served on the West Bank, made a series of allegations following their release from active service.

Peace Now recently urged the West Bank Military Government to act quickly to prevent "imminent acts of violence by Jewish settlers" against local Arab residents in the territory.

The movement based its warning on a Military Government document which disclosed that Minister of Science and Technology Yuval Neeman of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction, and his aide, Tehiya MK Hanan Porat, are setting up "supervisory teams" as-

tensively to guard State lands against Arab encroachment. These "teams" may well be used to deport Arabs opposed to Israeli rule over the territory, Peace Now warned. The movement said it learned that residents of Kiryat Arba, the Gush Emunim stronghold overlooking Hebron, plan to "persuade and pressure" shopowners in the old market place of Arab Hebron to get out to make room for Jewish settlers. They contend the area belonged to Jews who were forced to flee during the Arab disturbances in Hebron in 1929.

Publish Photos Of Specially Fitted Jeeps

Neeman, a hardliner who advocates Israel's annexation of all occupied Arab territories and the removal of their Arab populations by one means or another, holds the Cabinet's newly created science portfolio. But his activities since he joined Premier Menachem Begin's coalition government last year have been exclusively in connection with advancing Jewish settlement in the territories. He is an ardent supporter of the Gush Emunim.

Israeli newspapers today published photographs of specially fitted jeeps operated by the Gush Etzion Regional Council to tour the area to track down "illegal Arab buildings" and "protect State lands." The jeeps are equipped with radios supplied by the army and are each manned by two armed civilian settlers.

ISRAELI TRUCK DRIVER, KIDNAPPED IN LEBANON, IS FOUND SLAIN By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- An Israeli civilian who was kidnapped yesterday while delivering heavy heating fuel oil to Israeli army units in Lebanon was found dead today on a deserted road south of Damour, some six miles from where his abandoned truck had been found earlier, an army spokesman said.

The 32-year-old civilian, who was not immediately identified, was discovered with his hands tied behind his back and a single bullet in his head, according to Israel Radio. The army said it is searching for the assailants.

Army sources said that the fuel tank driver might have left the convoy in which the truck had been travelling to make some purchases in Lebanese shops. An army colonel has been appointed to investigate the incident.

In another incident, two Israeli soldiers were wounded in Lebanon today when an explosive charge went off on the side of the road as their convoy was passing south of Beirut. According to standing army instructions, all Israeli vehicles, including civilian, must travel in convoys of at least three vehicles and must be accompanied by several armed men.

REAGAN, NAVON IN TWO-HOUR LOW KEY MEETING AT WHITE HOUSE By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Israeli President Yitzhak Navon met for two hours with President Reagan at the White House today, including a 45-minute lunch, but apparently only dealt with generalities rather than the hard issues dividing Israel and the United States.

"Your presence here as President of Israel symbolizes the close ties that have always linked our two nations," Reagan said in a departure statement, standing under an awning that shielded them from the rain that fell on the White House south lawn in front of them.

"Ours is a friendship that has deepened over time," Reagan continued. "It is daily expressed in our unswerving commitment to the security and well-being of the State of Israel." While Reagan did not directly mention his September 1 peace initiative, which has been rejected by Premier Menachem Begin, he noted that "the security of Israel is inescapably connected with peace in the Middle East."

Navon, in his reply, stressed that whether Israelis accept "the American view" as the "basis" for Mideast peace negotiations or find it "impossible to accept" these views, "none of them have any doubt" as to the "dedication" and "sincerity" of the American commitment to peace and the security of Israel. He said Israelis were grateful both to Reagan personally and to the American people for what they have done for Israel.

Navon Stresses Consensus Views

Later, a senior Administration official, calling the meeting "very friendly," said that Reagan had stressed his commitment to seeking an early withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon and to continue support for his September 1 peace initiative.

The official said Navon had stressed issues on which there was a "consensus" in Israel such as that Jerusalem remain undivided and that there be no Palestinian state. Other consensus views mentioned by Navon were the desire for close relations with the United States and the belief that Israel is a strong pro-Western power in the Middle East.

The Administration official rejected claims that Navon's visit was an effort by the Administration to build up the Israeli President, a former Labor MK, as a possible opponent to Begin. He noted that Navon's visit had been postponed several times since November and was a strictly "routine" visit.

Navon's wife, Ofira, was with him when he first arrived at the White House to meet Reagan but she did not attend any of the meetings. However, it was announced later that Nancy Reagan is hosting a tea at the White House for Mrs. Navon Friday morning before the Navons leave Washington to Boston and New York.

During a picture-taking session, Navon told Reagan he was last in the White House in 1960 when he met President Eisenhower. At that time, Navon was Premier David Ben-Gurion's personal secretary.

GERMANY URGED TO NULLIFY THE ACQUITTAL OF TWO WAR CRIMINALS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Justice Minister Moshe Nissim, speaking before the Knesset, called on West Germany today to nullify the acquittal of two Nazi war criminals and to have the two placed on trial again.

Wilhelm Westerheide and Yohanna Zelle, who were tried in Dortmund on charges of participation in the murder of 9,000 Jews in the Vladimir ghetto, were recently acquitted. Nissim spoke in reply to an urgent motion to the agenda by an Alignment Member of the Knesset, Prof. Shevah Weiss.

Weiss said the fight against the "deformation of mankind, as it was expressed in Nazi crimes during the Holocaust" had to be fought constantly. He said "it is not merely a matter of revenge, although that too is legitimate in this context."

Weiss asked how the prosecutor in Dortmund could successfully argue that the evidence presented at the trial by Holocaust survivors was "insufficient," when many of the witnesses fainted when they saw Westerheide enter the courtroom. Weiss called the acquittal "a horrifying phenomenon."

SYNAGOGUE IN PRAGUE HOUSING HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL TABLETS WILL REMAIN CLOSED FOR ANOTHER YEAR

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Holocaust survivors wishing to inspect memorial tablets to 77,000 Nazi victims from Bohemia and Moravia at the ancient Pinkas Synagogue of Prague will have to wait at least another year before repairs permit it to be reopened, says the newsletter of the International Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia.

The synagogue, which dates back to 1352, has been closed for repairs since 1971 and the authorities have not yet repaired the damage said to be caused by dampness from the nearby Vltava River.

The Council says visitors "are left with the impression that the prolonged closure of the synagogue is motivated by the policy of a government wishing to eradicate the Holocaust from public consciousness ... and to pretend that the principal victims of Nazi persecution were members of the Communist Party."

The Council also reports the death of a "notorious Jew-baiter," Jiri Bohatka, also known as Jiri Ales, a member of the Czech secret police specializing in keeping alive the anti-Zionist campaign in leading Czech and Slovak newspapers.

Bohatka-Ales was for more than a decade a regular contributor to Tribuna, ideological organ of the Czech Communist Party. According to the Council, he encouraged allegations that Zionists in the Terezin concentration camp had been close collaborators with the Nazis to the detriment of Czech-Jewish nationals and had actively helped the latter's deportation.

TORAH HOMEWORK HOTLINE SET UP BY STUDENTS AT YESHIVA U. AND RABBI ISAAC ELCHANAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- "Torah Homework Hotline," a pilot project established early in December to help yeshiva and day school students in their Jewish studies, has been averaging 150 calls a week from students with questions about their homework.

The "hotline" was established by the Student Organization of Yeshiva (S.O.Y.), a group made up of students at Yeshiva University and the university's affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS). Approximately 12 students a week work with the "hotline," answering questions from callers.

"The program has attracted the very best students we have," Rabbi Aharon Kahn, head of the yeshiva at RIETS, said. "The students already have a strong sense of responsibility toward the community. This is just one more approach to improving the spiritual welfare of the community."

The "hotline" is open to both elementary and high school students in the New York City area from 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. High School students may call 960-5450. Elementary students may call 960-5350.

Whenever possible, the college students try to help the callers work out the solutions to their questions themselves. "Our students are teachers for a minute," Kahn said.

Calls usually take from 20 seconds to two minutes, and the college students know most of the answers. Rabbi Jeffrey Abel, a Fellow in the Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Post-Graduate

Kollel at RIETS, who supervises the effort, also is available to help with the answers. A full set of reference s'forim (books) also is available in the room where calls are taken.

The "hotline" program was the inspiration of Dr. Norman Lamm, president of Yeshiva University. It was implemented by Kahn, who is also director of the Gruss Post-Graduate Kollel.

Students who call with questions range from third and fourth graders to high school students, although the "hotline" did receive one call from a six-year-old girl with a question regarding the blessing over fragrant spices.

The callers are almost evenly divided between girls and boys, Amie Kanarek of Brooklyn, one of the student coordinators, said. "And the callers run the entire range of Orthodox affiliations," he added, "from Hasidim in Williamsburg to students from modern day schools in Westchester County and New Jersey."

The questions cover a wide range too, from sophisticated inquiries about the Talmud to requests for help with letters of the Hebrew alphabet. "So far, we have had very few crank calls," Kanarek said.

ISRAEL BOND ORGANIZATION'S CASH RECEIPTS EXCEEDED THE HALF BILLION DOLLAR MARK LAST YEAR

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- In 1982, cash sales of the Israel Bond Organization for the year exceeded the half billion dollar mark, it was announced by Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the organization.

He reported that despite severe recession and record unemployment, the proceeds of the Israel Bond Organization amounted to \$502,144,500 in 1982 as against \$432,958,900 for the previous year. All proceeds from the Israel Bond program flow into the Development Budget of the State of Israel to help finance its economic growth.

Rothberg said that the increased results of 1982 reflected "the unbroken solidarity of the Jewish community with the people of Israel." While there was criticism of Israel in some quarters as a result of the war in Lebanon, in his opinion "it did not have a negative impact on Bond sales. On the contrary, the criticism stimulated wider response in many circles to Israel's economic needs."

Another major factor in the outcome for 1982 was the record results in synagogues and temples during the special High Holy Day effort conducted under the leadership of the Bond Organization's National Rabbinic Cabinet headed by Rabbi Leon Kronish of Miami, Rothberg said.

Another leading factor, according to Rothberg, was the part of the non-Jewish sector where sales in 1982 were the highest in the history of the Israel Bond Organization. He noted that two landmarks were achieved by the Bond Organization in 1982; it surpassed the \$6 billion mark in total cash receipts since its inception in 1951 and it exceeded the half billion dollar mark for the year.

Among the outstanding highlights of the campaign last year, he said, were the emergency drive in the summer months to help offset the economic impact of "Operation Peace for Galilee" and the Golda Meir Leadership Award Dinner honoring William Belzberg of Los Angeles, national campaign co-chairman.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- The Ministerial Committee for Science and Technology decided Wednesday to establish an Israeli space agency. According to government sources, the new agency would increase the involvement of Israel in space research, planning actual Israeli activities in space.