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FIRST DETAILED TALKS BEGIN BETWEEN ISRAEL AND LEBANON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- A subcommittee to deal with ending the state of war between Israel and Lebanon was set up by delegations of the two countries meeting in Khalde this morning. It is the first of several subcommittees which will negotiate the various items on the agenda agreed to by Israel and Lebanon last Thursday, an Israeli spokesman said.

The state of war subcommittee is headed jointly by the chief Lebanese negotiator, Antoine Fatale and Elyakim Rubinstein, legal advisor to Israel's Foreign Ministry. Israel Radio said this morning that the subcommittee might meet more frequently and on a different sequence of days than the full negotiating teams. The latter have been meeting twice weekly for the past three weeks, alternating between Khalde, just south of Beirut, and the Israeli border town of Kiryat Shmona.

As the talks got underway today, U.S. special Ambassador Philip Habib waited in Jerusalem for word of any substantive progress. He met at length last night with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and David Kimche, director general of the Foreign Ministry who heads the Israeli negotiating team.

According to Israeli sources, Habib said he thought agreements in principle could be worked out within a week. The sources said Habib would try to persuade the Lebanese government to accept an agreement he worked out with the Israelis.

Talks Are On Parallel Tracks

The negotiations are now proceeding on parallel tracks. The Israeli, Lebanese and U.S. delegations continue to meet regularly while Habib talks separately with the Shamir-Sharon-Kimche team and with Lebanese officials in an effort to bring the two sides together. The American diplomat has already impressed on the Israeli ministers President Reagan's urgent desire that progress be achieved without delay.

Observers here said today that Habib's presence in the area and the fact that he derives his authority directly from the President will spur the Israelis and Lebanese to make swift progress toward an agreement. Habib is said to be waiting for the opportune moment to draw Syria into the negotiating process, utilizing shuttle diplomacy for the time being rather than direct talks between the three countries.

Syrian cooperation is the prerequisite for the early withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. Reports from Damascus today said the Palestine Liberation Organization leadership there has begun practical discussions on the removal of the estimated 6,000 PLO fighters from Lebanon. Israel insists that the PLO forces pull out first to be followed by the simultaneous withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian forces.

At the opening of today's negotiating session, Kimche reiterated Israel's denial of Beirut press reports that the Israelis and Syrians had reached a secret understanding to partition Lebanon into spheres of influence. Fatale thanked Kimche for clarifying that matter.

SHARON BEGINS ZAIRE VISIT

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Ariel Sharon arrived at Kinshasa, Zaire this morning on a five-day official visit during which he is expected to discuss Israeli military training and equipment for that central African nation with its leader, President Mobutu Sese Seko, as well as agricultural projects.

Israeli journalists accompanying Sharon reported that the Defense Minister and his escort party of about 90 people landed at Kinshasa at 8:30 a.m. local time in an Israel Air Force Boeing transport. He was greeted at the airport in a brief welcoming ceremony and was scheduled to meet twice today with Mobutu.

Only yesterday, the Defense Ministry announced that Sharon, who had been expected to leave Saturday night, had postponed his trip "for a few days" because he had to be in Israel "to deal with current matters." He met in Jerusalem last night with U.S. special Ambassador Philip Habib on the situation in Lebanon. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and David Kimche, head of the Israeli negotiating team with the Lebanese, were also at that meeting.

Critics of Sharon claimed he delayed his departure for Zaire so that he would not be absent should any breakthrough occur in the Israel-Lebanese talks for which he might take credit. He advanced it because he was convinced no dramatic developments were imminent, the critics said.

Israeli sources said Sharon will be discussing two agreements with Mobutu. One deals with the establishment and training by Israel of a special Presidential guard for the Zaire leader. It will run for about a year. The other, a five-year agreement, concerns the general re-organization and re-equipment of Zaire's armed forces and the training of its soldiers. Sharon is expected to offer to supply Mobutu with new Israeli-made weapons as well as Soviet weapons captured during the war in Lebanon. He will also look into agricultural projects Israeli experts have been arranging for Zaire.

ARAB LEAGUE OFFICIAL TOLD THE EEC WILL TREAT ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT AS A TOP PRIORITY ISSUE

By David Kantor

BONN, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- Chedli Klubi, secretary general of the Arab League, was assured by West German government officials here that the European Economic Community (EEC) will treat the Arab-Israeli conflict as one of its main foreign policy priorities in the next six months.

But Klubi, who is from Tunisia, failed to get assurances that the EEC will officially recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization and support the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state, independent of Jordan. Klubi sought such a commitment here in view of the fact that West Germany, as of January 1, assumed the rotating chairmanship of the EEC Council of Ministers, thereby giving Bonn additional influence in European politics.

The Arab League official's visit came against a background of complaints by Arab ambassadors that the Christian Democratic government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl was leaning toward Israel and away from the pro-Arab positions of its predecessor Social Democratic government headed by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Israel's Settlement Policies Attacked

Possibly in response to those complaints, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who held the same office in the Schmidt government, pointedly attacked Israel's settlement policies in the occupied Arab territories during Klibi's visit. It was the first such attack since Kohl's government took office last year.

Kohl also reportedly told his guest that Bonn remains fully committed to common European policies on the Middle East, including the June, 1980 Venice declaration which the Christian Democratic Party and Kohl personally had originally rejected. The Venice Declaration called for the association of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Middle East peace process.

But diplomatic circles here made it clear that Bonn would not go as far as the Parliament of Europe did last week when it endorsed a Palestinian state.

EL AL IS BACK IN BUSINESS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- After a faltering start last week, El Al appeared to be back in business today following an unexpected agreement between the pilots and management. A scheduled flight took off this morning for Zurich and Rome. The airline management expressed hope that schedules would be "completely back to normal" by Passover.

El Al, grounded for the last four months and facing liquidation, resumed service last week with a return flight to Nairobi and Johannesburg on Wednesday. But 73 passengers booked on Friday's flight to Istanbul had to be placed on a chartered aircraft because El Al pilots refused to fly under the new contract recently concluded between the company and Histadrut.

The pilots announced today that they ended their strike at the urging of Finance Minister Yoram Aridor. They said they were promised special tax rebates on severance pay to pilots who are dismissed. They agreed that six pilots would be dismissed and 15 others would take early retirement. El Al is reducing its personnel in all categories by about 10 percent as an economy measure under a reorganization scheme approved by the government.

The pilots have other disputes with management which they say are safety related. But they promised today to pursue them without interrupting flights.

El Al Gets Another \$15 Million

Meanwhile, the Knesset Finance Committee today agreed to give the new El Al management another \$15 million to allow for payment of the increased separation compensation for El Al workers to be dismissed under the reorganization plan.

Some committee members objected to the piecemeal payments to the national airline and said it should either be brought back to good health immediately or sold off to private entrepreneurs.

Transport Minister Haim Corfu said there was now no intention to sell the company, saying this had only been a "suggestion" put forward at one point in the negotiations with the staff. The Finance Committee is to meet again in a month's time, to reconsider El Al's financial position and government promises to provide it with further funds under the reorganization plan.

MITTERRAND ENJOYS TRADITIONAL JEWISH MEAL AT GOLDENBERG'S

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- President Francois Mitterrand returned last week to the Rue des Rosiers restaurant where an Arab hit squad killed six people last August. Mitterrand this time came just for the pleasure of a typical Jewish meal at Jo Goldenberg's deli where the attack had taken place.

The President, accompanied by his Jewish brother-in-law, Roger Hanin, and a young Jewish politician, Roger Gerard Schwartzberg, arrived unannounced and unexpected. Last time Mitterrand visited the Rue des Rosiers was on the day following the attack when he attended funeral services for the victims.

This time, the President, in a good mood, chose a shmatz herring, pinshkis and boiled beef with horse-radish, washed down with a glass or two of vodka.

It was not just a gastronomic treat. Eyewitnesses told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Mitterrand also wanted to show his solidarity with the people in the "Pletzel," the old Jewish ghetto. He sat for close to three hours with Jo Goldenberg and some of his customers to "chew the fat" and discuss the situation.

SIMPLE ORTHODOX FUNERAL SERVICE FOR MEYER LANSKY

MIAMI BEACH, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- Meyer Lansky, an acknowledged financial wizard and one-time reputed czar of organized crime in the U.S. and many points overseas, was buried here yesterday in a simple Orthodox service attended by family and friends. He died of lung cancer at Mt. Sinai Hospital Saturday. His age was given as 81.

Rabbi Semaryahu Swirsky, who conducted the 15-minute service in Hebrew and English at Har Nebo Cemetery, eulogized Lansky as a man whose "heart beat for everybody." Although he was said to have amassed a fortune of between \$100-\$400 million, Lansky lived his last years in relative modesty in a condominium on Collins Ave., a boulevard of long-faded elegance on this island resort which has become a refuge for elderly Jews.

According to federal authorities and other law enforcement agencies, Lansky master-minded the finances of the vast, legendary underworld network known collectively as the Mafia. He was associated, during his long life with such convicted racketeers as Charles "Lucky" Luciano and Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, both boyhood chums, "Dutch" Schultz, Al Capone and Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, the "hit man" of the notorious "Murder Inc."

But although linked to illicit gambling and other forms of vice, Lansky was never convicted of a serious crime. He went to jail only once -- a two-month sentence in 1953 on a gambling conviction in Saratoga, N.Y.

He became an international cause celebre when his retirement in Israel in 1970 touched off a 26-month legal battle. Lansky claimed that as a Jew, under the Law of Return, he was entitled to citizenship and a permanent haven in the Jewish State. The Israeli Supreme Court thought otherwise, ruling that he was not entitled to citizenship because he was a "danger to public safety." The Israelis apparently did not want

the onus of harboring an alleged international criminal.

He was arrested on his return to the United States on charges of tax evasion but a judge ruled, on the basis of medical evidence, that he was too ill to stand trial.

Lansky was born Maier Suchowljansky in Grodno, Russia and was brought to the United States by his parents in 1911. Reportedly, they could not remember his birth date. An immigration official on Ellis Island listed his birth as July 4, 1902.

Lansky grew up on Manhattan's Lower East Side which produced its share of solid citizens, geniuses and criminals. Although a high school drop-out, Lansky was recognized early on as a financial genius. Allegedly, he turned to crime instead of legitimate business. Law enforcement officials who spent decades in futile attempts to obtain convictions, expressed grudging admiration for the alleged racketeer. "He could have been president of General Motors," one FBI agent was quoted as saying.

FORD, CARTER SLAM ISRAEL'S SETTLEMENT POLICY AS MAJOR OBSTACLE TO MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17 (JTA) -- Former Presidents Ford and Carter have called Israel's settlement policy on the West Bank the "major obstacle" to moderate Arab countries joining the Middle East peace process.

"Israel must halt its settlement policy -- a move that alone might break the diplomatic log jam," the former Presidents said in a jointly copywritten article in the forthcoming February Readers Digest.

Ford and Carter, bitter rivals in the 1976 Presidential campaign, became friends when they went to the funeral of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. They have issued several joint statements on various subjects but this is their first on the Middle East. Their article was in response to a request from Readers Digest for their analysis on how to achieve peace in the Mideast.

The two former Presidents also called on the Arab countries to demonstrate "the courage to step forward to negotiate for a Palestinian homeland with an Israel that they recognize as a fellow nation." In particular, they urged King Hussein of Jordan to join the autonomy negotiations which they said would be a "dramatic gesture" that could put the government of Israeli Premier Menachem Begin "under immense pressure to reciprocate."

As for President Reagan, his two predecessors urged him "to commit every political resource to the awesome, intricate and at times frustrating challenge of bringing Arab and Israeli to the realization that peace and security can come about only through reconciliation and relations built on trust."

Claim Israel Is Violating Camp David Accords

The two Presidents, who stressed support for the Camp David agreements, suggested that because of the "stigma attached to the term 'Camp David' by some Arab leaders, diplomatic work within that still binding agreement and under the aegis of UN Resolution 242 should be carried out under other terminology." They said that Resolution 242 was the "cornerstone" of the peace effort in the Mideast.

While Carter and Ford outlined steps for the U.S. and Arab countries to take, most of their article was aimed at Israel. They said they had come to the "painful conclusion" that the Begin government "is not living up to" the commitments made in the Camp David agreement.

"It has shown little inclination to grant real autonomy to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza areas," Carter and Ford wrote. "It has continued to confiscate properties in occupied territories and to build settlements as if to create a de facto Israeli ascendancy there. It has publicly repudiated the Reagan peace plan which calls for a freeze for Israeli settlements."

They said that the Begin government must "realize that, however it may define its intentions in the West Bank or Gaza, however it may seek to rationalize its actions there, the evidence is convincing to the Arab world and beyond that the Israeli leaders have simply chosen to seize these lands, and hold them by force."

While criticizing the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and accusing the Begin government of "an inclination ... toward a military rather than a diplomatic solution to Israel's problems," the two former Presidents conceded that before the Lebanese invasion all Israel could perceive were threats from the Palestine Liberation Organization rather than diplomatic efforts by Arab moderates. "Indeed, the need for credible voices articulating Arab -- and more precisely Palestinian -- concerns cannot be overstressed," they added.

Two Realities Cited

The two former Presidents stressed that there are two realities that have to be acknowledged. The first is that Israel is a nation and as such "has a right to exist and to co-exist in security and peace in the world community." The second is that there are four million Palestinian people "scattered throughout the Middle East and other regions and they cry out for their own home, in which their legitimate rights may be exercised."

Ford and Carter noted that they were both engaged in negotiations on Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai and on the Camp David negotiations and that they support President Reagan's September 1 peace initiative. "But now the Arabs are waiting to see if Washington means business," they noted.

They pointed out that the American role both as a "catalyst and mediator" is difficult. "It would require every skill of diplomacy and more, it will be tiring, bewildering, and even politically dangerous at times." They added that at times only the President's own personal intervention will be able to help the parties "overcome timidity, suspicion, anger."

But Carter and Ford stressed, "It is vital that the negotiating process continue -- however slowly at times -- toward the goals of peaceful community in the Middle East. Every avenue must be pursued, every reasonable alternative explored. If it is not initially possible to bring all parties to the talk, we must be ready with alternatives."

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The largest gathering of publishers, authors, agents and other literary notables is expected at the 11th Jerusalem International Book Fair that opens on April 25, it was announced here by the Government of Israel Trade Center. The most recent Jerusalem Book Fair in 1981 was attended by publishers from 45 countries and representatives of more than 1,200 publishing houses.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES FORMER BRITISH COUNTER-INSURGENCY FIGHTER, IMPLICATED IN 1947 MURDER OF STERN GROUP MEMBER, IS ALIVE AND WELL IN CANADA By Arnold Ages

TORONTO, Jan. 17 (JTA) — Roy Farran, the subject of a bitter legal and political controversy in Palestine in 1947, is still active in journalism after a successful career of government service in the province of Alberta. In a recent article written for the Calgary Herald, Farran is shown holding a pipe, serene in contemplation of worldly matters.

There is a little hint in the photograph of the Roy Farran who, on February 12, 1947 was appointed by Assistant Inspector Bernard Fergusson to become a member of a crack British counter-insurgency force in Palestine.

The force was created in order to neutralize the activity of Jewish irregulars who had been making life so miserable for the British army that troops were besieged in their garrisons. Farran was chosen for the position because of his experience in fighting behind enemy lines in occupied France during World War II.

Quoted in Nicholas Bethell's book, "The Palestine Triangle," Farran says: "Fergusson was right in the basic principle that an underground war can only be fought by counter-terrorist forces, who are prepared to mix with the enemy in his environment. Small groups can counter other small groups."

The enemy to which Farran refers was, of course, members of the Irgun, the Lehi (Stern Group) and the Haganah.

Described As Trained Guerrilla Fighter

Lord Bethell says in his study of the period that Farran, a young war hero "was a highly trained guerrilla fighter with years of experience in the utterly ruthless world of resistance to Nazi-German occupation. He was no politician then and he was not suited to play any important part in the sensitive balancing act of British policy in Palestine."

In fact Farran severely disrupted the equilibrium that the British were trying to impose on Palestine when he was implicated in the murder of a young member of Lehi. Alexander Rubowitz was a 17-year-old who disappeared without a trace in 1947.

At the time the New York Herald Tribune alleged that Rubowitz had been kidnapped and tortured to death by a special British police squad.

When the British authorities turned to Farran for questioning he was nowhere to be found. He had left Palestine for Syria, where, according to Bethell, he was involved in conversations with Syrian leaders. Fergusson, his superior officer, went to Syria to persuade Farran to return to Palestine for interrogation.

Put On Trial For Murder

Farran faced more than interrogation; he was put on trial for the murder of young Rubowitz. Despite the damning fact that Farran had left behind in his tent an exercise book which was described by the prosecution "as a full confession," the court refused to admit the evidence because it deemed it subject to legal and professional privilege. The prosecution's case was further weakened by Fergusson's success in avoiding giving testimony of the grounds of possible self-incrimination.

The remaining circumstantial evidence (a hat bearing something resembling Farran's name near the scene of the crime) was inadequate to secure a conviction and Farran was freed.

According to Bethell, Nathan Yalin-Mor, the head of the Stern Group, sent Farran a parcel bomb in England but it was Farran's brother, Rex, who had the misfortune to open it. He died as a result.

In 1957, Bethell recounted, at a "bizarre conspiratorial meeting in Paris, Yalin-Mor told Fergusson: 'Tell Farran that we are satisfied to have had our revenge in this way.'"

Farran made his way from England to Canada where by the 1960s he had received an important government post, eventually rising to the office of Solicitor General of the province of Alberta.

Farran is still active in journalism and it is instructive that this most recent article in the Calgary Herald on December 24 deals with the clandestine activities of the RCMP, Canada's national police constabulary.

SOVIETS ARREST FORMER JEWISH PRISONER

NEW YORK, Jan. 17 (JTA) — Simon Shnirman, a 25-year-old Soviet Jew who served two-and-a-half years in a labor camp for alleged draft evasion, was rearrested on January 12 on similar charges, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported. If tried and convicted Shnirman faces up to five years in a labor camp.

Shnirman, who resides in the small Ukrainian town of Kerch, applied to emigrate to Israel in 1977, to join his father, but was denied permission on the pretext that "he did not work long enough to pay for money invested by the State in his studies." When called to serve in the army, he refused on the basis of his pending emigration application.

On June 27, 1978 he was tried and sentenced to two-and-a-half years in a labor camp. During that time he worked with common criminals and was singled out by camp authorities for special punishment — non-delivery of mail and food parcels and denial of visits from his mother. After serving his term Shnirman was released on November 29, 1980.

In a town with few Jews and no other refuseniks, Shnirman and his mother live day-to-day, waiting for permission to join his father and sister in Israel. His application to emigrate was officially refused just a week before this latest action, the National Conference stated. Shnirman is now the second former Jewish prisoner under arrest. Iosif Begun, who served two sentences in exile, is being held in a prison in the city of Vladimir.

CORNELL U. PROFESSOR AWARDED THE WOLF FOUNDATION PRIZE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 17 (JTA) — The Wolf Foundation Prize in agriculture for 1982 is to be awarded to Prof. Wendell Roelofs of Cornell University for research in developing innovative concepts in pest control vital to agriculture, forestry and public health, the Foundation announced.

The \$100,000 prize will be given at a special ceremony in Jerusalem in May, by President Yitzhak Navon, together with the prizes for physics already announced and those for medicine, chemistry, mathematics and arts (music) to be announced. (See January 10 Bulletin.)

Roelofs, 45, is professor of insect biochemistry at the Agricultural Experimental Station in Geneva, N.Y., of the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, associated with Cornell University. He was awarded the prize for his fundamental chemical and biological research on insect hormones and their application in pest control.