

HART NOW SAYS HE FAVORS MOVING THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ISRAEL TO JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, March 19 (JTA) — Sen. Gary Hart, in two separate press statements over the weekend, affirmed that he would move the American Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, if elected President.

He repeated this in a televised debate with former Vice President Walter Mondale and the Rev. Jesse Jackson last night in Chicago, two days before a crucial primary is to take place in Illinois, to be followed by primaries in Pennsylvania and New York. All three states have large Jewish populations.

The Colorado Democratic Presidential hopeful issued his two statements after his campaign headquarters in New York and in Washington were asked to respond to reports that Hart was opposed to moving the Embassy. The reports were based on a statement issued from the Senator's Washington headquarters dated March 13.

No one at his headquarters either in New York or in Washington was able to explain the circumstances under which it was issued, if it was issued by one of his press aides with Hart's approval or whether it was issued without Hart having approved. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency made repeated calls to both headquarters in an effort to track down the origin of this statement.

The Sequence Of Statements

The statement said, "The final status of Jerusalem can only come about through negotiations involving all sides of the issue. I am hesitant to commit my future Administration to such a narrow policy that would severely limit my capacity as President in future negotiations." The statement added that should the negotiations "provide Israel with the sole responsibility for Jerusalem, then I see no reason why the U.S. could not move its Embassy there."

But in another statement a few days later, Hart declared: "Through the years, I have always supported Israel's right to make her own internal political decisions and have respected her right, like every other nation on earth, to locate her capital anywhere in the nation. As I said last year at a conference of Jewish leaders in Washington, 'I support the traditional position of Israel on Jerusalem and I believe that should be a strong commitment of this country.'"

"I intend to maintain my position for Israel's decision to locate her capital in Jerusalem. If elected President, I would move the U.S. Embassy to West Jerusalem. Attachments of other cultures to the holy places of Jerusalem should of course be respected, as Israel has carefully and sensitively done since 1967."

In a statement released yesterday afternoon, Hart repeated the previous statement word for word but added that he would vote for Sen. Daniel Moynihan's bill, now before the Senate, calling on President Reagan to move the Embassy to Jerusalem. This is the first known time that Hart has publicly come out in favor of the bill which now has 36 co-sponsors.

In the televised debate last night, Hart said, in response to a question, that as President he would order the Embassy moved, adding, "It seems to me not to make a great deal of sense to have our Embassy outside the West Jerusalem area where Israel has maintained that its capital exists." Responding to the same question, Mondale said he "strongly favored" the move. He noted Hart's change of view and called his previous view a "bad idea, poorly thought through." Jackson responded that it would be a "mistake" to exacerbate Mideast tensions.

Will Meet With Jewish Leaders Thursday

Hart, who is regarded as a strong supporter of Israel, will meet with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations Thursday morning in New York. Several of the other Presidential hopefuls, including some who have dropped out of the race, met with the Conference earlier.

BACKGROUND REPORT**NO HANDS ACROSS THE TABLES**

By Edwin Eytan

LAUSANNE, March 19 (JTA) — A large round table covered with glittering silverware and an ornate embroidered tablecloth stood empty last week in the center of the Beau Rivage Hotel's dining room. A dozen waiters in black tailcoats and white ties stood ready to serve the man for whom the main VIP table had been reserved: Syria's first Vice President Abdel Khalim Khadam.

The restaurant at the hotel where the heads of Lebanon's warring factions have been meeting since March 12 to try to end their country's 10 years of bloodshed, has become symbolic of Lebanon's new political situation. One need only glance at the way the tables are set up at the Beau Rivage to know who and what is what in the Lebanese imbroglio.

The main table has been reserved for the conference's main political personality: the Syrian "observer" who acts, however, as a sort of viceroy, Lebanon's new master, Khadam, for whose arrival the conference waited almost eight hours on the opening day before it began. He has never deigned to sit in the dining room with the other participants. He has been too busy conferring with them in his royal suite to come down and mingle with them socially.

On both sides of Khadam's empty table sit the other participants. On the right, at another large round table, is the Chamoun clan, three generations of the traditional masters of the Shouf mountain Christians: the patriarch Camille, his son Dany, and Dany's four-year-old daughter. The surviving daughter of Camille's eldest son, Tony, who was reportedly murdered by the other major Christian clan, the Gemayels, has also made the trip to Lausanne.

At Camille Chamoun's table, only the family is admitted. The advisers, the aides and the bodyguards sit at a table in the rear of the restaurant.

Next to the Chamouns sits their former enemy and new ally: 77-year-old Pierre Gemayel, the father of President Amin Gemayel and the leader of the Phalangists. The old man sits upright, as if on a throne,

with his back to the lake and the surrounding view, one of the most beautiful in the world. His eyes seem to avoid the scenery behind him and the glittering restaurant surrounding him.

Beside him sit about a dozen advisers and "friends," but Pierre Gemayel does not seem to see them or to listen to them, either. He seems lost in a recent past when, as recently as four months ago at the first Lebanese reconciliation talks in Geneva, he nourished other, vaster ambitions and aspirations for Lebanon, the Christian community and his son.

On the other side of Khadam's empty table sits a small crowd of "lean and hungry men." They drink water only and in spite of the hotel's international gastronomic reputation content themselves generally with bread, salad and cheese. This is the table of Lebanon's rising personality, Shiite leader Nabih Berri, and his men.

Further back sit the other participants: former President Suleiman Franjeh, who is believed to be more than 80 years old, and his daughter. Franjeh, a Tripoli-based Maronite Christian known for his pro-Syrian sentiments, is a millionaire. His daughter lives in Geneva in a 1001 nights palace. Outside, in front of the Beau Rivage, is her parked car, a huge gilt Rolls Royce.

Hopes And Ambitions

Franjeh is sick, old and, as his friends say, "stinkingly rich," and yet he still hopes to become Lebanon's next Prime Minister. He is not the only one nurturing such an ambition, however. Rashid Karamé, a former Sunni Prime Minister, also from Tripoli, who sits at a small rectangular table behind Franjeh, has the same ambition.

"Practically all Lebanese politicians, whatever their age or communal background, want to be President, Prime Minister, or at least Minister," one of the participants commented. "We are all candidates for office whoever may be the next master and whatever the country that holds sway."

Moving between the table are two elegant men, both wearing blue serge suits. They stop at most of the tables to whisper something in somebody's ear and then move away to another table where one of the other participants sits and waits for the answer to one of his questions or requests. One of the two men is President Gemayel's security adviser; and the other is Saudi Arabia's "observer" at the conference, Rafiq Harari, himself a Prime Ministerial hopeful.

Harari is Lebanese-born and became a naturalized Saudi Arabian only some five years ago. The Saudis back him to the hilt and he has many supporters in Lebanese political circles. It is believed, however, that the Syrians plan to veto his appointment which would take him definitely out of the race.

Influence Of The Outside World

The influence of the outside world on the conference can also be easily ascertained in this microcosm which the dining room has become. The French observer, Marc Bonnefous, a former Ambassador to Israel who now heads the Middle East department in the French government with the rank of Assistant Secretary of State, is at a tiny table, close to the corridor.

Bonnefous and his aide are lucky to be in the hall at all and to have a table for themselves. The British and Italian observers are not even in the building and follow the conference's work from a building next door, a sort of annex to the Beau Rivage.

In Geneva, four months ago, the American observer used to meet with the participants in his office at the American permanent legation. Now, with the marines gone and with most Lebanese politicians considering America's policy in Lebanon a fiasco, the U.S. observer, David Winn, a counsellor at the American Embassy in Beirut, has to linger in the corridors.

Dramatic Change In Israel's Position

The change in Israel's position is even more dramatic. In Geneva, Israel seemed to be sitting right in the conference hall. Delegates openly admitted in private conversation that "before we can say something or before we take the slightest decision, we have to ask ourselves how Israel will react. We have the eerie impression that there is an Israeli behind every one of our chairs."

But at this conference, the Israeli observer, a relatively unknown diplomat, keeps away from the conference building. His rare meetings with third-rate Lebanese officials look like clandestine affairs and take place in third-rate hotels well away from the Beau Rivage.

Syria Alone Is In Control

Lebanon's political image has changed during the last four months. The leading politicians are the same, with all their old weaknesses, vices and ambitions, but the facts have changed in depth. The abrogation of the May 17 treaty with Israel has changed the entire atmosphere. It has shown, the Lebanese say, that Israel and America are out of the picture for the time being and Syria alone is in control. Few believe that this situation can change in the foreseeable future.

Syria's influence is now such that no one, not even Israel's former allies such as the Chamounis and Pierre Gemayel, is likely to question it in the least. When asked whether they plan to call for the withdrawal of Syria's troops from Lebanon, even the Christian leaders formerly known for their anti-Syrian sentiments raise their eyebrows in disbelief. When further prodded, they say: "This hardly seems an appropriate time for such a request."

The talks are continuing, in public meetings and private consultations. They could drag on for days, even weeks without any conclusive results. There may be another round of talks or a series of rounds while Lebanon and its people destroy one another. Total reconciliation is in the distant future. In the interim, the country is like a battered ship in the stormy seas hoping to reach a safe harbor while some of the hands on deck are being washed overboard — like in an esoteric Fellini film.

Meanwhile, in his drawing room at the Beau Rivage, Pierre Gemayel reminisces about the "old days when Lebanon was Lebanon, the Christians were at home and all Lebanese were brothers." When this correspondent asked him whether these days might return in spite of Syria's presence, he turned his head in my direction and snapped: "I would not be here unless I was convinced this is the case." If Pierre Gemayel believes what he says, he is the only man at the Beau Rivage Hotel who does.

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ATLANTA (JTA) — A festival dedicated to the State of Israel will take place in Birmingham, Alabama April 25–May 5, 1985, it was announced here by the Consulate General of Israel.

EARLY ELECTIONS IN ISRAEL ARE AN ALMOST CERTAIN PROSPECT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 19 (JTA) -- Early elections this summer became an almost certain prospect tonight when the Tami party announced that it will introduce a bill for early elections in the Knesset.

The surprise announcement was made by Tami leader Aharon Abu Hatzera who indicated disillusionment with the Likud-led coalition government of which his small but pivotal party is a member. The opposition Labor Alignment has already introduced an early elections bill which comes up for debate in the Knesset on Thursday.

Political observers said tonight that with Tami's support and that of such Likud Liberals as Yitzhak Berman and Dror Zeigerman, former Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz and independent MK Mordechai Ben Porat, the measure could garner the 60-plus votes necessary for adoption. The bill calls for dissolving the Knesset and setting a date for elections.

Shamir Opposed To Early Elections

Premier Yitzhak Shamir declared tonight that he opposed early elections because of the effects an election campaign could have on the country's economy which is in a parlous state. Shamir was to meet with Abu Hatzera later tonight but the Tami leader is not expected to change his mind. Shamir said that if there are early elections, Likud would seek to renew its mandate from the electorate and expressed confidence that it would succeed. Likud's mandate expires in 1985.

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres said, after Tami's announcement, "the campaign begins tonight. The shorter it is, the better for the country." Peres said he hoped elections could be held in two months. The law provides for a minimum of 100 days between dissolution of the Knesset and election day. But many MKs believe that law should be amended and it may well be if the Knesset adopts the early elections bill.

Likud MK Ronnie Milo conceded tonight that his party was divided over early elections. Some members think they are desirable, he said. But he was not sure they would materialize. He noted that Shamir was scheduled to meet with Abu Hatzera later tonight, apparently to try to persuade him to reconsider. But most observers believe that the Tami man will not be persuaded.

Reason For Tami's Move

In his television announcement, Abu Hatzera cited the worsening economy, the 12 percent rise in inflation last month and an ongoing row in the police department over allegations that a ranking officer unlawfully released information about suspects before their formal arraignment. He said these and other developments pointed to the "poor functioning" of the Likud government, which is the reason for Tami's "initiative."

The party, which has three Knesset seats, represents a poor, largely Sephardic constituency.

Labor Sights On Navon

When Peres was asked if the election campaign would aggravate the ongoing struggle between himself and former Premier Yitzhak Rabin for leadership of the Labor Party, he replied that he hoped for agreement and unity in Labor ranks. "But if anyone wants a leadership contest there will be a contest," he added.

Peres said that as soon as the Knesset opts for early elections he will renew his call to former President Yitzhak Navon to return to active duty in the Labor Party. Navon, who is presently visiting Argentina, has not indicated whether he is ready to return to politics since he left the non-political office of President last year. Some opposition elements regard Navon as a potential candidate for Prime Minister.

QUEEN NOOR SLAMS CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT AND FINANCIAL AID TO ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 19 (JTA) -- Queen Noor of Jordan charged today that the United States, by its continued support and financial aid to Israel, encourages a continuation of what she said was Israel's abuse of human rights of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

"It is time that you see that your generous aid grants are not being used in the service of extremism and denial of a people's fundamental human and political rights," she said in an address to a luncheon sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Washington at the Madison Hotel.

"It is time you wield your influence in a more even-handed manner on both sides of the Arab-Israeli divide. It is time you reaffirmed to yourselves, and to both Arabs and Israelis, that you will neither tolerate nor finance the abuse of human rights, even if the abuses are perpetuated by a nation you consider a close friend."

The Queen, who was born in Washington, said Israel's actions against the Palestinians were aimed at driving them out of the area. "Ever since 1967, and its occupation by force of Arab territories, Israel has been in the process of trying to retain its illegal hold on those lands -- changing their demographic character and annihilating the national existence of the people that have lived on this land for all the time," she said.

She maintained that her husband, King Hussein, "has made it his priority to reach agreement with the Palestinian leadership on a political formula to enter into negotiations for a regional peace settlement with Israel." She did not refer to Hussein's statement last night, refusing any negotiations with Israel at this time.

Hussein Again Rules Out Talks

Queen Noor's address followed yesterday's appearance by Hussein from Amman on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation" in which the King again ruled out negotiations for the present. "We want a basis for a negotiation and we can't find it so far," he said. Hussein stunned the White House last week with a sharp attack on U.S. Mideast policy in an interview with The New York Times. It came a day after President Reagan, addressing the National United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Conference in Washington, urged American Jewry to support the sale of U.S. arms to Jordan.

Hussein said yesterday that if the move in Congress succeeds to deny Jordan the Stinger mobile ground-to-air missile, Jordan will seek arms elsewhere. "We need very very badly, but not at this kind of price," he said. He added that if the price of the missiles means "for the dignity of Jordan to be affected, then it's too big a price for us to pay in this way."

SPECIAL TO THE JTA KADDISH AT BOOTHILL GRAVEYARD

By Jean Weiss

TOMBSTONE, Ariz., March 19 (JTA) -- The words of the Kaddish reverberated through the air above the wail of the desert wind that gives this bluff overlooking the Dragoon Mountains in south-eastern Arizona a strange, haunting feeling.

The occasion was the recent dedication of the old Jewish cemetery at historic Boothill Graveyard in Tombstone. A monument was unveiled to commemorate all the Jewish pioneers who helped settle the West. Among the more than 200 people watching was C. Lawrence Huerta, a full-blooded Yaqui Indian from Tucson, who was the motivating force behind the restoration.

"This is a great day. I didn't think we would be able to accomplish this," said the 6-foot tall Huerta, who was wearing a yarmulka and a traditional Indian headband over his long braided hair.

It was the summer of 1982 when Huerta invited Israel Rubin and his family to visit Arizona from Maryland. Huerta and Rubin had become close friends during the years Huerta spent in Washington, D.C., working on behalf of the Indian people. Huerta, who said he felt out of place in Washington, was befriended by Rubin, and developed an understanding of and attachment for Judaism.

No Markers To Identify The Dead

Huerta arranged for Al Turner, author and historian, to show the Rubin family around Tombstone. The group was touring the graveyard where famous and infamous gun slingers are buried, when Turner asked if they wished to see the long-forgotten and abandoned Jewish section.

Rubin recalled struggling down a hill through thicket and prickly cactus in the intensive 100 degree heat. There at the northeast portion of Boothill, with the entrance facing east, lay the vandalized burial ground. The one 8-foot-high adobe wall was but a crumbling fraction of its former height. No markers were left to identify those who were buried there.

It was when Rubin began to recite the Kaddish that Huerta, the only Indian to be elected a judge in Arizona, was moved to restore the cemetery. "It developed into a religious experience for me. Had we just stood there it would have impressed me, that's all. His saying Kaddish was doing more, it moved me to do something," said the former circuit court judge.

Rubin said it was Huerta's "tenacity and own feeling about the sacredness of a burial ground" that persuaded the members of the Jewish Friendship Club in Green Valley, a town 85 miles to the west, to get involved in the restoration.

Non-Profit Group Carries Out The Project

The Tombstone Historical Jewish Graveyard, Inc., a non-profit corporation, led by David Sirotka, was established to carry out the project. Donations accounted for the \$3,000 necessary for the restoration, Sirotka said.

A few minutes walk down a newly cleared path leads the way to the burial plot. Much of the back-breaking work to clear the area of brush and debris was done by the 59-year-old Huerta. The 2,500-square-foot tract is now enclosed by a wrought-iron fence.

The iron-cube monument, which also serves as a time capsule, stands on a two-tiered platform made from rocks taken from nearby abandoned silver mines. A Star of David adorns the east and west sides of the monument. On the south side is a HoHoKam Indian sun symbol. HoHoKam means "those who vanished" in the Papago Indian language.

Dedicated To All Jewish Pioneers

Atop the monument is a menorah with the flames designed to spell shalom, symbolizing the hope that all who share Mother Earth can dwell in harmony. Huerta said the monument was not just a remembrance to those buried in Boothill.

"It is dedicated to and honoring all Jewish pioneers that helped to open the West," he said. "The reason we wanted Tombstone as the basis for this is that it has the connotation that it is better known than if a Jewish cemetery was found in Wyoming or Montana. There is the flavor of Indians all around." Because of the large number of tourists who visit Tombstone and Boothill, it will be "the focal point for people to know about Jewish frontiersmen. It raises the consciousness of Jews and non-Jews about the roles Jews played in the settlement of the West," Huerta added.

Items In The Time Capsule

Among the items placed in the time capsule were a tallit, a miniature Torah, a spice box, tefillin, a menorah and a 150-year-old hymn book. Calling it "my mitzvah," Huerta contributed an olive-wood bowl from Israel containing soil from Jerusalem that Rubin gave him as a gift. Alongside the Jewish articles, Huerta placed an Indian "harmony bowl" with samples of the three basic elements: animal, vegetable and mineral.

They included a swatch of elk skin, representing harmony among all earthly creatures; corn, symbolizing the bounty Father and Mother Earth provide; and Apache tears, pebbles that signify life's sadness and death. According to legend, the small stones were formed as Apache women cried for the men who went off to battle. Soil from a mountain sacred to Indians also was enclosed in the capsule.

Honoring The Lost And Forgotten

Huerta said, "In honoring my Jewish brothers, I feel I am also honoring the lost and forgotten bones of my own people who lay where they fell when the West was being settled." Corporation members are conducting research to determine who was buried in the cemetery.

Tombstone, "the town too tough to die," was established in 1878 after silver was discovered in the nearby mountains. The desolate area was home to the Apaches, and during Tombstone's heyday settlers were the targets of raids under the leadership of Geronimo.

Among the town's fascinating inhabitants were Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday and the Clanton gang. The feud between Earp and the Clantons erupted at the famous shootout at OK Corral in 1881.

One known Jewish resident of the town was Josephine Sarah Marcus who later became Earp's third wife. However, the couple is buried in the Jewish cemetery in Coloma, Calif. Huerta said the graveyard corporation soon hopes to be able to put together a background of other Jews who were part of Tombstone's colorful past.