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SHAMIR SENDS WARM GREETING TO MUBARAK ON FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL-EGYPT PEACE TREATY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 26 (JTA) — Premier Yitzhak Shamir sent a message of warm greetings today to President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to mark the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Israel-Egypt peace treaty. Shamir expressed his hope for "development" of the relations between the two countries and also expressed his confidence that the treaty would be a "cornerstone" for broader Middle East peace.

Shamir's aides said his message was especially significant because it follows some harsh statements by the Premier accusing Egypt of failure to abide by the spirit of the peace treaty in its cool relations with Israel.

Meanwhile, Abba Eban, the Labor Party's foreign affairs spokesman, is scheduled to visit Egypt next week at the invitation of top government figures there. Eban expects to meet with Mubarak. This would be a relatively rare dialogue between a leading Israeli personality (albeit from the opposition) and the Egyptian leader.

Just back from Egypt on a private business visit, Haim Zadok, a Justice minister in the former Labor government, told reporters that the Egyptians are presently occupied with their own elections to be held in May. But, he said, they are clearly interested in promoting ties with Israel's Labor movement. Zadok met with former Premier Mustafa Khalil and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali.

THREE-WAY LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE LOOMING FOR LABOR AND LIKUD IN THE UPCOMING ELECTION CAMPAIGN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 26 (JTA) — Former President Yitzhak Navon's apparent decision to involve himself in the upcoming election campaign has raised the possibility of a three-way leadership struggle within Labor Party ranks. A similar three-way struggle is also looming for Likud, prompting some observers to suggest that Shimon Peres and Premier Yitzhak Shamir may both have a stake in holding the elections as soon as possible.

Navon has cut short his visit to the United States and is returning home tomorrow in view of the latest political developments, the army radio reported today. Labor MK Uzi Baram, Navon's foremost supporter in the Knesset, said he hoped a leadership contest could be avoided.

But he seemed to imply that Navon's backers will push his candidacy for the top spot on Labor's election list which would make Navon Premier if Labor wins the elections. Peres, the Labor Party's chairman, and former Premier Yitzhak Rabin would be relegated to the second and third places on the list.

Pushing For Peres-Rabin-Navon Troika

Peres' supporters are pushing the idea of a Peres-Rabin-Navon troika to mute the bitter rivalry between Peres and Rabin and bring the popular Navon

into the party's top ranks. Labor Party Secretary General Haim Barlev said yesterday that such a structure would be best for the party. The Peres camp hopes Navon will agree to accept "a place in the top trio," after Peres and Rabin.

Navon has indicated in the past that he has no wish to challenge Peres who is a personal friend. Should he change his mind, Rabin is expected to throw his hat in the ring since in a three way race he could not be branded a "spoiler." His supporters, meeting over the weekend, made it clear that Rabin is "keeping his options open."

Sharon Seeking Top Spot In Likud

There is similar ferment in Likud. Former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon told an audience of enthusiastic supporters in Tel Aviv's Yemenite quarter last night that he would seek the top spot in his party. He said there would be three candidates, Premier Yitzhak Shamir, Deputy Premier David Levy, who originally challenged Shamir for leadership after Menachem Begin resigned, and himself.

Such a three-way race would determine who becomes Premier, Foreign Minister and Defense Minister in a new Likud government, Sharon said. Political observers noted that he omitted Defense Minister Moshe Arens, indicating that Sharon intends to challenge the man who replaced him.

Sharon, currently a Minister-Without-Portfolio, has been openly critical of Arens' performance. He blames his policies for the return of Palestine Liberation Organization fighters to Beirut and the general deterioration of Israel's political influence in Lebanon.

Sharon also criticized Arens last night for unflattering comments he allegedly made about U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger to a New York Times reporter who quoted them in an article published yesterday. Arens has vigorously denied making the remarks attributed to him.

Pressure For Early Election Date

According to some observers, these pressures within the two major parties may force Shamir and Peres to agree on an early election date. The reasoning is that the longer the campaign, the greater the chance of leadership struggles developing within Labor and Likud, with those challenging the incumbents gaining strength.

Shamir and Peres are expected to meet today or tomorrow to discuss an election date. Shamir said on a television interview last night that it would be "appropriate and healthier" if both major parties could agree. He said Likud has good reasons for seeking a fall election but would listen carefully to Labor's arguments for a late spring or early summer date.

Peres, for his part, called on Shamir to agree to a fair fight without rabble-raising speeches or personal insults. He suggested that Likud's "new leadership" gave grounds to hope for a more "civilized" campaign than that of 1981. He was referring to the vitriolic campaigning of former Premier Menachem Begin which, in some instances, encouraged his supporters to attempt to disrupt Labor Party rallies by violent means.

MONDALE, HART TRADE VERBAL JABS OVER THEIR POSITIONS ON ISRAEL By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 26 (JTA) -- Former Vice President Walter Mondale and Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado traded verbal jabs over the weekend regarding their positions on Israel and the Middle East as they wooed New York's Jewish voters. The two Democratic Presidential hopefuls were campaigning for New York's 285 delegates in the April 3 primary in which an estimated one-third of the Democratic Party voters are Jewish.

Mondale accused Hart of changing his position on moving the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and of speaking on both sides of the sale of F-15 jet fighters to Saudi Arabia.

Mixed Reception For Mondale

Mondale, however, received a mixed reception of boos and cheers when he addressed a meeting of more than 1,000 members of the National Council of Young Israel at the Sheraton Centre Hotel yesterday. His speech was interrupted by a small group of men and women shouting "No F-15s," a reference to the sale of the fighter planes to Saudi Arabia by the Carter Administration, which Mondale, the then Vice President, supported.

At the beginning of his speech, a young man, identified later as Ron Jacobs of Staten Island, lifted a large banner reading, "We will never forget the F-15s to Saudi Arabia." Mondale, however, ignored the commotion and continued with his address.

Mondale's spokesman distributed to reporters at the event a copy of a Hart statement from the Congressional Record on May 15, 1978, in which Hart asked that his vote against the sale of the F-15s not be "misread." In his statement, Hart said that "Had each sale proposal been presented separately, and had peace negotiations not been at such a crucial point, I could have given each proposed aircraft sale strong support."

Cordial Reception For Hart

Hart appeared before the Young Israel later in the day and was received cordially by the audience. He reiterated his strong support of Israel, pointed to his pro-Israel record in the Senate and criticized Mondale for supporting the sale of F-15s to Saudi Arabia. He also reiterated his vow that he will move the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem if elected President.

He said that his position on Jerusalem as Israel's capital has been consistent, noting that a statement by AIPAC last week also said that his position on the relocation of the Embassy to Jerusalem was consistent.

But Hart himself admitted last week, in an address to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, that there was a misunderstanding regarding his position on relocating the Embassy to Jerusalem. He apologized for a letter he wrote conflicting with his position.

In response to a question about a February 1 letter to Arnold Spiceland, president of the New Rochelle, NY chapter of the Zionist Organization of America, in which Hart wrote that the status of Jerusalem was open to "negotiations," the Senator said the letter does not reflect his position accurately. "I apologize for the ambiguity. It is unfortunate," he said.

ADL LEADERS MEET WITH THE POPE

ROME, March 26 (JTA) -- Brotherhood, cooperation between two ancient faiths for humanitarian goals, and continuing dialogue were the focus of remarks by Pope John Paul II at a Papal audience with 11 representatives of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith -- accompanied by their wives -- at the Vatican Saturday morning.

"The dialogue between Catholics and Jews, the mysterious spiritual ties that unite us both in Abraham, their common concern for contemporary problems of humanity, condemnation of anti-Semitism by the Catholic Church," were the themes touched on by the Pontiff according to highlights and a summary of the audience published in the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, and broadcast by the Vatican radio.

Warm Reception For The ADL

Kenneth Bialkin, national chairman of the ADL, spoke of the Pope's "very warm reception" to the Jewish group, stopping to exchange brief remarks with each member.

Bialkin, who spoke in response to John Paul's remarks, said he expressed particular concern over the resurgence of anti-Semitism all over the world, especially the equation of Zionism with racism. He said he called on the Pope to use his prestige and spiritual force to help the struggle to improve conditions for Soviet Jews and to further the quest for peace, independence and security for Israel.

Bialkin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he had stressed the meaning of Israel to Jews. "The time was short, but I tried to explain why American Jews are so deeply bound to Israel's survival over and beyond momentary politics -- feelings difficult for non-Jews to understand," the ADL official said.

"Each of us, I said, feels as if he had personally survived the Holocaust, and we know that countless more of us could have survived if we had a place to go. We must combine forces to assure not only Jews but all the persecuted people of the world that there be a 'place' for everyone to go to find refuge," Bialkin said he told the Pope.

Pope Concentrates On Amity

John Paul did not refer to Israel or the Palestinian problem specifically during the audience. He concentrated on amity, quoting the 133rd Psalm, "How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity."

The Pope defined the special quality of the "brotherly" relationship between Catholics and Jews. "Because, my dear friends, as I have often said ... the encounter between Catholics and Jews is not a meeting of two ancient religions each going its own way, and not infrequently, in times past, in grievous and painful conflict. It is a meeting between brothers, a dialogue..."

He appeared to be calling for more open relations when he observed that "This spiritual link, however, involves a great responsibility. Closeness in respect implies trust and frankness, and totally excludes distrust and suspicion. It also calls for fraternal concern for one another and the problems and difficulties with which each of our religious communities is faced."

In greeting the group, the Pope acknowledged the ADL as "the well known association based in the U.S. but active in many parts of the world, including Rome itself ... closely related with the Commission for Religious Relations with Judaism, founded ten years ago by Paul VI for the purpose of fostering relations at the levels of our respective faith commitments."

**CANADIAN B'NAI B'RITH GROUP,
BACK FROM FACT FINDING MISSION IN
ETHIOPIA, FIND FALASHAS ARE NOT
WORSE OFF THAN OTHER PEOPLE THERE**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 26 (JTA) -- A Canadian B'nai B'rith delegation which just returned from a fact finding mission to Ethiopia's Gandar province, including visits to three Falasha villages, has concluded that the Jews in Ethiopia "do not live worse" than other sectors of the general population.

The delegation, which included Canadian B'nai B'rith president Don Jubas and executive vice president Frank Dimant, also issued in an interview here a harsh rebuttal of the "biased and tainted" reporting of other Falasha activist groups in North America, notably the Canadian Association for Ethiopian Jewry (CAEJ) and the American Association for Ethiopian Jewry (AAEJ).

They dismissed as a "diatribe against Israel" a controversial film on the Falashas recently screened to Knesset members and journalists here. The film, "The Falashas," was made some 18 months ago by a former Israeli now living in Canada, Simcha Jacobovici. It accuses the Israeli government of inaction and ineffectiveness in rescuing the Falashas and portrays their plight in Ethiopia and in refugee camps in neighboring Sudan as desperate.

The film and the controversy surrounding it were widely reported in the Canadian media. Jacobovici claimed earlier this month that the Israeli government was deliberately suppressing his film and preventing its general release or showing on Israel television.

Welcomed By Ethiopian Authorities

The Canadian B'nai B'rith delegation went to Ethiopia with the active encouragement of the Israeli government and Jubas said they did not hide this fact from the Ethiopian authorities. "We were warmly welcomed by the Ethiopian authorities who knew we had come from Israel and were going back through Israel, and that we had come to see the situation of the Falashas," Jubas said.

In the three villages the delegation visited -- Wallecka, Ambober and the more remotely located Abu Antonis -- the delegation found "no specifically anti-Jewish legislation or discrimination," Jubas said. "That is important in view of the wrong information that is being fed to the media."

"One has to understand the special situation," he added. "There are civil wars going on and that means military draft, not just for the Jews but for everybody. The Marxist government, moreover, functions on the premise that no one wants to leave. And indeed no one is allowed to leave...."

Jubas and other members of the delegation said it was crucially important that other Jewish groups visit Falasha villages. They described the excitement and enthusiasm their visit had generated among the Falasha villagers -- and their own emotions at feeling a bond of nationhood over a cultural gap of centuries.

While saying "Israel is doing what can be done," Jubas acknowledged that it is "very difficult logistically to get" Falashas out of Ethiopia. "Organizations that claim a lot of credit, like the CAEJ and AAEJ, and raise a lot of money for flashy brochures, are registering only miniscule returns for their dollars," Jubas said.

"There is no question that they get some (Falashas) out; but even according to them, their figures are tiny. It would be better if they spent the money they raise on scholarships and other requirements for Ethiopian Jews living in Israel," Jubas added.

The interview with Jubas and other delegation members took place in the Diaspora Department of the Foreign Ministry, headed by Moshe Gilboa. The delegation also reported directly to Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives.

Israel And Ethiopia

The report by the Canadian B'nai B'rith delegation, and especially its enthusiastic espousal by Israeli officials, appears to be part of an ongoing effort by Israel to portray the Ethiopian regime and its treatment of the Falashas in a much more favorable light than previously.

The turnabout began in January, 1983, when four persons identified as Israeli social workers held a news conference in Jerusalem to report that they had made a trip to Ethiopia sponsored by the World Jewish Congress and had found that the Falashas condition had much improved and persecution of them had ceased.

At about the same time, reports appeared in the international press to the effect that Ethiopia was becoming dissatisfied with its Cuban military and civilian advisers and might turn again to Israel for assistance in the ongoing civil war and possibly in other, non-military areas.

Ethiopia, then still under Emperor Haile Selassie, broke its diplomatic ties with Israel in 1974. Unofficial links continued until 1979 when an apparently injudicious public reference to them by then Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan led to a further drastic estrangement.

Now, however, according to the Canadian delegation, they encountered Israeli businessmen in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. There are also a number of Ethiopian students taking courses in Israel. At the same time, Dulzin recently disclosed that the number of immigrants from Ethiopia to reach Israel during 1983 was in the thousands. It is understood that 2,200 Falashas reached Israel in 1983.

JUDAH KAHN DEAD AT 71

NEW YORK, March 26 (JTA) -- A memorial service will be held April 15 at the Metropolitan Synagogue of New York for Rabbi Judah Kahn, founding rabbi of the Manhattan Reform synagogue and a past president of the New York Board of Rabbis, who died last Saturday of diabetes complications in Sarasota, Florida. He was 71.

Rabbi Joel Goor, his successor, said a private family burial had taken place yesterday. Ordained at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the Reform seminary, in Cincinnati, Kahn had a bachelor's degree in government from New York University and a master's degree in political science from Columbia University.

He served on the Board of the NAACP from 1947 to 1974 and was a vice president from 1954 to 1964. He was also a member of the Board of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency for several years.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW

JUMBLATT: A MAJOR POLITICAL FORCE IN LEBANON'S POLITICS

By Edwin Eytan

LAUSANNE, March 26 (JTA) -- Walid Jumblatt, the 35-year-old Druze leader, once known for his ambivalent attitude towards Israel, now describes Israel's policy in Lebanon as a complete fiasco and says that Israel's own political and military establishments are responsible for this situation.

Jumblatt has emerged as one of Lebanon's main political forces after his victory last month over President Amin Gemayel's army. He is Syria's ally but, paradoxically, is not hostile to Israel. Israeli sources say that Jumblatt and his men scrupulously honor their promises and have generally managed to keep the areas under their control free from Palestinian infiltrations.

Once Israel carried a great deal of weight in Lebanon. Now it only wields a relatively minor influence outside south Lebanon where the Israelis are in control. The fault, according to Jumblatt, is Israel's and Israel's alone. Former Premier Menachem Begin and former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon bear most of the responsibility, but Sharon is mainly to blame for the reversal of Israel's influence in Lebanon, he stated.

Israel's political and military establishments are also to blame, Jumblatt asserted in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "When I look at Israel's leaders I seem to see a reflection of our own living mummies, men like (Pierre) Gemayel and (Camille) Chamoun, relics of another era with their fixed ideas and vested interests. It is not a question of age but of mentality and when I look at Israel's leaders I seem to see our own."

Pessimistic About The Future

Jumblatt and this correspondent met toward the end of the Lebanese reconciliation talks last week at a small lake-side inn away from the luxurious palace where most of the other leaders had stayed. For 10 days, he had bitterly opposed, at times, his traditional enemies, the Gemayels, but had also worked hard to try and reach some sort of agreement and put an end to the 10 years of near constant bloodshed and fighting.

After having berated some of his opponents, whom he referred to as "godfathers" interested mainly in sharing the spoils, he was preparing to leave Lausanne, pessimistic about the future.

Regarding Israel, the Druze leader stressed that its main mistake was its reliance on force, and practically on force alone. "Israel's experts only seem to know one method, one system alone: force," he observed. "They send military columns, trucks, tanks, armored cars across the Awali (river). Sometimes they even reach Khaleh (a village only six miles south of Beirut). But, so what? No one really cares. People are no longer afraid. We get used to everything, even fear, and people don't even look out through their windows any longer when the Israeli columns pass. Force is simply not effective any longer. Israel has failed to try something else."

Jumblatt's mother, the widow of Khaled Jumblatt the traditional Druze leader still revered by most of the community as their national hero and herself a "grande dame" to her fingertips, joined in the conversation. "The Lebanese have seen so many things, each more horrible than the other, that little scares them now. And by using force, what can Israel do? Occupy the south? Move back into Beirut?"

Jumblatt, usually dressed in a leather jacket and close-fitting blue jeans, is dressed in a suit for the occasion and even sports a tie, flamboyant red, as befits some say, the leader of the Lebanese Socialist Party, the most leftwing formation in the country although it is still very much to the right of center.

Knowledgeable About Israel

The Druze leader works generally, including in Lausanne, without the large staff of experts and advisers which surround the other leaders. His main advisers are his cousin, Khaled, and a former reporter Marwan Hamade. Although he gets most of his information from the press and radio, Jumblatt is remarkably well informed.

He knows a great deal about how Israel's political machinery functions, who the men in power are, and how decisions are made. He thinks Israel has few trump cards left in Lebanon. The occupation of the south has made things difficult for Israel everywhere, he believes.

"The continuation of what Israel calls terrorist activities is an encouragement to all anti-Israeli elements and anti-Israeli policies," he pointed out.

"What is probably even more serious for the Israelis is the emergence of the Shiites. They will turn out to be a bigger problem than the Palestinians and Israel's occupation of south Lebanon (where the Shiites form the majority of the population) has caused it to clash headlong with them."

Two days after our meeting, Jumblatt practically gave the signal for the reconciliation conference's downfall. "I cannot wait here endlessly," he said. "I have to be with my people in Lebanon."

The Possible End Of A Last Attempt

After his decision to leave became known, Syria's Vice President Abdel Khalim Khadam and Shiite leader Nabih Berri announced their departure as well. It was the end of what might be the last attempt to settle Lebanon's difficulties and contradictions through diplomatic methods. Fighting erupted again as the end of the talks became known.

Before leaving Lausanne, Jumblatt went to a gun shop in the center of the city. He and his cousin bought half a dozen sidearms, including some of the most sophisticated and deadly pistols now in production. Khaled Jumblatt told the salesman that "this is the sort of gun we have difficulty finding in Beirut." He did not say, but it was obviously inferred, that these types of guns will now be needed more than ever.

PERCY SEEKING MORE AID FOR ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, March 26 (JTA) -- Sen. Charles Percy (R. Ill.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has announced that he will introduce a resolution to increase the economic aid to Israel in 1985 to \$1.1 billion, \$350 million more than the Reagan Administration has proposed.

Percy, noting that Israel's economy is in "terrible shape," made the announcement as his Committee was about to begin this week work on the 1985 foreign aid bill. The House Foreign Affairs Committee had earlier approved this increase. All the economic aid would be in the form of a grant, as would be the \$1.4 billion Israel is to receive in military aid.

Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R. Minn.) said Percy's support improves the chances that Congress will adopt the appropriation.