

LEBANESE, ISRAELI TALKS EXPECTED TO RESUME; RABIN CRITICIZES BEIRUT FOR LACK OF PROPOSALS ON TERRORISM
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 14 (JTA) — The Lebanese government apparently has agreed to resume talks with Israel, aimed at the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Force from south Lebanon. Officials here confirmed reports to that effect from Beirut this morning and the Israeli and Lebanese military delegations are expected to meet tomorrow at Nakura.

The talks opened there on November 8, just a week ago, under the auspices of the United Nations and had been scheduled to continue on November 12. But the Beirut government summarily suspended the talks last weekend to protest Israel's arrest of four leaders of the Shiite Moslem militia, Amal, which is believed responsible for the mounting incidence of attacks on the IDF in south Lebanon.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, replying to questions in the Knesset today, sharply criticized the Lebanese government. He said it offered no proposals to halt terrorist attacks on Israel when the talks were on but then halted the talks when Israel arrested the suspected terrorists.

Rabin, speaking before the word came through that the talks would probably resume tomorrow, told the Knesset that he "would not be surprised" if one or more of the detainees are released. This may have been a hint of a quid pro quo arrangement between Jerusalem and Beirut.

Lebanese Government Under Pressure

The Lebanese government is believed to have acted under severe pressure from its Moslem components when it suspended the talks, especially Shiite leader Nabih Berri who was backed by Walid Jumblatt, leader of the Lebanese Druze. Some observers believe the arrest of the Amal militiamen was used as a pretext to de-rail the talks which are opposed by Berri. Israel has offered the Shiites a cease-fire in south Lebanon for the duration of the talks. Berri's initial response was negative. But if the talks are resumed tomorrow it would indicate that some deal has been struck.

Whatever it is may have involved U.S. and UN diplomats who have been working behind the scenes all week. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, presently in the region, has been shuttling between Jerusalem and Beirut as has a UN political aide, Claude Aimee.

The Israelis are anxious for the talks to resume. They seek mainly iron-clad security arrangements that will guarantee the safety of Israel's northern borders once the IDF pulls out of south Lebanon. Israel wants the South Lebanese Army (SLA), a largely Christian militia commanded by Gen. Antoine Lahad to maintain security along the border and an expanded United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to police the region further to the north.

Meanwhile, Rabin warned that the apparent thaw in relations between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization may bode ill for Israel. At a meeting with the heads of local town councils

in northern Israel yesterday, Rabin heard their expressions of concern over recent Katyusha rocket attacks on Israel by terrorists operating from Jordanian territory. The attacks caused no casualties or damage but were a worrisome break in the peaceful conditions that have long prevailed on the Israel-Jordan border.

Rabin said, "I would not say (the attacks) are not worrying, especially considering improved Jordanian-PLO relations and the return of PLO elements to Jordan. I hope their return will not be reflected in Jordanian policy which has more than anything else prevented attacks against us," he said.

POSSIBLE LARGE SCALE UNEMPLOYMENT IN ISRAEL CAUSES POLITICAL FUROR

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 14 (JTA) — The prospect of large scale unemployment owing to additional budget cuts proposed by the Treasury has stirred a political furor and the wrath of Histadrut leaders who promptly denounced the plan and declared it would not work.

Sources at Premier Shimon Peres' office were quick to note today that the plan has not yet been discussed with him and was at the moment, nothing more than a proposal by the Treasury. Peres is aware of the need for further paring of the budget but has not been given the details, the sources said. Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai said earlier this week that the budget must be slashed by an additional half billion dollars and that he would present his plan to the Cabinet at its next regular meeting this Sunday.

The Treasury's proposals are said to include the immediate dismissal of 4,000 teachers, 4,000 defense-related government employees, 1,500 employees of local authorities and several thousands from the social and health services. The government also will be asked to freeze the construction of new schools and possibly to close some existing schools which would force many teachers to resign. Public works would be sharply curtailed.

One of the immediate reactions was a series of non-confidence motions presented in the Knesset today by opposition parties of the left and right. (See following story.)

Labor Unrest Predicted

Government economists said today that there was no choice but a massive cutback on manpower as an initial step toward dealing with Israel's economic crisis. But Histadrut Secretary General Yisrael Kessar told a workers rally in Haifa today that mass unemployment would lead to nation-wide labor unrest.

"How can the government decide to fire 15,000 civil servants without first deciding how to absorb the present unemployed?" the visibly angered Kessar asked. He proposed new training schools and the creation of new jobs before anyone is fired. He warned that if the government does not undertake compensatory measures, there may be as many as 100,000 jobless in Israel by the end of this year.

Dr. Avraham Friedman, a Hebrew University labor relations expert, told Voice of Israel Radio today that he did not think there would be any mass firings unless all of the Cabinet ministers were in agreement. Unless there is real unity in the Cabinet there will be "tough battles" between ministers and between the government

and Histadrut on every front, he said. He added that the outcome would be a measure of the strength and influence of Finance Minister Modai.

Yaacov Tzur, the Minister of Immigration and Absorption, denounced the Treasury for what he called its "daily leaks, announcements and threats of massive dismissals of workers." It is a critical issue and is not to be toyed with, he said, indicating concern that daily reports of economic hardships ahead could have an adverse impact on aliya.

Crackdown on Violators

The authorities meanwhile are cracking down hard on violators of the three month price freeze that, along with a freeze on wages, went into effect on November 2. A Tel Aviv magistrates court imposed fines of up to 50,000 Shekels today on some 100 merchants charged with violations of the price freeze. Inasmuch as most of them pleaded guilty, all of the cases were disposed of within two hours.

But one judge charged that those brought to court were only the "small fry" and that action against more serious price violators was insufficient. Most of the defendants were accused either of charging excessive prices or asking for payment in Dollars which is banned under the freeze package. All prices must be quoted in Shekels which are pegged at the official rate of 526.97-\$1.

MKs Make Sacrifices Too

With the general population being asked to bear the burdens of economic hardship, the government announced today that its members too were making sacrifices. Cabinet ministers no longer will be driven in expensive Volvos. They will have to settle for the Peugeot 505. The French-made Peugeot costs about \$5,000 less than the luxurious Volvos made in Sweden.

At the same time, Knesset members who live outside of Jerusalem but must spend nights there to attend morning sessions, will be asked to put up at three star rather than five star hotels. But they may have the best of both worlds. The posh Jerusalem Hilton which rates five stars is offering MKs rates equal to those charged by cheaper hostels.

OPPOSITION MKs SEEK NO CONFIDENCE VOTES ON ECONOMY, LEBANON

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Opposition Knesset members from both the right and left of the political spectrum reacted to government policies on the economy and on Lebanon today with a string of no-confidence motions. But the parties they represent are too small to pose a threat to the Labor-Likud government and only a few ministers attended the session.

Motions of no confidence were presented by Mapam, the Civil Rights Movement (CRM), the Progressive List for Peace and the Hadash Communists, all, in varying degrees, to the left of center and by the rightwing Tehiya party. The protestors acted out of vastly different motives, particularly on the Lebanon issue.

Haika Grossman of Mapam contended that the government is not worthy of Knesset confidence because of rising unemployment that affects young people in the development towns and poses a threat to the entire work force. She denounced politicians who want to use unemployment as a tool to cure inflation.

Yuval Neeman of Tehiya criticized the government for failing to make use of the Labor Party's good relations with Histadrut to work out a "convenient economic plan." He also injected a foreign policy note, accusing Likud of failure to prevent Labor Party leaders from initiating political moves toward Jordan and Egypt. Tehiya has always opposed the peace treaty with Egypt and wants no dealings with Jordan.

Charlie Biton of Hadash blasted Histadrut for its alleged lack of zeal against unemployment. He contended that the wage-price freeze package deal will not reduce inflation but would only hurt wage earners whose income already has dropped by 20 percent. He was apparently referring to a requirement that wage-earners forego one-third of their monthly cost-of-living allowances for the duration of the three month freeze.

Government Charged With Coddling Extremists

Shulamit Aloni of the CRM assailed the government on another matter. She accused the Labor Party of coddling extremists, such as the "provocateur" Rabbi Moshe Levinger, leader of militant settlers in the Hebron area on the West Bank. Levinger has spent the last two weeks in a sit-down demonstration outside the Dohaisha refugee camp to protest what he claims is the government's failure to take strong action against Palestinian residents of the camp who throw rocks at Israeli vehicles. The government has taken no steps to remove him.

"Don't let them (the rightwingers) lead you," Aloni urged Laborites. She called on the Labor Party "to end this dangerous and distorted patriotism, this stupid national pride which keeps us in Lebanon."

Matityahu Peled of the Progressive List for Peace, charged that while the government says it wants to pull out it is doing everything "to stay in Lebanon." As examples, he said Israel is paving new roads in south Lebanon, building a new detention camp near Tyre and preparing the Israel Defense Force for another winter in Lebanon. "The IDF should be moved out before the winter begins," Peled said.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin replied that the basis of the government's policy in Lebanon was security for Israel's northern borders in return for withdrawing the IDF. He also criticized the Beirut government for suspending the withdrawal negotiations that began last week because Israel arrested four Shiite Moslem militia leaders responsible for attacks on the IDF. (See separate story.)

"We proposed cessation of all hostilities during the negotiations but were rejected," Rabin said. "We did not set this proposal as a condition for continuation of the talks."

HIGH HOLIDAY BONDS SALES HIT \$47 MILLION

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Subscriptions for more than \$47 million in Israel Bonds from High Holy Day appeals in 1,100 synagogues this year, representing a 10 percent increase over 1983 totals, were reported by Israel Bond Organization officials.

David Hermelin, national campaign chairman, and Ira Miller, synagogue division chairman, said the results, "in the context of Israel's current economic difficulties, served as another reaffirmation by the North American Jewish community of its confidence in Israel's ability to solve its current economic problems." They also said the response was a demonstration by High Holy Day worshippers of their partnership with Israel's new unity government leading Israeli

Jews to help restore the economy. Rabbi Leon Kronish of Miami Beach, chairman of the Israel Bond National Rabbinic Cabinet, cited the B'nai Ami operation last March which brought 25 Israeli emissaries for meeting with rabbis and enlisted more congregations in this year's High Holy Day effort.

SITUATION OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS WORSENING; ISRAEL, U.S. URGED TO MAKE CONCERTED AID EFFORT

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (JTA) — An urgent appeal was issued here for Israel and the United States government to step up relief and rescue efforts for the Falashas, Ethiopia's Jewish community, whose situation was worsened due to the devastating drought that is sweeping North Africa.

More than 10,000 Falashas are believed to have fled their homes in Ethiopia, according to activists in this country on behalf of the Falashas. Thousands have remained in their country and continue to be subjected to discrimination and other forms of harassment from the Ethiopian population.

Eli Rockowitz, vice president of the American Association for Ethiopian Jews, in making the plea for a concerted effort to save the Falashas, also urged world Jewish organizations to work together in this endeavor, because, Rockowitz explained, "If that is not done now, they're finished."

Reports from international relief groups say dozens of Ethiopians have died each day from the severe drought afflicting Ethiopia and vicinity. Many who have died in the camps are buried quickly and this has caused some dispute on the actual number of people who have died.

Falasha Refugees Hide Jewishness

But the Falashas in the refugee camps, where as many as 600,000 Ethiopians have fled, face an additional precarious situation. They tend to live in isolated groups, according to Rockowitz, and they cannot let their Jewishness be known for fear of retribution. The AAEJ official asserted that Falashas fear carrying out Jewish burial services for their dead.

Rockowitz, speaking at a news conference yesterday at the Central Synagogue Community Center in Manhattan, was joined by two Ethiopian Jews who recently escaped from their homeland. They described years of brutal treatment, harassment and torture at the hands of the Marxist government in Addis Ababa.

The two men, both middle aged, did not use their real names during the meeting with members of the Jewish media. They were identified as Yuri Ben Gad and Rachamin Ben Joseph in order to protect family they left behind in Ethiopia when they fled last summer. Their rescue was aided by the AAEJ. They now live in Israel at the absorption center of Pardes Chanah.

Hebrew Teachers' Plight Described

Ben Gad spoke in Amharic, the Ethiopian language that was translated into English by Ben Joseph. Both Falashas have been teachers of Hebrew and leaders in Ethiopia's Jewish community. Both had been arrested by the government security and Ben Gad was tortured for teaching Hebrew and for "treason."

"My life has been dedicated to teaching Ethiopian Jews their heritage," Ben Gad said, noting that he had been trained in Israel in the 1950s for several years, and then returned to Ethiopia.

"For this, I have been repeatedly arrested, jailed and tortured by the Ethiopian government. And now there is drought, starvation and death for our people. There is no Jewish life for Falashas in Ethiopia. We need Jewish help for Jewish victims," he said.

The AAEJ, a non-profit organization begun in 1974, seeks to educate the American Jewish community and general public on the plight of the Falashas. They have over the years clashed with Jewish organizations and the Israeli government over the rescue of Ethiopia's Jews. They have accused Israel of not doing enough to aid the escape of the Falashas to Israel, and have carried out their own rescue operations to help the Falashas escape Ethiopia.

GREECE SEEKS MEDIATOR ROLE

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Nov. 14 (JTA) — The Greek government, actively seeking a mediator role in the Middle East, is playing up its Arab contacts and its improved relations with Israel.

A Greek agricultural delegation left for Israel Monday to exchange ideas and know-how with Israeli experts in the field. A day earlier, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu returned from his three-day official visit to Syria and Jordan, hailing it as one of the most successful trips of its kind he has ever made.

The delegation that went to Israel is the first since the two countries signed an agricultural agreement in 1979. There have been higher level exchanges since the Socialist government came to power here in 1981. But the Greek media, encouraged by the government, gave this latest junket extensive coverage, according to some observers, more than it warranted.

Sources close to the Israeli diplomatic mission here suggested that the Greeks are trying to balance the effects of Papandreu's trip to Syria and Jordan, countries still technically in a state of war with Israel. "Greece wants to signal us that the recent improvement of relations (with Israel) is still on," an Israeli source said.

Papandreu To Press EEC

Papandreu told reporters on his return Sunday that Greece will undertake the role of mediator between the Arab world and the European Economic Community (EEC) of which it is a member. "I asked both Syria and Jordan to give me a working paper that I can present to the next EEC summit in Dublin in order to try to persuade the Community to pass another resolution with regard to the Israeli-Arab-Palestinian dispute," the Prime Minister said. "I think the EEC is ready now to take two more steps forward," Papandreu added.

He is also said to be seeking for Greece a mediating role in the Israel-Arab dispute, even a small one, which he can present to the voters in the elections 10 months from now as an example of how other countries seek the good offices of Greece.

DANGER POSED BY IRAN-IRAQ WAR

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 14 (JTA) — The end of the war between Iraq and Iran, whenever it comes, could pose a serious danger for Israel, according to Yitzhak Oran, director of the Center for Political Research at the Foreign Ministry.

As long as the two countries, both sworn enemies of Israel, are at each other's throats, Israel's interests benefit, but once the war ends Israel may be faced with a stronger Iraqi army, Oran told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee today. The Iraqi army will comprise 10 divisions more than it had prior to the war with Iran, he said and a strong Iraqi-Syrian front might be formed against Israel.

EBAN REVEALS OVERSEAS VERSION OF 'HERITAGE' EDITED TO MEET CRITICISM FROM ORTHODOX JEWS

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (JTA) — Former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban has revealed that the Public Broadcasting System television series "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews" will be edited for viewing in Australia, Germany, Israel and United Kingdom to meet criticism from Orthodox groups.

The series now being shown in the United States on PBS stations was criticized for portraying Judaism as an evolving faith incorporating myth and legend.

Speaking to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations last week, Eban, who was the consultant and narrator for the series, asserted the series was "deeply reverent" toward Jewish tradition. But he conceded that "a little solicitude" for Orthodox Jewish views would have mitigated the controversy and that "changing a few hundred words" could have prevented it entirely.

Eban, who is now chairman of the Knesset Committee on Security and Foreign Affairs, acknowledged with thanks the remarks of Kenneth Bialkin, chairman of the Presidents Conference, who in introducing him had called the TV series "a remarkable breakthrough in its appeal to mass opinion in the United States." Other members of the Conference also praised the nine-hour program.

Respect For Jewish Heritage

Eban said he "certainly intended nothing but an expression of respect for the Jewish heritage." He said the Jewish people were portrayed "in a generous and Zionist spirit" and that Judaism was conveyed "in the conventional view of Jewish historians — including my teacher Yehezkel Kaufmann — and not the Orthodox approach." He added:

"In any interpretation of Jewish history there is no possibility of unanimity. One should look to the spirit and intention and total effect of the work in question. I believe 'Heritage: Civilization and the Jews' has contributed to enhancing and expanding the resonance of our voice as a people. It is profoundly respectful, and I believe it will succeed in achieving its purpose: to teach millions of people about Judaism and the Jewish contribution to civilization, and to do so in an atmosphere of reverence and honor for the subject matter."

Eban added: "The Torah has nothing to fear from scrutiny. If an idea is true and lofty, how it emerges doesn't matter."

FREE TUITION FOR JEWISH CHILDREN PROPOSED TO END 'SPIRITUAL DECLINE'

MIDDLETOWN, N.Y., Nov. 14 (JTA) — A life-long Zionist activist, Dr. Mordecai Hacohen, now first vice president of Bank Leumi Trust Company of New York, urged a Hadassah audience to "demand" that every American Jewish child in America be assured of a Jewish education, "even free of charge, whenever necessary."

Hacohen issued his appeal at brunch here Sunday of the Lower New York State Hadassah region, at which he received the regional Hadassah's Myrtle Wreath award conferred on "outstanding local, state or national and international personalities" for "distinguished contributions" in many fields of public life.

Asserting that "spiritual decline" was the greatest threat to survival of American Jewry, Hacohen cited data indicating that out of a total of two million Jewish children worldwide between five and 18 years old, more than one million grow up in the Diaspora "without knowing the shape of the letter Aleph."

In the United States, he told the Hadassah women, out of a total of 800,000 Jewish children of school age, about 100,000 children received — "more or less" a thorough Jewish education, "while some 250,000 children receive only an elementary Jewish education."

In sum, he declared, 500,000 Jewish children in the United States "grow up without any Jewish education whatever, not even Sunday school."

Addition to "these grim statistics" of the adverse effects of "assimilation, in all its ugly forms, the sneaky, devious missionary activities, intermarriage and the influence of various cults" makes the situation "even gloomier," he declared.

Priority For Education Urged

He warned that one did not need to be an expert on demographics to understand that "this situation if allowed to continue unchecked, will result in no time, in the total estrangement of our youth and in a vanishing Jewish community in America and in the diaspora."

He said he wanted "most respectfully to suggest" to his listeners that they help "build Jewish day schools in your community and throughout the land. The time has come to demand from your local and national Jewish Federations to regard Jewish education as the top priority for their allocations of your contributions."

He declared that the Hadassah members should "demand that every Jewish child in America, rich or poor, has an inalienable right to receive a Jewish education, even free of charge, whenever necessary, and it is our duty to provide it."

CANADIAN TOWN REJECTS PROPOSAL TO NAME STREET AFTER MASSACRE

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, Nov. 14 (JTA) — The town council of Mississauga, a suburb west of Toronto, has politely suggested to the small Palestinian community that they drop their proposal to name a street in memory of the victims of the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps massacre of September, 1982.

The name "Sabra Gate" was suggested in a letter from the Canadian Arab Federation which one council member, Larry Taylor, found "slightly strident in tone." The letter stated, "As you know, both Lebanese and Palestinian civilians were massacred by the Israeli invaders. Naming a street after the Sabra camp will serve to immortalize that tragic event where more than a thousand civilians were slaughtered."

The letter was in error on several points. It thanked the town council for naming the street — in a new housing development — "Sabra Gate", something the council did not do and has no role in the naming. It accused Israel of the massacre which was in fact carried out by units of the Lebanese Christian Phalangist militia. It also exaggerated the number of victims.

Mayor Hazel McCallan said she would meet representatives of the Arab Federation to try to persuade them to choose a name with more positive connotations. Taylor explained that in order to balance the predominance of Anglo-Saxon street names in a multi-ethnic community, "I requested that each group submit a half dozen names that were important to their communities. It's not my role to consider these."