

FIRST ROUND OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN TALKS END WITH PROGRESS ON SOME BILATERAL ISSUES, BUT NOT ON TABA
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA) — The first round of high level talks between Israel and Egypt ended in Cairo over the weekend with progress reported on some bilateral issues but none in the dispute over Taba, the strip of beach on the Gulf of Aqaba claimed by both Israel and Egypt.

The talks are expected to resume in about two weeks, in an Israel locale. The heads of the Israeli delegation, Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche and Gen. Avraham Tamir, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, returned from Cairo today. They had been there since Thursday, pressing the Egyptians for a compromise on the machinery for settling the Taba issue.

The 1979 Israel-Egypt peace treaty prescribes conciliation and arbitration of disputes between the two countries which cannot be resolved through negotiations. The Egyptians have been demanding that the Taba dispute be submitted to international arbitration with a deadline set in advance for a decision.

The Israelis are now proposing a mixed process of conciliation and arbitration which they contend would be less costly and time-consuming than arbitration and would allow the mutually agreed-upon arbitrator a greater degree of flexibility.

Seeking Compromise Decision On Taba

What Israel apparently seeks is a compromise decision on Taba which will give neither country all it demands, hopefully eliminating the tensions that could result from a decision that fully favored one side over the other. But the Egyptians remain adamant in their insistence on arbitration now.

Taba is only one issue in the "package deal" approach by which Israel hopes to settle all of its outstanding differences with Egypt. In the round of talks just ended, the Egyptians were said to have been very forthcoming on other bilateral matters. They were reported today to have agreed to the creation of joint teams to search for the bodies of Israeli soldiers still posted missing in Sinai 12 years after the Yom Kippur War.

Egypt has also agreed to pay several million dollars as its share toward rehousing some 5,000 Palestinians in the Sinai border town of Rafah who were made homeless when the town was divided between Egypt and Israel under the terms of the 1979 treaty.

MOBUTU WANTS AND EXPECTS INCREASED ISRAELI INVESTMENT, TRADE WITH ZAIRE
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA) — President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, ending a week-long visit to Israel today, made it clear that he expects increased Israeli investment in and trade with his huge, mineral rich central African nation.

Mobutu departed from Ben Gurion Airport with the same military and diplomatic honors that greeted

his arrival there seven days ago — a 21-gun salute, brass-bands and four Israel Air Force jets roaring overhead in salutation. President Chaim Herzog, Premier Shimon Peres and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir were on hand to see him off — as they had been last Sunday to welcome him.

At an airport press conference, Mobutu made it clear he wants and expects the government to encourage major Israeli companies and Jewish and other industrialists here and abroad to invest in Zaire. "Respecting a commitment is very important," he noted pointedly.

But on political matters he was less unequivocal. Asked if he might intercede with other African countries to resume diplomatic ties with Israel — as Zaire did two years ago — Mobutu said, "It is not for me to do that." He indicated that his resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel in 1983 had drawn criticism even from some sympathetic neighbors who thought he had been too impetuous.

Israelis Pleased With Mobutu's Visit

But Israeli officials seemed very pleased with the outcome of Mobutu's visit, the first three days of which were at the government's invitation. He spent part of the rest of the time as the guest of Anglo-Jewish businessman Leon Tamman. The officials said that Tamman, an international financier, plans to invest some \$400 million in Zaire and was seeking export incentives from the Israeli government for that purpose.

They noted that Zaire's economy was improving. The effects of the energy crisis of the 1970s is fading and the prices of minerals Zaire produces — diamonds, copper, cobalt and uranium — are rising on the world markets.

The officials said Mobutu sought no additional military assistance from Israel but rather a re-ordering of certain aspects of the existing aid package, mainly training for his armed forces. But he asked for and was granted better credit terms for military purchases in Israel.

The officials stressed that when Mobutu fell ill last Monday and had to cancel a visit to the holy sites in East Jerusalem, his illness was genuine, not "diplomatic." The African leader was running fever when he called on President Herzog, they said. He and his party did in fact visit the holy places later in the week.

Finally, the Israeli officials were gratified that Mobutu, accompanied by his wife and an entourage of 110 persons, paid for the private part of his visit, most of it spent in Herzliya where the visitors were guests at a new luxury hotel owned by Tamman.

REFORM JUDAISM LEADERS URGE U.S. JEWS AND CATHOLICS TO PROMOTE INTERRELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING AT THE CHURCH AND SYNAGOGUE LEVEL

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA) — The leaders of Reform Judaism called on American Jews and Catholics today to join in a new and wide-ranging program aimed at promoting inter-religious understanding at the church and synagogue level.

The action by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) is believed to mark the first time a Jewish denomination has sought to bring together synagogue members and church-goers in activities seeking to create better understanding of each other's beliefs.

The program was adopted by unanimous vote of 150 members of the UAHC Board of Trustees at its semi-annual meeting in the Grand Hyatt Hotel. In a resolution, the board urged the UAHC's 780 member synagogues, composed of 1.3 million Jews, to undertake:

- * Catholic-Jewish dialogues to explore the issues that divide as well as those that united the two communities.

- * The exchange of teachers and team-teaching by priests and rabbis in Catholic parochial and Jewish religious schools.

- * Catholic-Jewish dialogue and joint action on nuclear disarmament, economic justice and other issues on which the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations have adopted parallel policy positions.

Ignorance At The Grass Roots

The resolution hailed the 20th anniversary of the issuance by the Second Vatican Council of "Nostra Aetate," which repudiated the charge of deicide against Jews and condemned anti-Semitism. But while welcoming the progress in Christian-Jewish relations since then, the UAHC trustees said:

"The most effective efforts to eliminate mistrust and misunderstanding have taken place so far on the national and diocesan level, rather than in the local community.... The people in the pews too often remain ignorant of the vast changes in the attitude of the Catholic Church toward the Jews, so that misunderstanding may still persist on the grass roots level."

The board also instructed UAHC's educational arm to prepare materials commemorating the 20th anniversary of Vatican II and "to assure that information regarding the changes in Catholicism since then is disseminated on a regular basis to congregations, religious educators and youth."

The Reform Jewish leaders acted after hearing from both Catholic and Jewish experts on interfaith relations and interfaith dialogue, and after Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the UAHC, told the meeting: "We do not say that all differences have been obliterated, for they have not, and tensions remain; the Vatican's failure to establish formal diplomatic relations with Israel, the Pope's meeting with (PLO chief Yasser) Arafat, the Vatican's role during the Holocaust. But the deadly sting has been removed, and our differences are reduced to their proper proportion."

Time For Affirmative Action

The need for "understanding and reconciliation between Catholics and Jews is made even more urgent by the demands of economic justice and nuclear disarmament. The prophetic cry of peace with justice is part of a shared vision that impels us to work together," Schindler said.

He pointed out that the basis for that cooperation was laid 20 years ago in Nostra Aetate, "which luminously transformed the way Catholics and Jews look at one another. Pope John XXIII did what President Reagan failed to do when he visited Bitburg:

he recognized the past for what it was, and instead of absolving the Church he determined to transform it. But if Catholic dogma has been transformed, not enough Catholics have been -- and too few Jews are involved in dialogue. We can sit back and wait for it to happen, or we can take affirmative action to make it happen. I propose that we act, and I believe we will find a cooperative spirit and an eagerness to join with us, both in repairing the errors of the past and in building together a better world for tomorrow."

'An Unparalleled Triumph'

The Rev. Edward Flannery, author of "The Anguish of the Jews" and a pioneer in ecumenical efforts, told the Reform Jewish leaders that "against the backdrop of the near 2,000 years that preceded Nostra Aetate, the progress we have made over the past two decades in interfaith understanding has been an unparalleled triumph in human relations. Looking at the past 20 years in the shorter run, however, they appear -- in light of the magnitude and urgency of the task before us -- as faltering and slothful."

The Catholic ecumenist, who now serves as director of the Office of Continuing Education of the Clergy in the Diocese of Providence, R.I., continued:

"Anti-Semitism is the supreme challenge of the Jewish-Christian dialogue. That is because Christians generally are all but totally ignorant of what happened to Jews in Christian history and of the complicity of the church in the development of anti-Semitism -- the latter a page torn from our history books."

"From the widespread ignorance of the anti-Semitic record results an indifference not only to the problem of anti-Semitism but to the entire Jewish encounter. This indifference creates on the Christian side the chief obstacle to progress in our relations. At the same time, exposure to the magnitude and scandal of this record generates in every open-hearted Christian a sense of urgency vis-a-vis Jewish-Christian relations as nothing else can."

"On this 20th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, let us acknowledge that though this precious document has been well promulgated by the Vatican and some national hierarchies, and followed up by other excellent documents, it has not been implemented in most dioceses, let alone parishes, pulpits and schools."

Israel As The Litmus Test

Flannery said the "litmus-test" of Jewish-Christian relations was the State of Israel. He told the Reform Jewish leaders:

"To Jews, Israel was and is central to their concerns and to their Judaism. To Christians it is a peripheral issue, laden with misunderstanding, often unwelcome in the dialogue, often seen as an illegitimate injection of politics into a dialogue that is religious in nature and purpose. This disparity of views on so vital an issue can only invite trouble for our interfaith efforts."

Suspicion And Distrust Of Non-Jews Continue

Rabbi Jerome Davidson of Temple Beth El in Great Neck, Long Island, chairman of the UAHC's committee on interreligious affairs, told a session of the weekend meeting that many Jews were skeptical of Nostra Aetate when it was issued 20 years ago. A commonly-held view, he said, was: "It's about time. How grateful need we be for being told we have a right to exist?" He continued:

"But surely now we can see what potential this document held for a new era. Catholic textbooks have been purged of anti-Jewish material, anti-Semitic prayers have been removed from liturgy and seminaries are changing their teachings about Jews and Judaism. Catholic schools are incorporating the study of the history of modern Jews and Judaism into their curricula, including an understanding of the Holocaust as well as the role of Israel for the Jewish people.

"Rabbis and Jewish educators now frequently teach in Catholic seminaries and parochial schools. There can be little doubt that relations between Catholicism and Judaism hold the potential for being better than they have ever been."

But Davidson was critical of the Jewish community's interreligious activity, asserting: "We have certainly not measured up to the opportunities of this new time. The baggage of suspicion and distrust of non-Jews which we carry around is nearly as weighty as ever. Clearly 2,000 years of Christian-inspired oppression of Jews cannot and should not be forgotten overnight, even in 20 years. But we seem to prefer to live with our hurts than to seek the healing that might prepare a better era for the generations to come."

"It is an attitude we must learn to shake, just as we must abandon the anti-goyim mentality that isolates us from constructive relationships with the Christian community."

PALESTINIAN AND MOSLEM TERRORIST UNITS REORGANIZING IN LEBANON AREAS FROM WHERE IDF TROOPS HAVE WITHDRAWN By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 19 (JTA) -- Moslem and Palestinian terrorist groups have begun to reorganize in areas of south Lebanon from where Israeli forces have recently withdrawn, according to sources attached to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

UNIFIL roadblocks had recently intercepted groups of Palestinians, and Sunni and Shiite Moslems belonging to the extremist Hisbullah organization attempting to transport to the area large quantities of military equipment including anti-tank guns, rocket propelled grenades, mortar bombs and shells and machineguns, according to the sources at UNIFIL headquarters at Nakoura quoted by Israel Radio.

Israel Defense Force and South Lebanon Army spokesmen reported 10 incidents directed against their troops over the weekend in the narrow security belt occupied by Israel north of the international border. There were no casualties among the Israelis, but some of the Israeli-backed SLA soldiers were slightly wounded.

Meanwhile, a fleet of 15 buses brought 478 Lebanese refugees from the village of Marjayoun, where they had sought shelter for some weeks from fighting further north, to Haifa, to board a ship to take them back by the safe sea route to Beirut.

The convoy included two empty buses in the event of a breakdown, and several ambulances carrying sick and elderly refugees. The group had to wait in Haifa for the arrival of the ferry vessel, which had been delayed in Beirut due to engine trouble. Three weeks ago, some 900 refugees were ferried from Haifa to Beirut in three Lebanese vessels.

THREE ISRAELIS IN CUSTODY ON SUSPICION OF MURDERING ARAB CABBIE By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA) -- Three young Israelis -- a policeman, a soldier and a woman student at the Hebrew University -- were remanded in custody for 15 days by a Jerusalem magistrates court today on suspicion of murdering an Arab taxi driver, Hamis Tutanji, on a West Bank road last April 23.

The trio, arrested over the weekend, were identified today as Danny Eisenman, 26, a police officer who lives in Maale Adumim in the West Bank; Gil Fuchs, 20, a soldier on active duty; and Michal Hillel, 24, a student. Fuchs and Hillel are Jerusalem residents.

The magistrate said the suspects confessed to the crime, which occurred four days after a Jewish taxi driver, David Caspi, was murdered, apparently by Arabs, and reconstructed their actions for police cameras. He said he ordered their detention while the police expand the investigation.

According to police accounts, the murder of Tutanji, was in retaliation for the slaying of Caspi. The suspects got together at a Jerusalem pub on Saturday, April 20, and agreed that if the authorities were unable to cope with the murder of Jews in the West Bank, they would undertake counter-terrorist activities on their own to deter Arab terrorists on the principle "an eye for an eye," the police said. They said the suspects appear not to be part of a new Jewish underground network in the territory.

If the police account is correct, Tutanji was selected at random from among Arab cab drivers. With Eisenman and Hillel as passengers, he was driving from Jerusalem to Maale Adumim when Fuchs, in uniform, flagged him down and, after ascertaining from his identity papers that he was Arab, shot him through the head with his Israel Defense Force-issue M-16 automatic rifle.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A young Israeli man, reportedly a soldier, was stabbed and slightly wounded in the Old City of Jerusalem Sunday during festivities marking the 18th anniversary of the reunification of the city. His assailants, described as two Arab youths, got away in the crowd.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Striking nurses and administrative employees returned to the emergency rooms and admission wards at government hospitals Sunday in compliance with a back-to-work order issued by a local labor court. Their union representatives are continuing negotiations with the Health and Finance ministries for higher salaries and improved working conditions.

BONN (JTA) -- The Haifa Theater, the first Israeli theater to be invited to take part in the Berlin Theater Festival, is a smashing success. All tickets to its four performances at the festival have been sold out, organizers of the event told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. In coming weeks, the Haifa Theater will also perform in Bonn, Cologne, Hamburg and other major West German cities.

TWO EUROPEAN LEADERS URGE UNITED ACTION TO ELIMINATE TERRORISM

By Edwin Eytan

STRASBOURG, May 19 (JTA) -- Two prominent European leaders, Belgian Deputy Premier Jean Gol and French opposition leader Jacques Chirac, have urged Western Europe to intensify its anti-terrorist action and to coordinate its efforts to try and wipe out terrorism in all its forms.

Both spoke last Friday at a plenary session of the European Branch of the World Jewish Congress now holding its annual meeting here.

Gol, who is also Belgium's Justice Minister, called on the 10 member-nations of the European Economic Community (EEC) to coordinate their efforts and to automatically extradite suspected terrorists.

The Belgian minister, born of Polish-Jewish immigrant parents, said terrorists should no longer feel secure "anywhere after committing acts of violence" within the territory of one of the 10 EEC states. He said the government should also help other democratic states, apparently referring to Israel to rid themselves of the terrorist menace.

Chirac, a former Prime Minister, called on France to pass special legislation uniting the government's anti-terrorist activity. He also called on the government to sign at the earliest the Anti-Terrorist Convention enabling easier extradition of terrorists.

The two speakers were warmly applauded by the 200 delegates from 21 countries, including representatives from every East European Jewish community except the Soviet Union and Albania.

The delegates discussed the situation of Soviet Jewry. Israel Singer, WJC's executive director, called for emergency action on the part of world Jewry to save Russia's Jews. Singer, who recently returned from a trip to the USSR where he conferred with Soviet officials and with Jewish activists, told the meeting: "Short of treason, we should try anything and everything to save Soviet Jewry."

HAYM SALOMON MEMORIAL ACT OF 1985 TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE

LOS ANGELES, May 19 (JTA) -- Two California Republicans will introduce the Haym Salomon Memorial Act of 1985 in the House of Representatives this week, giving "national recognition" to the Polish-born Jew whose financial genius helped the United States win its war for independence 209 years ago, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told today by Marvin Feldman, president of American Jewish Patriots and Friends of Haym Salomon in Beverly Hills.

According to Feldman, who says he initiated the measure, the bill will be introduced by Reps. Robert Dornan and Carlos Moorhead. He said that until it is formally presented in the House he could not disclose the nature of the "national recognition."

Salomon, born in Lissa, Poland, came to the American colonies in 1772 and was a broker in New York and Philadelphia. Through his financial contacts he was able to raise credit for George Washington's Continental Army from France, Spain and Holland. A commemorative stamp issued in his honor by the U.S. Post Office in 1975 bears the title, "Haym Salomon, The Financial Hero."

ISRAEL'S PROPOSAL TO HIKE TRAVEL TAX COULD PLAY HAVOC WITH TOURISM

TEL AVIV, May 19 (JTA) -- The Finance Min-

istry's proposal to double the travel tax would make all Israelis "prisoners of Zion," the Travel Agents Association told a press conference here Friday. Their reference to Jewish activists imprisoned in the Soviet Union was only half in jest.

Minister of Tourism Avraham Sharir agreed. Although the tax does not effect non-Israelis, it could play havoc with Israel's tourist traffic because international air carriers serving the country would cut down their number of flights.

The travel tax now stands at \$150 per person. The Treasury wants to raise it to \$300. Premier Shimon Peres insists it go up to \$500. If either have their way, the tax will amount to more than the air fare to most European destinations, the travel agents say. The object of the tax is not to keep Israelis home but to prevent as much as possible further drainage of the country's depleted foreign currency reserves.

The travel agents said at their press conference that Israel is the only country in the world to impose such a tax. Even at the present level, about 150,000 Israelis who planned to go abroad this year will cancel their trips, they said. The New Immigrants Association has published advertisements in the press protesting the tax. They said it prevents children from visiting sick or aging parents overseas.

The fewer Israelis travelling abroad, the more empty seats on aircraft serving Israel. The airlines would be forced to reduce the number of flights and that would mean fewer tourists arriving in Israel, airline representatives said. (By Hugh Orgel)

ISRAEL CONTINUED TO REDUCE TRADE DEFICIT IN FIRST QUARTER OF 1985

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA) -- During the first quarter of 1985, Israel's trade deficit was 24 percent less than it was during the first three months of last year, it was reported by Uri Oren, an Israeli consul and government economic spokesman in New York. The decline amounted to a drop of \$140 million, Oren said.

In a statement accompanying the release of foreign trade statistics for the first quarter of 1985, Oren said:

"Based on the trade figures for January, February and March, we are cautiously optimistic that Israel will be able to achieve its goal of reducing its negative balance of trade by 20 percent or \$500 million for all of 1985." Last year, he noted, Israel reduced its trade deficit by \$1.02 billion -- from \$3.52 billion in 1983 to \$2.50 billion in 1984.

The total trade deficit for the first quarter of 1985 was \$451 million, compared to \$591 million during the same period in 1984, Oren said. He attributed the decline to lower imports while exports remained at about the same level as last year.

For the first quarter of 1985, imports to Israel fell by 7 percent compared to the same period a year ago. At the same time, exports were 0.3 percent less -- \$1.475 billion during the first quarter of 1984 and \$1.470 billion during the first three months of 1985.

The decline in imports during the first quarter of 1985 was mainly due to a significantly lower volume of imports of durable goods, which fell 16 percent compared to the same period last year, according to the Israel economic spokesman. For the first quarter of 1985, he noted, automobile imports fell 61 percent compared to the same period last year.

There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated May 27, Shavuoth.