

Vol. 63 - 68th Year

Friday, December 13, 1985

No. 232

U.S. AND ISRAEL DISCUSSING MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID FOR FISCAL 1986

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 (JTA)—The United States and Israel are discussing military and economic aid proposals for the 1987 fiscal year which begins next October 1, the State Department said today.

But State Department deputy spokesman Charles Redman refused to disclose the amount of aid under discussion. "We expect to have an agreement which takes into account both Israel's aid requirements and U.S. budgetary restraints," Redman said.

He would not comment on a report from Jerusalem today that Israel has requested \$3.5 billion in economic assistance for the 1987 fiscal year. The report said the aid request was presented yesterday to Thomas Pickering, the U.S. Ambassador in Israel, by Israeli Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai.

Israel is receiving this year \$1.2 billion in economic aid and another \$1.8 billion in military aid, all of it as a grant. In addition, Israel is also receiving \$750 million in emergency economic assistance to help it achieve its economic austerity program.

Pickering was quoted as saying that Israel has taken "painful steps" to revive its economy and noted that this is "an area in which the United States has done its part and will continue to."

BOTH SIDES REPORT PROGRESS IN TABA TALKS, COALITION TENSION PREDICTED

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 12 (JTA) — More coalition tension — this time over foreign policy — is being predicted in political circles here following the successful conclusion of three days of talks between Israel and Egypt on Taba. The talks, in Herzliya, wound up this afternoon with both sides reporting progress.

Details were not immediately available. But there was talk of "tying loose ends" and it seemed clear that the issue would now come up before the Inner Cabinet next week — where the coalition tensions over the Taba issue could easily explode.

Plainly, the negotiators — senior civil servants from the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry — have reached the outlines of an accord with Egypt on a procedure, while not entailing an immediate submission of Taba to arbitration, nevertheless involves preparations for arbitration while simultaneously seeking a compromise solution.

The Likud under Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir has always demanded that conciliation be tried first — before the sides submit the issue to binding international arbitration.

Premier Shimon Peres and his Labor Party have been prepared to accept Egypt's position that arbitration be invoked without any effort at conciliation.

The tension on Taba, if it indeed erupts, will have been heightened by the ongoing and worsening feud between the two main coalition parties over the West Bank land fraud allegations, and also by the effect of the religious parties' threats of non-confidence motions. (See December 12 Bulletin.)

GUSH LEADER NO LONGER SUPPORTS JEWISH UNDERGROUND-TYPE VIOLENCE AGAINST WEST BANK ARABS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 12 (JTA) — Rabbi Moshe Levinger, a leader of the militant Gush Emunim, says he no longer supports the kind of violent acts against West Bank Arabs for which members of a Jewish terrorist underground are currently serving prison sentences. He was seconded in that view by a lawyer, Elyakim Haetzni, who is associated with the settlers movement.

The two men discussed the future of the territory at a gathering in Yitzhar, a Gush settlement in the Samaria district this week. Haetzni said the Jewish underground caused "terrible damage" but he conceded that there had been considerable Jewish support for such acts as the June, 1980, car bombings which maimed two Arab mayors and blinded an Israeli police sapper.

Levinger and Haetzni differed over how they would resist possible territorial concessions in Judea and Samaria. Levinger urged that the "pioneer image" of Jewish settlers be stressed to attract more followers, enabling the Gush Emunim to establish more settlements.

Haetzni argued that the experience in Sinai, which was returned to Egypt, proved that settlements alone could not stand in the way of territorial concessions made for political reasons. He proposed that the Israeli public be made aware of the dangers of concessions to the point of hysteria. "I want to create hysteria. During the Holocaust those who were hysterical were saved," the lawyer maintained.

Levinger said he feared the future struggle over the territories would lead to bloodshed. The gathering ended with adoption of a resolution warning the government that it "has no authority to negotiate concessions in Eretz Israel" because "such concessions lack any legal or moral authority."

In another development, settlers in Sanur, in Samaria, today abandoned a nearby mosque they had seized and converted to a synagogue. They agreed to leave the mosque after what was described as several months of "quiet persuasion" by the West Bank civil administration headed by Col. Efraim Sneh.

STUDY FINDS IMPRESSIVE STRIDES BUT THIRD WORLD PATTERNS OF HEALTH ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP

By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, Dec. 12 (JTA) — Despite impressive strides forward in the past 20 years, "Third World patterns of health" are found in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including high infant mortality rates, nutritional problems, and deficiencies of sanitation and water, according to a study released here.

The 300-page study, released last week, further stated that while some segments of the Palestinian population suffer from diseases which are no longer prevalent in the industrialized world, other segments are subject to such "modern" illnesses as obesity, hypertension and heart disease "which are not adequately detected or treated."

The study asserted that among the problems in the field of health services in the territories were a lack of coordination between several independent systems providing health care to the population, the failure of a single planning facility to manage the flow of resources, and budgetary constraints.

The study, "Health Status and Services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," was conducted by the Institute for Middle East Peace and Development at the City University of New York Graduate Center during a 12-month period ending last September. Described as "the first non-partisan study of health conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," it was sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development with a grant of \$371,678, with counterpart funding from the Business Group for Middle East Peace and Development.

A team of researchers from the Institute along with health professionals from Columbia University gathered available information from published and unpublished sources, developed data based analyses, and completed field surveys in an attempt to draw a "balanced, independent picture of Palestinian health."

West Bank, Gaza Health Services Contrasted

The study discovered that the West Bank districts with the best government and private health services are Bethlehem, Ramallah and Nablus, while the more rural peripheral districts are relatively poorly served. These peripheral districts are further disadvantaged due to poorer transportation to Jerusalem and its medical services, in addition to a lower rate of participation in the health insurance program, the report said.

Meanwhile, the study found that "health services in the Gaza Strip ... are largely superior to the more prosperous and sophisticated West Bank." Many residents here have access to services provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and others are covered by the Israeli health insurance plan.

While bringing to light facets of health services, the report also issued recommendations toward providing better opportunities for Palestinian health conditions. Among the recommendations is a call for support for human resource development, services, equipment and information gathering. "These," the report said, "are important priorities."

Need To Realign Spending Priorities

Furthermore, "foreign assistance agencies should consider realigning their spending priorities to place a greater emphasis on primary health care," the report recommended. "Palestinian health receives relatively little outside aid per capita compared to the situation in neighboring countries. A noticeable improvement in primary and preventive care would have a great impact on the lives of people" in the territories.

The report also recommended that "creative approaches to health development have to be implemented"; more open policies initiated by the government of Premier Shimon Peres toward private sector development should continue; and "outside funding efforts for health would be facilitated if there were a consensus within the Palestinian health community on goals." According to the report, outside capital flowing into the West Bank supplements the reported \$20 million per year Israel spends on Palestinian health.

CANCER RESEARCH DOCTOR HAD ORTHODOX JEWISH UPRISING By Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- Dr. Steven Rosenberg, head of the research team at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md., credited with a major breakthrough in the treatment of malignant tumors, had an Orthodox Jewish upbringing in The Bronx and is a member, with his wife Alice, of Beth-El Synagogue, a Conservative congregation in Bethesda where the oldest of his three daughters, Beth, was Bat-Mitzvah last year.

Rosenberg's parents, Abraham and Harriet Rosenberg, have been residents of Israel for the last 12 years. They are 86 and 80 years of age, respectively, and see their son on his frequent visits to Israel, at least once a year. These trips have kept the familial bond intact despite the distance separating parents and son, Rosenberg told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a telephone interview.

He came to media prominence last summer as spokesman for the medical team that operated on President Reagan for cancer of the colon. He broke into the news again last week when the Institute announced dramatic results achieved by using genetically engineered protein to kill cancer cells.

The process, which is complex and still in the experimental stage, is based on enhancing the body's immune system so that it produces "killer cells" which attack some forms of cancer.

The Institute announced December 4 that Rosenberg's technique had achieved a remarkable rate of success, reducing by over 50 percent the size of tumors in 11 of 25 patients with terminal cancer. The patients were too far gone to respond to radiation, chemotherapy or surgery. In the case of one, all traces of cancer were eliminated.

But the treatment appears to have severe side effects for some, which are still under study. The American Cancer Society said the protein treatment success rate was higher than any other to date.

NAZI WAR CRIMINAL TO BE FETED

NEW YORK, Dec. 12 (JTA) -- A Ukrainian-American organization will hold a benefit dinner in a Buffalo, N.Y. suburb this Sunday for the defense of John Demjanjuk, a Ukrainian-born war criminal ordered by the Justice Department to be extradited to Israel to stand trial for his part in the murder of 900,000 Jews at the Treblinka death camp during World War II. Demjanjuk, a retired automobile worker from Cleveland, was stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 1981.

According to the World Jewish Congress, the fundraiser to be held in Cheektowaga, N.Y. on December 15 was announced by the Newark, N.J.-based "Americans for Human Rights in Ukraine" which cited Demjanjuk's "danger of extradition to Israel for trial on war crimes charges."

The benefit has been publicized exclusively within the Ukrainian community as a "Ukrainian dinner" at which drawings for prizes will be held. The monies raised are earmarked for the "John Demjanjuk Defense Fund." Literature promoting the dinner described Demjanjuk as "an innocent man" being "persecuted" by a "Kremlin-penetrated" U.S. Justice Department.

Demjanjuk, 65, lost his U.S. citizenship when the Justice Department determined that he lied to conceal his wartime activities when he entered the U.S. in 1952.

Last April, he was ordered extradited to Israel after a U.S. District Court in Cleveland confirmed his identity as the brutal death camp guard, known as "Ivan the Terrible" to the inmates of Treblinka where he tortured Jews and operated the gas chambers. A Federal Appeals Court in Cincinnati upheld the lower court's decision last October 31.

Demjanjuk had been identified by Jewish survivors of Treblinka and by a former SS man, now a resident of West Germany, who knew him at the Polish death camp. His lawyers have contended that he is the victim of fraudulent evidence manufactured by the KGB.

Israel sought Demjanjuk's extradition under an extradition treaty with the U.S. dating from 1963. If the order is implemented, he would be the first Nazi war criminal ever extradited to Israel for trial and could face the death penalty. Israel tried and executed the war criminal Adolf Eichmann in 1961 after he was captured by Israeli agents in Buenos Aires.

JEWISH VANDAL HELD IN CUSTODY PENDING COURT APPEARANCE JAN. 10 By William Saphire

NEW YORK, Dec. 12 (JTA) — Gary Dworkin, arrested for allegedly throwing rocks through the windows of 21 Jewish-owned shops in the Boro Park and Flatbush sections of Brooklyn last month, is in custody at the Anna M. Kross detention center on Rikers Island pending a court appearance on January 10, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed today by the Department of Corrections and the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office.

Dworkin, who pleaded not guilty at his arraignment in Brooklyn Criminal Court Tuesday, apparently failed to make the \$5,000 bail set by Judge Steven Fisher. The 38-year-old Jewish resident of Boro Park was ordered to undergo a psychiatric examination at Kings County Hospital and to appear in court January 10 at which time various motions will be heard, according to a spokesperson at the DA's office.

He was charged with 13 counts of criminal mischief, including felonies and misdemeanors and one count of discrimination. Brooklyn DA Elizabeth Holtzman explained in a statement released at Dworkin's arraignment that his alleged rock-throwing was directed at Israelis and Hasidic Jews which is a violation of their civil rights.

"Vandalism directed against a particular group because of religion, race or national origin is unacceptable and must be dealt with appropriately," Holtzman's statement said.

Dworkin was arrested last Monday after a four-week police investigation of the rock-throwing incidents which occurred during the nights of November 9 and November 23. Capt. Donald Bromberg, commander of the Police Department bias unit which was assigned to the case because of its anti-Semitic implications, said after the arrest that Dworkin "has a history of psychological problems."

U.S. URGES ISRAEL TO SIGN NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 (JTA) — The State Department again urged Israel today to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. "We believe that

regional stability in the Middle East will be enhanced if all states in the region accepted comprehensive safeguards and adhered to the nonproliferation treaty," State Department deputy spokesman Charles Redman said at the daily press briefing in response to a reporter's question on Israel's failure, so far, to sign the treaty.

"We are concerned by the existence of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities in Israel and have made this concern known to the Israeli government," Redman added. "We have repeatedly urged Israel to accept comprehensive safeguards."

However, Redman noted that "Israel has stated publicly that it will not be the first nation to introduce nuclear weapons in the region."

Although Israel has never admitted to have nuclear weapons, Leonard Specter, a senior associate at the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, in his recently published "The New Nuclear Nations," Carnegie's second annual report on the spread of nuclear weapons, said that Israel is believed to have 20 to 25 aircraft-deliverable nuclear weapons.

Redman stressed that the U.S. has strong controls on the export of "commodities that have nuclear application" and is working "strenuously" with other supplier countries to control such exports.

STREET NAMED IN HONOR OF RENE CASSIN

PARIS, Dec. 12 (JTA) — A square in central Paris was named this week in honor of Rene Cassin, a former president of the Alliance Israelite Universelle and the man who wrote, at Eleanor Roosevelt's request, the International Declaration of the Rights of Man. Cassin, a former aide to Gen. Charles de Gaulle who served as Minister of Justice in France's Free French London-based government, during the war, died in 1976 at the age of 89.

The square which now bears his name is in the heart of Paris, near the city's main cultural area, the Centre Beaubourg. Mayor Jacques Chirac, who inaugurated the square and the newly planted park, recalled Cassin's wartime career.

He was one of the first to join de Gaulle in London in June 1940. It was at de Gaulle's request that he headed the Alliance and started reorganizing it in 1943 after de Gaulle stressed the importance which he attached to its cultural and educational activities.

The President of France's Constitutional Council, Daniel Mayer, the Chancellor of the Order of the Liberation General Jean Simon, former Senate President Gaston de Monerville, and the Alliance's current president, Prof. Ady Steg, attended the inauguration ceremony.

FREE HEALTH INSURANCE CHOPPED

JERUSALEM, Dec. 12 (JTA) — The Knesset Finance and House committees acted this week to end free health insurance for some 4,000 people, including Cabinet ministers and their deputies, judges of the civil and religious courts and Knesset members themselves. Senior civil servants whose wages are linked to those of deputy Cabinet rank, are threatened as well with cuts in their health benefits.

The beneficiaries were entitled to free coverage both at home and abroad. For Knesset members and their spouses, the benefits were a lifetime privilege. Their children were covered up to the age of 18. Knesset members received over a half billion shekels in health insurance funds during the first half of fiscal 1985. The Finance Committee has allowed for appeals and a special subcommittee will hear appeals from the judiciary.

LINOWITZ: MIDEAST IS MORE OPEN THAN EVER TO 'DANGERS OF CONFLAGRATION'

By Judith Kahn

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 (JTA) — When President Jimmy Carter left the White House in January 1981, Israel and Egypt had agreed on nearly all the details of a Palestinian autonomy arrangement based on the plan set out in the 1978 Camp David accords.

Four-and-a-half years hence, the opportunity remains, but hesitation to assert a more aggressive U.S. role is allowing it to slip away, leaving the Middle East more open than ever to the "terrible dangers of conflagration."

So says Sol Linowitz about the peace process that the Camp David summit initiated and which he, as the President's personal representative for the Middle East negotiations from November 1979 to January 1981, had a vital role in nudging toward the distant objective of a comprehensive peace that the accords envisaged.

Egypt and Israel had made it over 60 percent of the way toward agreement on the powers and responsibilities of the proposed self-governing authority for Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza, Linowitz said last week in a luncheon address to the Women's National Democratic Club.

He was repeating a theme from the Middle East chapter of his recently-published memoirs, in which he maintains that an autonomy agreement could have been achieved in 1981, "for the simplest of reasons — the leaders were Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin."

The two heads of state, Linowitz observed in his book, "The Making of a Public Man," "knew and respected each other, and understood each other's political bases, strengths and weaknesses."

'The Only Game In Town'

It came as little surprise when, in his address last week, the man who for 14 grueling months worked at playing midwife for the plan conceived at Camp David which ultimately ceased to develop, persisted in calling the Camp David Process — as he does in his memoirs — "the only game in town."

But his impromptu warning on the dangers of U.S. inaction in the face of an impending change of government in Israel, coupled with lavish praise for Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, went somewhat beyond the substance and tone of his book.

Whereas Linowitz's account of Begin in the book is relatively sympathetic — he bases his belief that the autonomy talks could have succeeded on the fact that Begin and Sadat were the leaders — his vision of the prospects for peace under a new Likud government is bleak.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres has 10 more months in his post, under the national unity agreement worked out between his Labor Party and the Likud, Linowitz observed.

"He will be followed by Shamir of the Likud. The Likud Party, as we all know from the Begin experience, is far less flexible, far less forthcoming for more apt to adopt a belligerent attitude rather than the kind of flexible, reasonable attitude that is being shown by Peres. Those ten months are critical, and we ought to know that, and we ought to act on it, and I think we need pressure to achieve it," Linowitz said.

In Egypt, meanwhile, Linowitz saw signs for encouragement in spite of recent setbacks. The Egyptian government, he said, "has sought to normalize relations with Israel, in the face of strong, even fierce, reaction" at home and from former Arab allies.

Admittedly, relations have deteriorated under Mubarak, because of differences over the Lebanese war, Taba and other issues, and in Mubarak's desire to reestablish Egypt's ties with the Arab world. But Sadat's successor, Linowitz maintained, "has shown willingness to become involved and to take leadership, and we (the U.S.) should quickly recognize this and endorse his efforts."

He noted that Mubarak "continues to make clear that he intends fully to abide by the terms of the Israel-Egypt treaty," and observed "how much more grim and threatening the situation would be in the Middle East" if the treaty did not exist.

Responding to a question on Mubarak, Linowitz lamented the attitude of the Reagan Administration: "We have not paid enough attention to him, have not encouraged him, have not let him know that he has our full support."

Disappointed With Jordan

On Jordan, the former envoy's disappointment continued to come through, in spite of what he called in his book "some new promise of progress" offered by King Hussein in recent months. The success of the Camp David framework for peace had hinged on Hussein's willingness to join negotiations along the lines set out in the accord, but the Jordanian monarch rejected that framework.

Linowitz said that Jordan and Saudi Arabia "have not been helpful," in their rejection of the Camp David process, and he criticized Hussein's insistence on an international conference with PLO participation in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

But Linowitz praised Hussein for his efforts to get Syrian President Hafez Assad's endorsement for any initiatives he might decide to take. "If somehow Hussein can be encouraged to move forward with the knowledge that Syria would not oppose him, I think that this would give him added courage and added desire to try to take the next step," Linowitz said in response to a question.

Meetings between Jordanian and Syrian officials last month resulted in an agreement that opposed direct and separate peace talks with Israel. The two regimes have long been at loggerheads, and Syria has been viewed as a potentially disruptive force in any Middle East talks, in part because it sees little prospect of regaining the Golan Heights captured by Israel in 1967 and annexed in 1981.

Linowitz said he felt that the U.S. has been wrong in the past "in acting as though Syria was beyond the pale," and that if a basis for peace was found that was in Syria's interest — presumably, including the return of the Golan Heights — "it will respect it." On the situation of the Palestinians, Linowitz had as much criticism of Israel and the U.S. as he did of the Arab world for perpetuating their troubles. "One of the great tragedies of our time is what we've done to the Palestinian people," Linowitz said. "We all ought to be ashamed, all of us — we in this part of the world, and they in that part of the world."

Speaking to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency following his address, Linowitz said he was referring to the failure of the U.S. to play a leading role in the Middle East under the Reagan Administration.