

U.S. AND ISRAEL IN EFFORT TO PERSUADE HUSSEIN TO JOIN AN INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR MIDEAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- Both the United States and Israel appear to be trying to persuade Jordan's King Hussein to join an international framework for Mideast peace negotiations.

This seemed apparent Monday as Premier Shimon Peres announced that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy would shuttle between Israel, Egypt and Jordan this week in preparation for the summit meeting between Peres and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, tentatively scheduled for next week.

Meanwhile, Minister-Without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman began discreet high-level talks in Europe as Peres' envoy Monday, meeting in Bonn with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The summit will be held if Israeli and Egyptian negotiators agree before next week on a panel of three international arbitrators to join with the one Egyptian and one Israeli legal expert to adjudicate the Taba border dispute.

Taba is 25 acres of Sinai beach front which both Israel and Egypt claim under the two nations' 1979 peace treaty.

Last week the two governments formally approved the compromise, or terms of reference, for the arbitration, which had been worked out during months of negotiations.

Provided the Taba talks have been wound up, Egypt is to send an Ambassador to Tel Aviv, before the summit, thereby restoring the diplomatic relationship to what it was before September 1982, when Cairo recalled its Ambassador in the wake of the Beirut refugee camps massacre.

The Taba Agenda

Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Monday that the summit agenda would deal with Taba, normalization of bilateral ties, and the broader peace process, in that order.

Deputy Premier and Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir repeatedly has urged that the summit, if held, dwell on bilateral relations rather than on the broader (i.e., Palestinian) peace issues.

Peres made it clear, however, that he sought tangible progress on the broader peace process. He is hoping to establish a procedural framework for peace negotiations, or at the very least a joint declaration of goals and principles.

Peres and the Labor Alignment have enunciated publicly their readiness to accept "international accompaniment" for Mideast peace negotiations. This implies an international conference, though Peres has been at pains to insist that nuts-and-bolts negotiations would take place between Israel and each of the Arab parties separately and privately.

Role For The Soviet Union

Shamir and the Likud never have been enthusiastic over this formula, but never have had

to spurn it publicly. Peres has said that the Soviets, too, would be welcome to participate in such a framework, provided they first restore diplomatic relations with Israel.

Much, however, will depend on the positions of Jordan's King Hussein, and it is within that context that observers are studying the upcoming Murphy mission and Weizman's hitherto unannounced trip to Europe.

Hussein is due in London this week for a private visit and medical treatment.

Summit Depends On Hussein's Cooperation

While there is virtually no prospect of Jordanian participation at the Israeli-Egyptian summit, any concrete progress achieved by Peres and Mubarak would heavily depend on Jordan's vicarious cooperation.

Hence, according to well-placed observers, Mubarak's thorough coordination with Jordan in advance of the summit: The President and the King met in Amman, Jordan last week, and Jordanian Premier Zaid Rifai was in Cairo Sunday for further talks.

Weizman's talks in Europe -- even if he does not meet secretly with Hussein -- are seen as part of Peres' effort to persuade the neighboring moderate king to participate in the new diplomatic initiative.

TWO FORMER ISRAELI AMBASSADORS TO SOUTH AFRICA DIFFER ON PERES-BIYA STATEMENT CONDEMNING APARTHEID
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- Israel's condemnation of South African apartheid, as expressed in the joint communique last week of Premier Shimon Peres and Cameroon President Paul Biya, received conflicting appraisals from two former Israeli Ambassadors to South Africa.

In an interview with the newspaper Yediot Achronot, Eliahu Lankin, the previous Ambassador, asked why Israel should be the first Western nation to condemn South Africa. "Has the Western World changed anything in its treatment of that country?" he said. "Has any other country severed relations with South Africa?"

Lankin recalled that the same African countries that demand Israel take a tougher stand toward South Africa gave in to Arab pressure when they severed ties with Israel in 1973. "Of course we should be glad to resume our ties" with Africa, he said, "but we should not apologize for anything." Although Israel opposes apartheid, said Lankin, one should not add more fuel to the animosity toward South Africa.

On the other hand, Michael Michaely, another former Israeli Ambassador to South Africa and later to Zaire, said that Black Africa appreciates a "proud Jewish stand which rejects any form of racism." He said Israel would have taken a tougher stand against apartheid were it not for the large Jewish community in South Africa.

Problem Of El Al Flights

Israel's relations with South Africa were discussed last week at a top level meeting called

by David Kimche, Director General of the Foreign Ministry, the newspaper Haaretz reported last Thursday.

Dr. Nimrod Novick, political advisor to Peres, reportedly told the forum that Peres decided that Israel would act toward South Africa according to the standards adopted by the U.S. and other Western countries.

The participants in the session discussed a threat by a number of African countries to ban El Al planes from passing over them en route to South Africa. This problem would reportedly become even more complicated once South Africa Airlines stops flights to Israel (because of economic reasons), and all Israel-South Africa flights are therefore made by El Al.

It is reportedly feared in Jerusalem that Kenya will ban the takeoff of Israeli planes from Nairobi, where they usually fuel en route to South Africa. Another reason for concern is proposals in the U.S. to ban landings of flights coming from South Africa. (See related story.)

EL AL SEEKING ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR ITS SERVICE TO SOUTH AFRICA

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- El Al is checking alternate routes for its South African service in the event that certain unnamed African countries, over which the Israeli airline flies on its route from Tel Aviv to Johannesburg, forbid El Al flights through its airspace, Transportation Minister Haim Corfu said.

Speaking to reporters in Eilat at ceremonies marking the landing in Israel's southernmost city of the first Boeing 707 jet, operated by the Arkia Airlines, Corfu said: "El Al is looking for ways to maintain its flights to southern Africa by alternative routes. We'll have to adapt to new conditions, without going against the wishes of African nations with whom we have relations."

He noted that European airlines continue to fly to Johannesburg and that Israel will do likewise. Corfu was echoing the views expressed by Premier Shimon Peres during his visit to Cameroon and upon his return home that Israel will not establish an independent policy toward South Africa but will adhere to policies set by the West.

U.S. DELAYS SEARCH FOR SUNKEN ISRAELI SUBMARINE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- A search for specially-equipped U.S. Air Force planes off the Egyptian coast for the remains of the Israeli submarine Dakar, which disappeared without a trace in 1968, was to have started Saturday, but was delayed without any explanation.

The submarine was on its delivery voyage from Britain when it disappeared, with all 69 men aboard.

The U.S. had agreed to conduct the search on behalf of Israel, following Egyptian consent for the work over and within Egyptian territorial waters, as part of normalizing relations between the two countries.

Techniques used in the discovery of the wreck of the Titanic had sparked the Israeli appeal to the U.S. for similar aid in seeking the submarine. If the magnetic-detecting aircraft finds traces, the Titanic underwater search craft may then also be used.

Israeli and Egyptian observers were to have flown aboard the U.S. search aircraft. The Ameri-

cans had maintained strict secrecy last week about their search plans, and had even refused to confirm that it was to have started Saturday.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- An IDF soldier hitchhiking near Nablus was attacked by Arabs over the weekend. The soldier was slightly wounded, but managed to scare off his attackers. The soldier left his army base late Friday evening, apparently contrary to army regulations which ban soldiers from leaving their base after dark on private business. He tried to hitch a ride, when approximately at nine p.m., a car stopped next to him. Two Arabs got out of the car and attacked him. The soldier used the gun he had to scare them off. An army patrol, which heard the shots, rushed to the scene and evacuated the soldier to the Tel Hashomer hospital. The area was closed off for searches, but no arrests were reported.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA AN ISRAELI HELPS GREEN THE BAREEN PAINTED DESERT By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- Two years ago, American Navajo Indians doubted the promise of David Mazigh, an Israeli agronomist who said he could transform areas of the barren Painted Desert in Arizona into fertile stretches of farmland.

But Mazigh allayed the Navajos' disbelief by producing fields of corn, potatoes, melons and other fruits and vegetables on experimental farms across Navajo reservations in Arizona. He earned their respect so much so that they named him Nihikaoojeh, a Navajo word meaning "one who comes to help us," and insisted on honoring him at a farewell party last week on a Navajo farm he founded 60 miles northeast of Flagstaff.

Between 75 and 100 Navajos and dignitaries joined the celebration, including Peterson Zah, chairman of the Navajo Tribal Council, and Wilma Mankiller, principal chief of the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma. The feast featured samples of Mazigh's hard labor -- onions, tomatoes, melons, squash, potatoes and corn -- and the Navajos presented him with gifts.

"Mazigh was very special and was not afraid to dig into the earth with his hands," said Lois Roisman, executive director of the Washington-based Jewish Fund for Justice, a national Jewish foundation which funds efforts that promote social and economic justice in the United States.

"He worked from dawn till dusk, side by side with the Navajos, and they treated him like a brother," she added.

'Today I Feel Like An Indian'

These impoverished American Indians extended their gratitude to Mazigh with turquoise Indian jewelry and a Navajo blanket. But the occasion was not completely joyous, as it marked the close of Mazigh's two-year stay.

While Mazigh returns to his position in Israel as director of the Avdat Experimental Farm on the Sde Boker campus of Ben Gurion University of the Negev, his replacement, Ron Scherzer, a 36-year-old expert in field crops and fish pond culture, will move his family from Kibbutz Sde Boker to the Navajo Nation for two years.

Mazigh, originally from Tunisia and living in Israel some 30 years, parted as a friend of the

Navajos. "Today I feel like an Indian," he told the JTA. In the first year working on the reservations, he was not accepted and it was only after testing the first zucchini that the Navajos considered the project a success.

When Mazigh first arrived in early 1985, he said that the Navajos didn't even know what Israel is. They could not understand why the Jewish people wanted to help them. "I told them Jews believe you love other people as you love yourself. This is my religion," he explained. "I think they understood."

The Navajos, whose 170,000 members comprise the largest of the 424 Native American tribes, are among the poorest people in the world. They were totally ignorant about the basics of farming technique, according to Mazigh. "They didn't know to give the crops water every day," he said. "We needed to teach them slowly."

Introduces Israeli Method Of Drip Irrigation

Mazigh introduced to the American Indians drip irrigation, the method used by Israelis in the Negev to utilize every scarce drop of water. When the Indians first saw the thin, plastic tubing, now covering a total of 240,000 feet, with holes every two feet from which a mixture of water and fertilizer is carried to the plant's roots, they nicknamed it "zhini baachee," meaning little black intestines.

During the first year, October 1984-85, 12 acres were planted on a pilot basis in three communities -- Birdsprings, Leupp and Sandsprings -- in the Little Colorado River Valley in north-eastern Arizona. These communities had sought help from the Seventh Generation Fund, established in 1977 to assist tribal economic development.

Mazigh tested some 120 different varieties of fruits, vegetables and grains, including 14 varieties of watermelon, pineapple, papaya, avocado, pepper, cabbage, almond and his personal favorite, pistachios. He is known as the "pistachio king" in Israel for his success with the crop.

This year's project was expanded to 40 acres in five communities, working with 30 families. The crops have been narrowed down to corn, potatoes, squash and melons. "Our success was very important for these people who don't have much food," Mazigh said.

Impressed By Israeli Methods

The idea of looking to Israel to aid the Navajos was the brainchild of Jacques Seronde, program director of the Seventh Generation Fund. "I was inspired by the book 'The Negev: Challenge of the Desert,' by Michael Avenari," Seronde told the JTA. Seronde was impressed how the Israelis conquered the Negev by using runoff water and envisioned success using similar methods in the arid region inhabited by the Navajos.

Seronde, who is married to an Indian woman and whose grandfather was the late Christian Herter, a former Secretary of State in the Eisenhower Administration, has lived and worked with the Navajos since 1970. He travelled to the Negev in 1981 to study drip irrigation at Ben Gurion University's Blaustein Institute for Desert Research, where he met Mazigh. When Seronde returned to Flagstaff, he convinced tribal and community officials to create the "Navajo Experimental Farm Program."

Grants were obtained from the Jewish Fund for Justice and the Ford Foundation, and Mazigh, who was on sabbatical leave, was recruited. "What

he brought was a big heart, a willingness to work hard and a great deal of technical and social knowledge," Seronde said.

The farms started by Mazigh are comparable to the Israeli moshav, according to Seronde. "It's a cooperative village where families live independently and each works a plot of ground, but they cooperate for purchasing fertilizer, and tractors and in marketing produce," he added.

The success of the Israeli-modeled family agriculture has attracted the interest of Pueblo, Lakota, Shoshone, Hopi, and other Native Americans. The Seventh Generation Fund, Jewish Fund for Justice and Ben Gurion University intend to expand the program further in 1986-87.

Will Try To Send Indians To Israel

During the winter, Seronde hopes to be able to send Native Americans to Israel because he believes it is "important for people here to see what has been done in Israel." He also plans to introduce Israeli expertise to fisheries in the north and livestock in the High Plains.

"The social and economic conditions are disastrous on reservations and I feel there is a good chance we can adapt the Israeli model to meet Native American needs," Seronde said.

He believes the Navajos and other American Indians are now willing to accept help from Jews and Israelis because they have presented a visible solution. So far, Seronde has met his initial goals with the project. "The Israelis have added green to the palate of the Painted Desert," he said.

70 LAWMAKERS ASK PORTUGAL TO HONOR POSTHUMOUSLY A PORTUGUESE DIPLOMAT WHO SAVED JEWS IN WWII

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- Seventy members of Congress have sent a letter to President Mario Soares of Portugal asking his government to posthumously honor a Portuguese diplomat who saved some 30,000 Jews and others during World War II. The bipartisan letter was initiated by Reps. Henry Waxman and Tony Coelho, (both D. Cal.). Coelho is the only Portuguese-American member of Congress.

The diplomat was Aristides de Sousa Mendes do Amaral e Abranches, who headed the Portuguese Consulate in Bordeaux in the south of France in 1940 where Jews and others had fled in the wake of the Nazi invasion of France.

As the Germans approached the city, thousands lined up in front of the Portuguese Consulate seeking Portuguese visas for the only open escape route, over the Pyrenees into Spain and into neutral Portugal. Working around the clock for three days, de Sousa Mendes gave visas to Jews and others fleeing Nazism despite orders from the military government of Antonio de Oliveira Salazar not to do so.

When Lisbon learned what de Sousa Mendes was doing, he was recalled and ousted from the diplomatic corps. He was forbidden to practice his profession of law or hold any other job and died in poverty in 1954. Most of his 14 children had to leave Portugal.

'One Of The Greatest Humanitarians'

Calling de Sousa Mendes "one of the greatest humanitarians of the World War II era," Waxman said that Holocaust scholars have compared him to Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved 100,000 Jews in 1944. The

only country to honor de Sousa Mendes is Israel, where he was awarded posthumously in 1967 the Yad Vashem gold medal for those who helped save the lives of Jews during the Holocaust.

Waxman said the Congressional action was sparked by the efforts of one of the late diplomat's sons, John Abranches, who lives in the town of Dublin, east of San Francisco, and has begun a petition drive to get the Portuguese government to recognize his father's heroism. Another son is making a similar effort in Portugal.

"De Sousa Mendes' actions place him on a plateau shared with very few others," Waxman said. "He risked his life to save thousands of complete strangers. It is time he be recognized."

The letter from the Congressmen noted that even though the Salazar dictatorship was overthrown in 1974, "the heroism of Dr. de Sousa Mendes and the injustice subsequently done to him have never been publicly acknowledged." Waxman said Soares has a strong record of support for human rights and was a leading opponent of the Salazar regime.

DOCTORS URGE RELEASE OF REFUSENIK CANCER PATIENTS

BOSTON, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- One-hundred-and-one cancer specialists have signed letters to President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev urging that five refuseniks, dying of cancer, be given permission to leave the Soviet Union to secure treatment and join their families in the West.

According to the World Jewish Congress, the letters were made public at a press conference here last week and were a follow-up to a June 12 Moscow news conference where three of the Jewish refuseniks publicized their plight.

"Medicine should know no border," said Dr. Norman Sterns of Tufts University in releasing the letters. The scientists stressed that they were "making a humanitarian plea" and not a political statement. "Every cancer patient needs family support in their personal struggle," added Dr. Robert Schwartz, chief of the hematology department at the New England Medical Center.

Stress Humanitarian Aspect

In their letter to Gorbachev, the doctors stressed that "permitting reunification of these families will be a humanitarian action which will be greatly appreciated by all peace-loving people."

Addressing Reagan, they wrote: "Surely, given your experience with this horrible disease, you must know the importance of being close to your family to face that challenge."

The doctors were joined at the press conference by relatives of a number of the patients, including Khanna Ambinder, whose daughter Rimma Bravve, 31, is dying of ovarian cancer. The other cancer victims awaiting permission to emigrate are: Benjamin Charny, Tatyana Bogomolny, Leah Maryasin and Inna Meiman.

The doctors group said that similar news conferences were being scheduled in September in Washington and Ottawa, with other sessions later this year in major cities abroad and throughout the United States.

THURSZ WARNS ON FUTURE OF JEWS

LAS VEGAS, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- Dr. Daniel Thursz, executive vice president of B'nai B'rith

International, warned that although the current era is a golden age for Jews, serious problems within the Jewish community threaten their future.

In the keynote speech at the Jewish service organization's biennial convention here, Thursz noted that "For perhaps the first time in history, Jews have a choice of being Jewish. They don't have to identify or act out their Jewishness."

Consequently, he said, the majority have made Jewishness a marginal factor in their lives, leaving the next generation at stake. Thursz pointed out that less than a third of Jewish youngsters participate in any Jewish education program and only about a fifth belong to any Jewish youth organization. "Then why should we be surprised at the assimilation rates?" he asked rhetorically.

Thursz declared that "there is but one inescapable conclusion: The traditional methods and institutions have failed at penetrating this mass 'more of the same' will not bring victory."

A Unifying Theme

The B'nai B'rith official said, "It is precisely here that we find the challenge of the 21st century." He pointed out that "informal Jewish education, as contrasted to schools and traditional approaches, is a unifying theme for much of our work."

Informal Jewish education as both a strategy and a set of methodology has been developed, categorized, and tested, he explained. Various names have been given to such approaches, he said, listing as examples social group work, family life education, encounter groups, and group dynamics.

"All these are based on several key principles," he said, and cited emphasis on participatory activities, experimental learning, group problem-solving, and the use of a leader as a facilitator whose goal is to secure active personal involvement of the participants as partners in the educational process.

Thursz pointed out that this approach has proven successful in the B'nai B'rith Hillel, located on more than 400 college campuses in a dozen countries; in the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, which has members in North America, Britain, Europe and Israel; in B'nai B'rith Adult Education Institutes throughout America; and in B'nai B'rith's other program groups, as well as lodges and units.

Issue Of Jewish Life In The Diaspora

Thursz said B'nai B'rith must also come to grips with "a basic ideological issue" of Jewish life in the diaspora. "Neither the Holocaust nor the valiant spirit of Israeli soldiers can serve as magnets that will attract the next generation to identify with Jewish life," he said. "Nor can we describe life in the Western diaspora as temporary exile."

"In my view, the gulf between future generations of Israelis and diaspora Jews will grow wider unless we take traumatic and sustained actions to prevent that separation," he said. Calling the maintenance of uniting the Jewish people essential to keeping Jewish civilization, Thursz added that massive efforts by both groups are required.