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**EGYPT ACCEPTS FIVE-POINT PLAN
FOR ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN TALKS**

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- Egypt has accepted the five-point U.S. proposal for starting a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians, the State Department announced Wednesday.

Egypt's acceptance, which follows Israel's approval of the proposal on Nov. 5, clears the way for the State Department to arrange a meeting in Washington that will include Secretary of State James Baker, Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler would not comment directly Wednesday on whether Egypt had secured the Palestine Liberation Organization's approval of the U.S. plan.

But she said it was "quite obvious" that the Egyptians "have been talking to the Palestinians."

A meeting in Washington of the three foreign ministers was the only one of the five points contained in the U.S. plan that the State Department had confirmed publicly until Wednesday, when it released the full text of the proposal.

Asked if there are issues of substance that must be resolved before the trilateral meeting, Tutwiler said, "Not necessarily."

But she said that Egypt's "positive response," like the Israeli acceptance, contains additional assumptions.

"In their responses, both Egypt and Israel have conveyed certain views and positions on this process. We will be working with the parties on steps needed to get to a trilateral meeting in Washington," she said.

Tutwiler said the Washington meeting could not be scheduled until early in 1990, mainly because Baker is going to Europe next week and because of the holiday season.

Following is the text of the five-point plan:

"1. The United States understands that because Egypt and Israel have been working hard on the peace process, there is agreement that an Israeli delegation should conduct a dialogue with a Palestinian delegation in Cairo.

"2. The United States understands that Egypt cannot substitute itself for the Palestinians, and Egypt will consult with Palestinians on all aspects of that dialogue. Egypt will also consult with Israel and the United States.

"3. The United States understands that Israel will attend the dialogue only after a satisfactory list of Palestinians has been worked out.

"4. The United States understands that the government of Israel will come to the dialogue on the basis of the Israeli government's May 14 initiative. The United States further understands that Palestinians will come to the dialogue prepared to discuss elections and the negotiating process, in accordance with Israel's initiative. The U.S. understands, therefore, that Palestinians would be free to raise issues that relate to their opinions on how to make elections and the negotiating process succeed.

"5. In order to facilitate this process, the U.S. proposes that the Foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt and the U.S. meet in Washington within two weeks."

**TOUGH AMERICAN STAND CREDITED
FOR DEFEAT OF PLO INITIATIVE**

By Allison Kaplan

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- Jewish leaders and Israeli officials are crediting the tough stand taken by the United States for the defeat of the Palestine Liberation Organization's push to be recognized as a state by the General Assembly.

Even before the resolution upgrading the PLO mission's status to that of an observer state was introduced by the Arab bloc last week, the U.S. State Department and its mission here went on the offensive, threatening to cut off the U.S. contribution to the U.N. budget should the resolution be adopted.

The U.S. pressure proved to be successful Wednesday, when the 16 Arab countries that had sponsored the resolution agreed to postpone consideration of the matter indefinitely.

General Assembly President Joseph Garba formally announced the Arab states' agreement to the world body Wednesday afternoon.

A day earlier, Garba had urged the Arab states to postpone consideration of the resolution. But along with that request came criticism of the U.S. tactic of threatening to cut off its contribution, which accounts for 25 percent of the U.N. headquarters budget.

That threat also met criticism last week from U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and was even more bluntly denounced by Arab officials, who called it "blackmail."

American Jewish leaders, however, were full of praise for the U.S. move.

"The courageous support of the United States for the integrity of the General Assembly inspires respect for its deep commitment to the rule of law," said Harris Schoenberg, director of U.N. affairs for B'nai B'rith International.

Soviet Position Noted

The PLO's backing down was "a clear demonstration" that when the American government takes a strong stand, it can successfully battle Arab influence at the U.N., said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations.

The pro-PLO forces "constantly probe for weakness," said Hoenlein. "When they see resilience and that people are firm, they back off."

Hoenlein and others also stressed the significance of the Soviet Union's signals that it stood with the United States and the Western European countries against the upgrading of the PLO's status.

An Israeli diplomatic source said that the Soviet position was taken not only to curry favor with the United States, but because recognizing an essentially non-existent state could set a dangerous precedent.

If such a move had been allowed, any of the discontented nationalities within the Soviet Union conceivably could also go to the United Nations and ask to be recognized as a state, the source said.

The source added that it must have been clear to the Arab states that if they brought the resolution to the floor, it would not pass.

The U.S. and Israel had planned to combat the measure in the same way they face down the annual Arab challenge to Israel's credentials. A third country would have introduced a resolution to indefinitely postpone the vote, and a majority of U.N. members would have approved the move.

Dr. George Gruen, director of Israel and Middle East Affairs for the American Jewish Committee, said he was hopeful that this setback would encourage the PLO to "emphasize practical benefits for the Palestinians living in the territories," as opposed to finding a "forum for its polemics" within the United Nations.

Over the past year, similar moves by the PLO for full-fledged membership in U.N. agencies have also been unsuccessful, usually resulting in postponement of consideration of their membership.

ACTIVIST HUSSEINI BARRED ENTRY TO TERRITORIES FOR SIX MONTHS

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- An influential Palestinian leader who advocates civil disobedience has been barred for six months from entering the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

An administrative order, which also limits his freedom of movement outside the territories, was handed by police to Faisal Hussein, head of the Institute for Arab Studies in East Jerusalem.

It was immediately protested by the Peace Now movement, which accused Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin of persecuting Hussein because he is a moderate.

Hussein said he would not violate the ban, but will fight it in court.

The order was signed by two Israel Defense Force generals, Yitzhak Mordechai, who commands the central region encompassing the West Bank, and Matan Vilnai, the southern region commander whose authority covers the Gaza Strip.

Defense Ministry sources said they acted on the basis of a comprehensive report on Hussein's political activities in recent months.

He is accused of influencing Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to protest against the IDF presence and the Israeli civil administration in the territories by such means as the recent tax strike in Beit Sahur.

The sources said Hussein allegedly encouraged Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to refuse to accept the new magnetized identification cards issued by the Gaza civil administration. Its purpose was to prevent persons with criminal or security offense records from entering Israel.

Hussein recently spent 18 months in administrative detention. He was held in prison for that time without being charged or tried.

RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN GAZA SPARKS PROTEST BY JEWISH SETTLERS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- A serious confrontation is shaping up between the government and Jewish settlers in the Gaza Strip trying to block implementation of a provision of the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

It calls for the repatriation of some 6,000 Palestinian refugees from Sinai to the Gaza Strip, where they had lived before Israel conquered the territory in the 1967 Six-Day War.

The refugees have been living in Canada Camp, on the Sinai side of the divided town of

Rafah.

On Wednesday, the first five Arab family heads crossed into the Israeli-controlled part of town to examine land set aside for them to build homes.

Hundreds of Jewish settlers protested angrily from a hill overlooking the site of the planned Palestinian settlement. Before leaving for the day, they set up tents from which they plan to stage a permanent sit-down strike on the Arab land, to prevent its occupation by the Palestinian families.

Zvi Hendel, head of the Gaza Shore Regional Council, accused the government of allowing more terrorists into the Gaza Strip. He claimed that five heavily armed Arab infiltrators gunned down Tuesday by Israeli troops in the western Negev came from Canada Camp.

Miri Megiddish, a mother of six from Netzer Hazani settlement, insisted on segregation. The Arabs should live "there and we must live here," she said.

The settlers see the issue as a test case with implications for the entire Palestinian refugee problem.

HERZOG ARRIVES IN ARGENTINA TO WARM WELCOME FROM MENEM

By Eliezer Stuchlik

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog received a warm "Shalom" and a 21-gun salute on his arrival here Tuesday, becoming the first Israeli chief of state to visit Argentina.

The Hebrew greeting was delivered by Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem, the son of Syrian immigrants, who met Israel's Irish-born president and his wife, Aura, at the airport.

There were no speeches. But after the national anthems of both countries were played and Herzog reviewed a military honor guard dressed in 17th-century uniforms, Menem asked to be invited to Israel.

"I hope you are inviting me to visit Israel, because I have already made plans to visit your country in the second half of 1990," he told his guests.

The reception given Herzog is the latest example of Menem's efforts to reach out to world Jewry. Since he took office in July, he has been trying to ease concern in the Jewish community -- estimated at 250,000 to 300,000 -- about his background and allegiances.

Menem is a Moslem convert to Catholicism with close personal ties to Syria. He heads the Peronist party, which has a dubious record with respect to Jews.

The Argentine president and his Israeli guest have two business meetings scheduled before Friday, when the Israeli president will go to the Bariloche resort for a brief vacation before visiting Uruguay on Monday.

Herzog is expected to ask Menem to intervene with his friends in the Syrian government to ease the plight of Jews in Syria, who are allowed to practice Judaism but not permitted to emigrate. Menem's brother is the Argentine ambassador to Syria.

The two leaders also will discuss the problem of what Menem has called the "brain drain" from Argentina. Some 3,000 Argentine Jews chose to immigrate to Israel this year, twice as many as last year.

Their departure was prompted by Argentina's economic woes.

WHITE SUPREMACIST DAVID DUKE WILL RUN FOR U.S. SENATE SEAT

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- David Duke, the charismatic white supremacist who dismayed Jews and civil rights leaders earlier this year with his successful run for the Louisiana state legislature, has announced he is throwing his hat into the ring for the U.S. Senate.

Duke, 39, a former Imperial wizard of the Imperial Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, announced Monday in New Orleans that he will run next year as a Republican candidate for the Senate seat now held by Sen. J. Bennett Johnston, a Democrat.

He said he would seek the Republican Party's endorsement, but would run without it if necessary. The party is holding open caucuses throughout the state on Saturday and is expected to endorse a candidate on Jan. 13.

He was also reported to be considering a run for the seat in the U.S. House of Representatives now held by Rep. Bob Livingston, a Republican.

Duke exchanged his Klan robes for the leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of White People in 1979. He now claims his Nazi sympathies are part of his past.

But in early March, less than a month after winning the state legislature seat, Duke appeared at a convention of the neo-Nazi Populist Party in Chicago.

There, standing by the side of a known neo-Nazi, he delivered a speech affirming his support for the Populists, on whose slate he ran for president in 1988.

The World Jewish Congress reported a connection between Duke and Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, who has been internationally ostracized for concealing his wartime service in a German army unit that committed atrocities in Greece and Yugoslavia.

'Groundswell Of Support'

In a "Dear Friend" letter Duke wrote and signed in the NAAWP News of December 1986, he boasted that he was "even able to personally meet and interview the president of Austria, Kurt Waldheim, who has been a victim of a vicious Zionist smear campaign."

Daniel Levitas, director of the Atlanta-based Center for Democratic Renewal, which monitors racist activity in the United States, said Duke has great popular appeal.

"There is a groundswell of support (for Duke) in Louisiana. His name recognition is as great or greater than the current governor of Louisiana, Buddy Roemer," a Democrat.

Duke is seeking mainstream Republic support. Last Friday, he sent out a statewide mailing, providing two petitions for his supporters to sign and send to President Bush and Republican National Committee Chairman Lee Atwater.

The Republican National Committee censured Duke in February. But the state Republican Party failed to do the same when a motion was presented in September at its central committee meeting.

Elizabeth Rickey, a member of the Louisiana State Republican Central Committee, paid a visit in May to Duke's legislative office in Metairie, La., a suburb of New Orleans.

She and her colleagues were able to obtain through Duke's mail-order book business, Americana Book, copies of racist and revisionist litera-

ture claiming the Holocaust never happened, including a publication called "Did Six Million Really Die?"

On Wednesday, Rickey joined in the formation of a coalition to combat Duke's electoral bid. The bipartisan and non-denominational group is called the Louisiana Coalition Against Racism and Nazism. It is composed of religious and political leaders.

Irwin Suall, fact-finding director for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said, "As far as we're concerned, he continues to represent the racist and anti-Semitic underworld, and his appearance of respectability and mainstream politics is pure deception."

WEST GERMAN PRESIDENT REASSURES JEWS ON PROSPECT OF REUNIFICATION

By David Kantor

BONN, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- President Richard von Weizsacker of West Germany assured a visiting delegation of American Jews on Wednesday that he fully understands the concern of world Jewry over the prospect of a reunited Germany.

But the German people have learned the lessons of history, and their objective is democratic rule and support of human rights, he said.

Weizsacker addressed 25 members of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, who came to Bonn to present the German chief of state with ADL's Joseph Prize for human rights, the first time the award has gone to a German.

ADL National Chairman Burton Levinson, who made the presentation, praised Weizsacker for "encouraging his countrymen to examine their responsibility for the Nazi era and the horrors it spawned.

"What he has done is the best possible answer to that shameful movement, which strives to efface the memory of genocide from the mind of mankind," Levinson declared.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the ADL, observed that "as a survivor of the Holocaust, I come to this ceremony with a great deal of emotional baggage.

"But your words, however, have touched the heart of every Jew. I thank you for forcing others to face the truth."

Weizsacker greeted the ADL delegation at the Villa Hammerschmidt, the president's official residence.

The German president told them, "You have come to Europe at a time when the basic ADL philosophy is coming to life," an apparent reference to the movement for democratic reforms sweeping Eastern European countries.

The reforms in East Germany, particularly the opening of the Berlin Wall, have focused world attention on the possibility that the two Germanys may be united in the near future.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has offered a 20-point proposal for reunification.

Weizsacker told his guests, "I know it is not easy to envisage the outcome of the unification of 75 million Germans. But on the other hand, those engaged in democratic reforms cannot but welcome these movements."

The ADL group has met here with the minister of justice and several senior officials of the Foreign Ministry and the Chancellor's Office.

They will visit East Berlin on Thursday for a scheduled meeting with Hans Modrow, the newly elected prime minister of the German Democratic Republic.

B'NAI B'RITH MOVE TO CUT TIES TO WOMEN'S GROUP DRAWS PROTEST

By Elena Neuman

NEW YORK, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- A decision Sunday by B'nai B'rith International to end its 92-year-old relationship with B'nai B'rith Women has raised a storm of protest from the 120,000-member women's organization.

In a 64-14 vote, B'nai B'rith International's board of governors voted to approve a resolution that would sever its constitutional ties with the national women's organization and establish itself as a united men's and women's organization.

"We have a responsibility to ourselves and to our future," Seymour Reich, international president of B'nai B'rith, said in a statement issued before the vote.

"If B'nai B'rith Women has declared itself to be separate, independent and autonomous, and if that is truly the desire of their leadership and membership, so be it. We wish them well," he said.

Reich was referring to a resolution adopted in October 1988 by BBW, in which the organization declared its separately incorporated legal status and its autonomy within the B'nai B'rith organization.

But according to BBW President Hyla Lipsky, B'nai B'rith International has intentionally chosen to misinterpret the women's 1988 resolution for its own purposes.

"What is really going on here is transparent," she said in a statement issued Tuesday. "B'nai B'rith International's decision-makers now seek total control over their empire."

Last year's resolution was, in her words, a reaction to a unilateral action to admit women taken at the September 1988 BBI biennial convention in Baltimore.

14 Days To Reverse Decision

The BBW resolution, said Lipsky, was completely in keeping with the ordinance of the organization. "B'nai B'rith Women has been legally incorporated as a separate organization since 1962," she said. "It has all the rights to self-governance that such incorporation implies."

But Reich said, in a telephone interview, that such incorporation "has no significance."

"Each of our constituent organizations -- B'nai B'rith Women, B'YO and Hillel -- has a separate corporate status. They, nevertheless, all are subject to the regulations of the B'nai B'rith constitution," he said.

The resolution adopted Sunday gives the women's organization 14 days to rescind its 1988 resolution, failing which all affiliation between the two groups will be abandoned.

BBW maintains that Sunday's resolution is the equivalent of a hostile takeover, an effort to offset the international organization's flagging membership and revenue.

BBI's membership has fallen from a high of 200,000 in 1969 to 136,000 in 1987, according to the spring 1989 issue of Lilit magazine.

According to Reich, however, the decision to sever ties with the women is the result of a grass-roots movement. "Its origins stem from a desire to meet the challenge of changing social mores, by offering women equal status within B'nai B'rith. Women have told us that they want membership privileges," he said in the interview.

Both Reich and Lipsky expressed their dismay with the situation and stated that their

organizations did not want the imminent separation to take place.

"Rest assured that we do not want to break from B'nai B'rith International," Lipsky said in a telephone interview. "We have made every attempt to avoid this situation. But all our attempts at compromise have been outright rejected. Their position is: We can't wear the name if we can't play their game."

Reich put it a different way. "We didn't want a separate B'nai B'rith Women's organization," he said. "We wanted an affiliated organization. They want the name, but not the game."

MOSCOW YESHIVA'S TEMPORARY CLOSING WAS JUST BUREAUCRACY, SAYS STEINSALTZ

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz said Monday that his Moscow yeshiva is open, and that the whole controversy over its being closed was no more than bureaucratic jockeying.

"It was true that they tried to push the people out," he said, but "the whole thing took three days."

Steinsaltz said there was no termination of the lease on the building the yeshiva was housed in, and that he expects the yeshiva to continue in its location. He said he hopes to visit it next month.

Steinsaltz, who was in New York to herald the publication of the first two volumes of his English translation of the Talmud, acknowledged that the building housing the yeshiva had been virtually closed down with the shutting off of heat and electricity.

But he said that situation was corrected with the return to Moscow of the yeshiva's patron, Professor Yevgeny Velikhov, chairman of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

The attempt to bring down the yeshiva was no more than a power struggle between the Moscow municipality and Velikhov, who was out of the country at the time, he said.

"It had nothing really to do" with the yeshiva itself, he said. "It wasn't a message."

EGYPTIAN TANKER TRIAL POSTPONED AS ISRAEL FACES ITS OWN OIL SPILL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 6 (JTA) -- An Egyptian court has postponed the trial of an Israeli tanker captain charged with responsibility for an oil spill in the Gulf of Suez.

But Yosef Zvi, captain of the government-owned tanker Nyuta, says he will not return to Egypt for the trial, which is now scheduled for Jan. 2.

Though he insists he is innocent, Zvi had agreed to appear in court, on the understanding that he would be fined if found guilty. He has since learned he could face a stiff prison sentence, as well.

Zvi's vessel was employed ferrying Egyptian oil to Israel. The Egyptian authorities charged that the tanker leaked oil off Sharm el-Sheikh on Oct. 21.

But Israelis are more concerned at the moment with another tanker mishap, one that has already soiled the beaches of Herzliya.

The small coastal tanker Eyal grounded and sank about a mile off Herzliya last Friday, causing an oil seepage.