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CABINET APPROVES U.S. PROPOSALS ON LAST TWO REMAINING ISSUES: SINAI OIL AND PHASED WITHDRAWAL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) -- The Cabinet today approved U.S. proposals on the last two outstanding issues in the peace negotiations. By a vote of 15 in favor and two not taking part -- Transportation Minister Haim Landau and Zevulun Hammer, the Education Minister -- the ministers gave endorsement to what Premier Menachem Begin had in effect consented in his breakfast meeting yesterday with President Carter in Jerusalem. Begin told reporters he had immediately telephoned the Cabinet decision to Carter, who had been "very pleased" to receive it. (See separate story from Washington.)

The decision now opens the way to a treaty signing, possibly next week in Washington, and then in Cairo and Jerusalem. Egyptian Premier Mustapha Kholji was quoted today as saying the Washington ceremony might take place next Thursday or Friday.

The Cabinet devoted its seven-hour session solely to the two remaining issues -- the Sinai oil and the "phased withdrawal." The withdrawal issue deals with Israel undertaking in advance to withdraw from El'Arish within three months and from other areas of Sinai at fixed dates during the nine-month interim withdrawal phase set by the Camp David accord. In return for this, it is hoped, President Anwar Sadat would restore his original agreement to exchange ambassadors once that interim withdrawal was completed.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports in Jerusalem said Egypt had yesterday withdrawn its demand for a "liaison" presence in the Gaza Strip, where the first stage of the autonomy is to be implemented. This had been one of the toughest issues under discussion during Carter's trip. It was not clear whether Egypt had forgone any kind of presence in the Strip.

'Treaty Package' To Be Debated Sunday

There is to be another Cabinet session Sunday on the "treaty package as a whole," and, presumably, at this session the ministers will have to address themselves to the issue of the nature of the proposed Palestinian autonomy.

There is a Cabinet decision of some weeks ago to hold a debate on the autonomy before the treaty is signed. Landau and the National Religious Party ministers have indicated that they will insist this decision is implemented and that the Cabinet hold a full-scale debate on the autonomy.

Political observers do not expect, nevertheless, that such a debate at this stage would seriously endanger the progress of the peace process or the final consummation in the three signing ceremonies scheduled for next week or the week after.

Begin is scheduled to go to Cairo to sign with President Sadat the Arabic version. Sadat is then due to come to Jerusalem to sign together with Begin the Hebrew version, and both officials are then to go to Washington to sign the English version with Carter co-signing as the witness. It is understood that should there be any disagreement between Israel and Egypt on subse-

quent interpretations of the treaty elements, the English version will prevail.

The Premier refused to answer questions after the Cabinet meeting, explaining good-naturedly that he had "got a cold" and had been ordered by his doctors to go home and rest. Begin's cold was already apparent in his Israeli and U.S. TV interviews last night. But observers said he seemed in excellent health and spirits despite his clogged nasal passages. Begin himself pointed out that such colds were a hazard of the presently changeable Jerusalem weather.

CARTER: CABINET ACTION MEANS ALL OUTSTANDING ISSUES IN PEACE TALKS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY RESOLVED

WASHINGTON, March 14 (JTA) -- President Carter declared today that as a result of the Israeli Cabinet's action this morning "all of the outstanding issues in the negotiations between Israel and Egypt have now been successfully resolved." His statement, released by the White House only hours after the President landed at Andrews Air Force Base on his triumphal return from the Middle East, referred to the Cabinet's 15-0 vote approving the two final proposals agreed to by Premier Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat.

"I am extremely pleased that the Israeli Cabinet has approved the two remaining proposals that I discussed with Prime Minister Begin on Monday," Prime Minister Begin has just called me with this good news. This means that all of the outstanding issues in the negotiations between Egypt and Israel have now been successfully resolved," Carter said.

As in his brief remarks after landing at 12:30 a.m. today, the President's statement was filled with praise for both Begin and President Anwar Sadat. "At this historic moment, I want to congratulate the great leaders of both countries for their leadership and the courage they have consistently demonstrated. The peace which their peoples so clearly need and want is close to a reality. I am proud that our country has been able to assist these two long-time adversaries along the path of reconciliation and forward future cooperation," Carter said.

He added, "We stand ready to help in the implementation of the peace treaty, in the negotiations that lie ahead on other issues of concern, and in working with these two friends to build a stable and peaceful Middle East." (See related stories.)

ISRAEL IN FIRST PRISONER EXCHANGE WITH ARAB TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

Israel Releases 76 Arab Prisoners In Exchange For One Captured Israeli Soldier
By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL-AVIV, March 14 (JTA) -- Israel engaged in its first prisoner exchange with an Arab terrorist organization today when, through the instrumentality of the International Red Cross in Geneva, it released 76 Arab prisoners in return for a single Israeli soldier captured in south Lebanon last April 4 by Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine -- General Command.

The exchange, which took place at a remote corner of Geneva airport, culminated almost a year of secret negotiations directed by Defense Minister Ezer Weizman with the approval of Premier Menachem Begin but without the knowledge of the rest

of the Cabinet. The secrecy and the lopsided ratio of 76 Arabs for one Israeli has caused consternation in some Israeli circles.

The freed soldier, Avraham Amram, is one of six Israeli soldiers and civilians who strayed across enemy lines while on an unauthorized sightseeing tour in south Lebanon 11 months ago and were waylaid by Jibril's terrorists. Four of his companions were killed and two of them, one wounded, managed to return to Israeli territory.

A special chartered plane left Israel this morning for Geneva with 66 of the Arab prisoners. Ten were released at an undisclosed spot in the Middle East. A few minutes after the Israeli plane landed, a Bulgarian airliner carrying Amram arrived from Beirut.

The exchange took place under the supervision of the Red Cross surrounded by a cordon of Swiss police. Half the Palestinian prisoners left their plane first and had their identities checked by Red Cross officials. Then Amram left his plane and was seated in a Red Cross car parked between the two aircraft. He was allowed to board the Israeli plane only after the last 33 Palestinians had been checked and boarded the Bulgarian plane. They were flown to Libya and Amram to Israel for debriefing and reunion with his wife, children and mother.

Amram Describes His Ordeal

Amram arrived in Israel late this afternoon for an emotional reunion with his wife and two children after nearly a year in captivity. He told reporters that he was tortured immediately after his capture by the terrorists and that no attempt was made to treat a hand injury he sustained. Later, however, his treatment improved, he said, and some of the guards even gave him gifts. But he was transferred from one place of imprisonment to another and each time he was beaten in the process. He said he was confined to a tiny cell.

Nevertheless, Amram appeared to be in good physical condition but will undergo thorough medical examinations. Asked how he happened to stray into a terrorist enclave, he blamed it on his guide. The guide, though wounded, found his way back to the Israeli lines.

No Well-Known Terrorists Released

Israeli authorities said today that two-thirds of the released Palestinians were common criminals and only one-third were serving sentences for terrorist acts. They stressed that the latter included no well-known terrorists such as Kozo Okamoto. Nevertheless, many Israelis felt the price was too high to pay for one soldier who fell into terrorist hands because he violated military orders. They also feared that the exchange might set a precedent for breaking Israel's firm policy of no deals with terrorist organizations.

Israeli authorities maintained that the exchange did not involve questions of policy but was an executive action undertaken on humanitarian grounds. They said the condition of Amram's family had warranted this approach.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command is a splinter group that broke away from George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in 1968 for ideological reasons. It is led by Ahmed Jibril, a former Syrian army officer, is pro-Syrian and has an estimated strength of 500 members. It is represented on the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and while small, is considered an effective terrorist

organization. The exchange represents a major coup for the group which succeeded in obtaining the release of a substantial number of Palestinian prisoners in Israel, something the PLO and other terrorist organizations have failed to do.

DAYAN, WEIZMAN COMING TO WASHINGTON FOR BILATERAL TALKS, EHRLICH DUE IN U.S. TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

TEL AVIV, March 14 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Defense Minister Ezer Weizman will leave for Washington tomorrow for urgent discussions of a bilateral Israeli-U.S. agreement to be signed simultaneously with the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. Leaving with them is Amram Sivan, Director General of the Finance Ministry.

Dayan, accompanied by the Foreign Ministry's legal advisor, Meir Rosenne, will comprise one team to discuss American guarantees to Israel after the treaty with Egypt is signed. This will include the commitment to provide for Israel's oil needs. Weizman and Sivan will discuss U.S. military and economic aid to Israel. Both teams are expected to conclude their negotiations within a week in order to present the U.S.-Israeli agreement to the Cabinet before a treaty is signed.

It was learned today that Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich will go to Washington after the treaty signing to negotiate American economic assistance required to implement the treaty provisions calling for Israel's withdrawal from Sinai. Israel has asked for some \$3.3 billion for that purpose. Israeli economic circles now say that \$4 billion will be needed, a sum believed to have been suggested in the talks with President Carter in Jerusalem over the weekend.

So far, the Treasury does not intend to revise its budget. But if the costs of redeployment from Sinai exceed \$1.8 billion in the first year, it is expected that changes in the budget will be necessary. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has already established a special committee to examine the impact of peace on Israel's economy.

NEW PARTY BEING FORMED TO FIGHT AGAINST ANY TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 14 (JTA) -- Prof. Yuval Ne'eman, former president of Tel Aviv University, announced today he is forming a new political party to fight against any territorial concessions by Israel. Ne'eman, a physicist who returned this week to Israel after a year's sabbatical, said he would seek to unite all forces in Israel's existing parties opposed to the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement into a new party to run in the next Knesset election.

Calling the peace agreement "the Purim disaster of 1979," he said it was more serious than the "disaster" of the 1973 Yom Kippur War. He called on "all those with eyes in their heads and uncowed spirits" to join his movement which "seeks to save Israel and Zionism. We will combat this government's defeatism and seek positions of power that will enable us to repeal the sentences passed on Yamit and Ophira," two of the Sinai settlements that are slated to be removed under the peace agreement. "The next Knesset will rebuild that which the present one is currently destroying," he said.

Ne'eman, who said the new party will be set up within a month, disclosed that a number of well-known figures have already joined the new group but refused to reveal their names.

BACKGROUND REPORT BEHIND THE 11TH-HOUR BREAKTHROUGH

By David London

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) — Premier Menachem Begin has won the praise of supporters and critics alike for the high risk personal initiative he took at his fateful breakfast meeting with President Carter Tuesday morning, just before the President's departure from Israel. Begin yielded on some points, stood firm on others, acting on his judgement of the situation alone and thereby is credited with helping salvage a peace mission that was tottering on the brink of failure.

"He showed real leadership, Prime Ministerial mettle," said one senior Israeli official who was one of the very few aware at the time of the dramatic meeting taking place. This official, not one of Begin's personal aides, praised the Premier for "taking the broad, historical perspective, discerning between vital issues and less consequential matters, holding out for the first and conceding the second."

The basic truth behind the 11th-hour breakthrough is that Prime Minister Begin consciously and with the full sense of responsibility stepped out ahead of his Cabinet and, during that breakfast meeting, traded with Carter as one leader with another.

There is, of course, a fundamental difference between the constitutional powers and position of an American President and a Prime Minister in a Cabinet democracy of the Israeli (British-based) type. Yet, even in the Cabinet system there are moments when the Prime Minister must cease to be merely the chairman of a panel -- the Cabinet -- and assume a much more individual, almost autocratic, authority.

The difference between the two systems manifests itself again if the Prime Minister's decision or action is not supported subsequently by his party and the Parliament. Then, as Begin himself pointed out in his interviews last night, the Prime Minister must resign, taking his entire Cabinet with him. An American President does not require such ex post facto endorsement. He cannot resign if he feels that his move is not supported.

Begin Took A Calculated Risk

Tuesday morning was one of those rare, but inescapable moments when a Prime Minister is required to act like a President and face the risks of later paying the price inevitably exacted if such Presidential-type decision-making is repudiated. Begin sensed the nature of the moment and rose to it.

There is no doubt, according to informed sources, that Israel's Cabinet ministers -- barring Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan who, with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, participated through part of that dramatic breakfast discussion -- were not aware of the magnitude of the breakthrough that had been achieved. They, like the rest of us, were only apprised of it hours later, by President Carter's announcement at Cairo Airport.

They did not know that the Premier undertook to the President to present to the Cabinet an American guarantee of a bridge in place of the Israeli demand for direct and regular oil supplies from Egypt. Only the night before, this oil demand had been regarded in the Cabinet as a sine qua non for the treaty because it symbolized in the minds of the ministers Egypt's readiness or reluctance to engage in normal trade relations with Israel.

Similarly, they did not know that, after

months of rejection, Begin now signalled his acceptance of the Egyptian demand that Israel vacate El Arish within two or three months and present a detailed timetable for its planned withdrawal from the rest of the "interim withdrawal" area (to the Ras-Muhammad - El Arish line) over the nine-month period stipulated at Camp David. In return for this, Carter indicated Egypt would be prepared to restore its agreement to exchange ambassadors with Israel during the tenth month.

The ministers also did not know at the time how Begin was refusing to give ground, despite the massive pressure inherent in the cliff-hanging circumstances of the Presidential mission, on the Egyptian demand for a military "ligation office" in Gaza. This, he told Carter, was not an issue on which he could concede no matter what the consequences. It remains to be seen what precisely the President has proposed as a compromise on this key question.

Question About Timing

While appreciating and praising Begin's exhibition of historic leadership qualities at a critical moment, many observers will now ask themselves whether the same leadership could not have been shown months ago -- back in November, when the peace talks first got bogged down in what, after all, were largely subsidiary issues.

When the triumph and euphoria subside, comparative studies will inevitably be made between the terms that were available then and those that have been agreed upon now. On the face of it, the argument could be made that the difference between the November package and the March package did not justify all the tension and brinkmanship of the intervening months.

But equally, it could be contended, Israel's "haggling" produced important Egyptian concessions, especially on Article VI which the Israeli government felt was "the heart of the treaty."

UNREST IN EAST JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA) — A large number of security forces patrolled East Jerusalem today in an effort to put an end to the continued unrest among Jerusalem's Arabs. The present wave of unrest began when President Carter arrived here last weekend and intensified with the positive end of the talks.

Students at two Jerusalem high schools left classes today and began walking around the narrow alleys of the Old City, forcing shopkeepers to close down their shops in a gesture of protest against the proposed autonomy. They were followed shortly after by the security forces, which advised the merchants to reopen their stores. In the past, storekeepers who refused to do so, were not allowed to reopen their stores for a longer period.

In other parts of the city, roads were blocked to traffic. Motor vehicles which tried to get through were stoned. There were no reports of injuries.

There was an explosion in the Morasha Quarter, bordering with the Old City. Although damage was heavy, no one was injured. But shortly afterwards, young Jews attacked and beat up several Arabs. The disturbances in East Jerusalem were the peak of the overall unrest in the West Bank, La Ramallah and El Bireh, two Arab towns some 10 miles north of Jerusalem, schools and businesses were shut down. Students also stayed away from schools in other towns. In Hebron, high school students raised the Palestinian flag and tried to block the main road. Earlier they threw rocks near the main market square and the Tomb of the Patriarchs.

HISTORIC MEETING BETWEEN POPE AND DELEGATION OF WORLD JEWISH LEADERS

By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, March 14 (JTA) -- Pope John Paul II led a 24-member delegation of world Jewish leaders Monday that he hoped "the city of Jerusalem will be effectively guaranteed as a center of harmony for the followers of the three great monotheistic religions of Judaism, Islam and Christianity, for whom the city is a revered place of devotions."

Observers noted that the Pope's remarks in a private meeting with the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC) was the first time a Papal statement had omitted the phrase "with interreligious guarantees" in regard to the holy places in Jerusalem. The IJCIC comprises five organizations: the Synagogue Council of America, American Jewish Committee, World Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and the Israel Interreligious Council. A similar papal audience was held by Pope Paul VI four years ago with a smaller IJCIC delegation.

During his meeting Monday, Pope John Paul II said he intended "to do everything in my power for the peace of that land (Israel) which is as holy for you as it is for us." In his weekly address to the crowd at St. Peter's Square last Sunday, the Pope had noted he was "closely following the new endeavors for a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis, hoping that this can be assured everywhere, in just consideration of the rights and legitimate aspirations of all peoples concerned."

The Pope's one-hour audience with the Jewish leaders from the United States, Israel, Europe and Latin America received front-page attention from L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican's official newspaper. The newspaper carried the full text of the Pope's remarks as well as the statement by Philip M. Klutznick, president of the World Jewish Congress, who led the delegation.

As members of the IJCIC pointed out at a press conference following the audience, the major significance of the meeting was the fact that it took place so soon in Pope John Paul II's papacy. The attention given to the meeting by L'Osservatore Romano tends to confirm the fact that the Vatican wishes to follow the path opened by Pope John XXIII and Pope Paul VI in improved Catholic-Jewish relations.

Warm Greeting By The Pope

Committee members all spoke of the warmth and informality of Pope John Paul II. He greeted each of his Jewish guests with a handshake and a few words in their native language. Some members chatted in Polish with the Pope.

Rabbi Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, who represented the WJC at the meeting, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency the Pope was exchanging a few cordial words with him when he was called by his secretary for formal introductions. The Pope whispered to Siegman, "O.K., I didn't meet you" and dashed to the front of the room.

Improvement In Catholic-Jewish Relations

In this statement, Klutznick stressed the improvement that has come about in Catholic-Jewish relations as a result of the Nostra Aetate, promulgated by the Vatican Council in 1965 and the Catholic guidelines of 1975. Also mentioned was the need to continue the fight against all forms of anti-Semitism, the concerns for Soviet

Jewry, the fundamental Jewish bond with Israel, and the positive results of ongoing work in revisiting both Catholic and Jewish school texts to eliminate unfavorable mutual stereotypes.

In reply, the Pope's address was rich with positive references to these two essential documents on Catholic-Jewish relations. Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, the AJC Committee's director of interreligious affairs, said afterwards, "Today, the guidelines and suggestions document received official endorsement by the Pope."

All the representatives agreed that the Pope had reaffirmed his commitment to dialogue. John Paul II emphasized the passages in the "guidelines" that say Christians should "strive to learn by what essential traits the Jews define themselves in the light of their own religious experience," adding, "I believe that both sides must continue their strong efforts to overcome the difficulties of the past, so as to fulfill God's commandment of love."

In condemning anti-Semitism, the Pope linked it to a more general "repudiation" by the Catholic Church, "in principle and in practice, of all such violations of human rights wherever they may occur throughout the world." Human rights is to be a main theme in the Pope's first encyclical, to be released Thursday.

Pope: 'Shalom, Shalom'

At the close of his speech, Pope John Paul II mentioned, "how often both Jews and Christians pray to God with the same prayers taken from the book which we both consider to be the word of God." He added:

"It is for Him to give to both religious communities, so near to each other, that reconciliation and effective love which are at the same time his command and his gift. In this sense, I believe, each time that Jews recite the Shema Israel, each time that Christians recall the First and Second great Commandments, we are by God's grace brought nearer to each other." The final words of the Pope to his Jewish visitors were: "Shalom, shalom."

Siegman told the JTA: "Perhaps we shouldn't strain interpretation by lending an exaggerated significance to each word spoken by the Pope. The real significance of this meeting lies in his having accepted to hold one so early. Before, his attitude to the Catholic-Jewish dialogue was a question mark. Now we know that he considers it important. Clearly we cannot overcome all differences overnight, but we know that he will encourage dialogue."

LONDON (JTA) -- The exclusion of Bank Rothschild of Zurich from an international \$33 million loan for Algeria earlier this year was not due to pressure from the Algerians themselves but from Jordanians and Kuwaiti members of the loan syndicate, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned. Neither the Algerian National Bank nor a private Saudi Arabian bank had objected to the inclusion of the Jewish-owned Rothschild bank, which is on the blacklist of the central Arab boycott office. However, Kuwaiti and Jordanian banks, sensitive to Palestinian influence in their own countries, forced the issue.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Boris Kalenderov, a 21-year-old Leningrad refusenik and unofficial Hebrew teacher, was arrested March 8, evidently on an accusation of "draft evasion," the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry has learned. He had been dismissed from the Polytechnical Institute when he sought to emigrate.