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March 5, 1979

"THE AYATOLLAHS, SHIITES, AND ISLAMIC REPUBLICS"
WINS RELIGION COMMENTARY
RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM* OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Reports last week of mounting efforts by the forces of Ayatollah Khomeini to establish in Iran an Islamic republic based on strict orthodox Islamic law has led to growing anxiety among many Jews, Christians, and others committed to democratic principles. Within recent days, people have been executed by Ayatollah's militia without due process of law, women's rights have been abrogated, media have been censored and "theocratized," and two million Kurds in Iran have been denied autonomy. The reasons for the anxiety become all the more profound if you look into the history and religious beliefs of the Shiite Muslim sect and the traditional role of the Ayatollah in Islamic tradition. There are two opposite tendencies within the Islamic world, one emphasizing the charismatic community of believers or umma, the other emphasizing the charismatic leader. The Shiite sect, which emerged as a Puritan group at the end of the caliphate in Medina around the year 661 CE, placed its highest value on the charismatic leadership of the Prophet Muhammed and in his son-in-law, Ali, and on his descendants, the present-day Ayatollahs. The Shiites believe that only the charismatic leader, not the community can be entrusted safely with the guidance of the people. In the Shiite tradition, the Ayatollahs are superhuman, semi-divine kings or monarchs who are infallible through "the guidance of Heaven" in both political and religious matters. Shiites, of course, are entitled like anyone else to believe what they want. But when their infallible, charismatic Ayatollahs claim that they have the guidance of heaven "to chop off the hands of America" and to carry out with the PLO a Jihad-holy war to destroy Israel, then Iran's problems become everybody's concern.

*Rabbi Tanenbaum, who is National Interreligious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee, presents a weekly religion commentary over WINS-Westinghouse Broadcasting System.

rpr

79-700-16

February 18, 1979

"THE AYATOLLAH AND THE JEWS"

WINS RELIGION COMMENTARY

RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM* OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

In the midst of all the turmoil and bloodletting in Iran, representatives of Ayatollah Khomeini undertook a series of efforts to reassure the deeply anxious world Jewish community that the remaining 65,000 Jews of Iran have nothing to fear from an Islamic Republic. Last weekend, two spokesmen for the Ayatollah in the United States, Shahriar Rouhani and Reza Sadre, met with Bertram Gold of the American Jewish Committee, and Daniel Mariaschin of the Anti-Defamation League and assured these Jewish leaders that the Islamic Republic of Iran would provide full civil rights - both political and religious - to Iran's Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians. The Ayatollah's representatives also said that Iranian Jews and other minorities would be allowed to leave the country and go where they wanted, including Israel. They expressed the hope that Iranian Jews would choose not to leave. Asked about the anti-Semitic statements published in 1970 in the Ayatollah's book, Islamic Government, the Iranian spokesmen claimed that these anti-Jewish canards had been inserted by the translator from Farsi to Arabic. Despite these assurances, Ayatollah Khomeini continues to make fanatic anti-Israel statements, and the Jewish leaders expressed concern that such constant hostility to Israel could well spill over into hatred toward the Jews of Iran among the frenetic street mobs. The new Prime Minister, Mehdi Bazargan, is known to be moderate and devoted to human rights, and the fateful question now is whether his pragmatic approach will prevail over Islamic extremists and Communist exploiters of chaos.

*Rabbi Tanenbaum, who is National Interreligious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee, presents a weekly religion commentary over WINS-Westinghouse Broadcasting System.

RPR

79-700-17

PROSPECTS FOR THE JEWS IN REVOLUTIONARY IRAN

A Foreign Affairs Background Memorandum

As the revolutionary movement spearheaded by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini appears to be successfully consolidating its power in Iran, the Ayatollah and his spokesmen abroad have stepped up their efforts to reassure the Jewish world that Iran's Jewish community has nothing to fear from an Islamic Republic. Such assurances are certainly to be welcomed, but there continues to be concern that the Ayatollah's repeatedly declared hostility to the State of Israel may spill over in the minds of the populace into animosity toward the local Jewish community as well.

On Sunday, February 11, rioting demonstrators broke down the gates surrounding the unofficial Israeli trade mission in Teheran, ransacked the reception room and ran up the Palestine Liberation Organization banner. The mob also attacked the Egyptian Embassy presumably because of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's readiness to make peace with Israel and the welcome he extended to the Shah.

During the frenzied climax of the revolution, countless weapons were seized by the masses from army and police arsenals. The Ayatollah has appealed for the return of these weapons, but the danger remains that these arms may be used by extremist elements of either the right or the communist left to foment political turmoil or to settle scores against individuals, especially members of minority groups, who benefited from the Shah's rule. Already a group of armed urban guerrillas briefly stormed the American Embassy on February 14 and held it until Khomeini's followers persuaded them to release the Americans to them. Some of the Iranian opponents of the Shah have received military training in PLO camps in Lebanon.

On January 20, Nives Fox, the European Representative of the American Jewish Committee, questioned Ayatollah Khomeini outside Paris concerning his attitude toward the Jewish community. The response, as translated by Dr. Ibrahim Yazdi, was that the Ayatollah had already two months earlier reassured a visiting Iranian Jewish delegation that they would have "full rights and protection, as did all other religious minorities, and need not fear for their future." This message was reportedly taped and distributed throughout the mosques in Iran. (Dr. Yazdi has just been named Deputy Prime Minister in charge of "matters of the revolution".)

On Saturday, February 10, Shahriar Rouhani and Reza Sadri, two representatives of the Ayatollah in the United States, were asked at a meeting with Bertram H. Gold of AJCommittee and Daniel Mariaschin of the Anti-Defamation League whether this meant full political as well as religious rights. Mr. Rouhani replied this meant "full civil rights -- both political and religious" and that these rights would also be given to other religious groups such as Christians and Zoroastrians. Such rights would not be extended to the Baha'is, however, since these were regarded as a political group rather than a religious minority. (The Baha'is, followers of an eclectic, universalist religion which split off from Islam in the 19th century, have been persecuted as heretics by fundamentalist Muslims. They found a haven and established their world center in Haifa. In recent years they were tolerated and given some prominent positions by the Shah in Iran.)

Mr. Rouhani, who is spokesman for Khomeini's Interim Committee to Oversee the Activities of the Iranian Diplomatic Corps in the United States, stated categorically that Iranian Jews would be allowed to sell their property and go wherever they wanted, including Israel. Until now Iranian Jews have been free to travel, but in recent months the Iranian government had imposed a limit of \$3,000 on the amount of assets that could be taken out. Mr. Rouhani expressed the hope that Iranian Jews would choose not to leave but would help to create the kind of society in which they would feel at home. This was in line with the report in January by Rutgers Professor James Cockcroft who was told by Ayatollah Khomeini that he had sent a message to Iranian Jews inviting their relatives "who under the influence of propaganda have left their country and are now in

Israel to come back to their country and participate in rebuilding the country." More than 65,000 Iranian Jews have settled in Israel.

Mr. Rouhani denied that Ayatollah Khomeini had made the blatantly anti-Jewish statements attributed to him in Islamic Government, a collection of lectures published in Arabic in Iraq in 1970. Rouhani contended that the anti-Semitic references had been inserted by a student who had translated the lectures from Farsi to Arabic. On several occasions Khomeini has cited approvingly the story of a Jew who won a legal case in medieval times against a powerful Islamic ruler. "Even the non-Muslims will be protected," Khomeini told visiting Western scholars and journalists in Paris. "They have the right of raising their voice against the most powerful person of the country and bringing him to justice."

On the Ayatollah's return to Teheran, the rabbis of the Jewish community went out to welcome him and were received cordially. The day after the successful overthrow of the Bakhtiar regime, Ayatollah Khomeini received a large delegation from the Iranian Jewish community and welcomed them warmly and again reassured them of full rights so long as they did not engage in "treason." This recalls the response provided by the religious leader of the holy city of Qum, Ayatollah Shariat-Maderi, who told Joseph Kraft last October that religious minorities would be treated equally with Muslims, "unless they become a fifth column working for interests outside the country. For instance, the Jews would be accepted as Jews, but not as defenders of Zionist aggression."

AMERICAN JEWISH

Ayatollah Khomeini has recently reiterated his opposition to Israel, although he has stopped short of offering Iranian military support to the Arabs in case of renewed Arab-Israel conflict. In May, he told Le Monde that "Israel has usurped a Muslim people's land" and in an interview published in Der Spiegel on January 22, 1979, Khomeini was quoted as advising the Arab states not to accept the State of Israel. As for his proposed Islamic Republic, Khomeini said, "We shall break off relations with Israel because we do not believe there is any legal justification for its existence. Palestine belongs to the Islamic space and must be returned to the Muslims."

Khomeini's view appears to move the dispute from the realm of a political controversy between two legitimate nationalist movements back to the medieval Islamic Weltanschauung in which the world is divided into Dar al-Islam (the abode of Islam) and Dar al-Harb (the abode of war). In the classical Islamic theory an area once ruled by Islam may not be relinquished to non-Muslim sovereignty and thus the idea of a permanent Jewish state or Christian state is abhorrent to traditional Islam. (It should of course be noted that although known as "the Jewish State," Israel is a pluralistic democracy in which non-Jewish citizens enjoy full religious, political, cultural and other basic human rights.)

One would hope that as the new Iranian government takes shape, the pragmatic approach of Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, who has expressed a desire for friendly relations with all states as long as they do not interfere in Iran's internal affairs, will serve as the model for Iran's foreign policy. The new government includes several Western-trained technocrats.

Mr. Bazargan, the man chosen by Khomeini as his prime minister, is noted for his thoughtful and moderate approach. As a founder of the Iranian Committee for Human Rights he is considered sensitive to the rights of minorities. As an engineer and teacher by training, he has experience in the world of practical affairs and has maintained good relations with both the secular and religious opponents of the Shah. Personally pious and dedicated to Islam, Bazargan has opposed extremism and has written books explaining how the traditional tenets of Islam may be reconciled with modern technological society. (Some Iranian observers contend that a Shi'ite Islamic state will prove more successful in reconciling modern technical innovation with traditional values than have Sunni Islamic states such as Saudi Arabia and Libya, since Shi'i Islam is reputedly more flexible in its range of interpretation of the Sharia, Islamic law, than is acceptable among the Sunnis.)

For the moment, the roughly 65,000 of Iran's 80,000 Jewish population who remain in the country are watching the new developments with a measure of hope but also with anxiety as to what the uncertain future may bring. (Their basic position remains as detailed in our previous reports.)

The future of economic and other relations with Israel is also very much in doubt. The cutoff of direct oil supplies to Israel is likely to continue unless there is a breakthrough in settling the Arab-Israel conflict. Israel has been diversifying its sources of supply and most of the oil no longer available from Iran is being made up by additional purchases from Mexico, the Sinai oilfields and other sources.

At present, anti-Israel sentiment in Iran is fed by reports that Israel supported the Shah and helped him train Savak, the hated internal security police. Forgotten is the monumental help provided by Israel for the benefit of the Iranian people, as for example the rehabilitation of the Ghazvin area which was devastated by a massive earthquake in 1963. An Israeli interdisciplinary community planning team, headed by Arye (Lova) Eliav, trained several hundred Iranian experts and together they created 300 model villages. In the Sistan area, near the Afghan border, Israeli agricultural experts helped train thousands of Iranians in modern methods of irrigation and introduced new varieties of cereal crops and helped develop modern poultry, cattle and dairy industries.

As the new government in Iran shifts its priorities to meeting the economic and social needs of the Iranian people, there would appear to be many fertile areas for technical cooperation between Iran and Israel, leaving aside political and ideological differences.

Much will depend upon how much influence the 73-year-old Mr. Bazargan will be able to wield within the new government and whether the pragmatic and moderate forces will win out over xenophobic nationalism and Islamic extremism within Iran as a whole.

February 14, 1979
Dr. George E. Gruen, Director, Middle East Affairs

79-960-27
A, COL, EJP, INT, NPE, NPL, REL

Marc Tanenbaum

memorandum

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

date May 18, 1981

to Area Directors and Executive Assistants

from George E. Gruen, Dir., Middle East Affairs, FAD *GEG*

subject Arrest of Haham Barukh Cohen-Sedeq and Others in Iran

Several Iranian Jews, possibly numbering as many as 10, have been arrested and are being held in detention in Sultanabad prison in Tehran. The group includes one of several rabbis in the city, Haham Barukh Cohen-Sedeq. He and his wife, who is also being detained, are in their late 50's or early 60's. They are the parents of 11 children.

No charges have as yet been made public, though it is known that the detainees have been active in Jewish communal affairs.

These arrests have caused widespread anxiety in the Jewish community. We are closely monitoring the situation for further developments and are seeking clarification of the situation.

In consultation and concert with other Jewish organizations we are actively exploring appropriate means to try to obtain their prompt release.

In view of the delicacy of the situation we advise extreme caution in commenting upon these matters in public.

THE FOLLOWING IS CONFIDENTIAL

While first reports of the arrests reached us on May 7, it was decided, after consultation with family members here, that it would not be helpful to make any public statements at this time. Unfortunately Knesset member Moshe Katsav, who is the head of the Iranian Immigrants Association in Israel, decided to hold a press conference. The New York Times of May 18, 1981 carries an Associated Press dispatch from Tel Aviv, citing Katsav to the effect that Iranian authorities had arrested 10 Tehran Jews, "including the city's chief rabbi, and charged them with helping to smuggle Jews out of the country." This report was also carried by the BBC and American radio stations. (Reliable sources inform us that Haham Cohen-Sedeq is neither the chief rabbi nor the acting chief rabbi.)

GEG/el

81-580-19

MILITARY VICARIATE
1011 First Avenue
New York, New York 10022

October 22, 1980

Office of the Vicar General

Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum:


On behalf of His Eminence, Terence Cardinal Cooke, it is my privilege to invite you to attend an Ecumenical Service to be held in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, on Sunday, November 2, at 7 p.m., to mark the anniversary of the taking of the American hostages in Iran. —

The program will consist of music, readings from the Sacred Scriptures and a brief address. Representatives from the families of the hostages plan to attend and local civic leaders are also being invited. At the same time, we have asked all of our chaplains of the Military Vicariate throughout the world to hold a special prayer service on the same day.

It would be appreciated if you would robe and take part in the procession. If you will be doing so, would you be kind enough to arrive at the Parish House, 14 East 51st Street, by 6:30 p.m.?

A note concerning your intention to attend, or a call to this office, 212-355-3457, would be gratefully received.

Faithfully,



+ John J. O'Connor
Vicar General

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
National Director
Inter-religious Affairs Department
American Jewish Committee
165 East 56 Street
New York, New York 10022

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RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM
NATIONAL DIRECTOR, INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
165 EAST 56TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10022

AMERICAN JEWISH

AT 5:30, FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, PRESIDENT CARTER ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT. YOU ARE RESPECTFULLY ASKED TO ACQUAINT YOUR PEOPLE WITH HIS STATEMENT AND TO URGE THEM TO ENGAGE IN THE TIME OF PRAYER HE REQUESTS.

THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

AS WE APPROACH OUR TRADITIONAL DAY OF NATIONAL THANKSGIVING, THE HEARTS OF ALL AMERICANS ARE HEAVY WITH CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF THOSE HELD HOSTAGE IN IRAN.

WE JOIN WITH PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHO ADHERE TO FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW. WE ARE UNITED WITH THEM IN SEEKING AN END TO ACTS OF TERRORISM AGAINST INNOCENT PEOPLE.

ON THANKSGIVING DAY AND DURING THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND, I ASK ALL AMERICANS TO MAKE A SPECIAL PRAYER AT CHURCHES AND SYNAGOGUES AND PLACES OF PUBLIC MEETING.

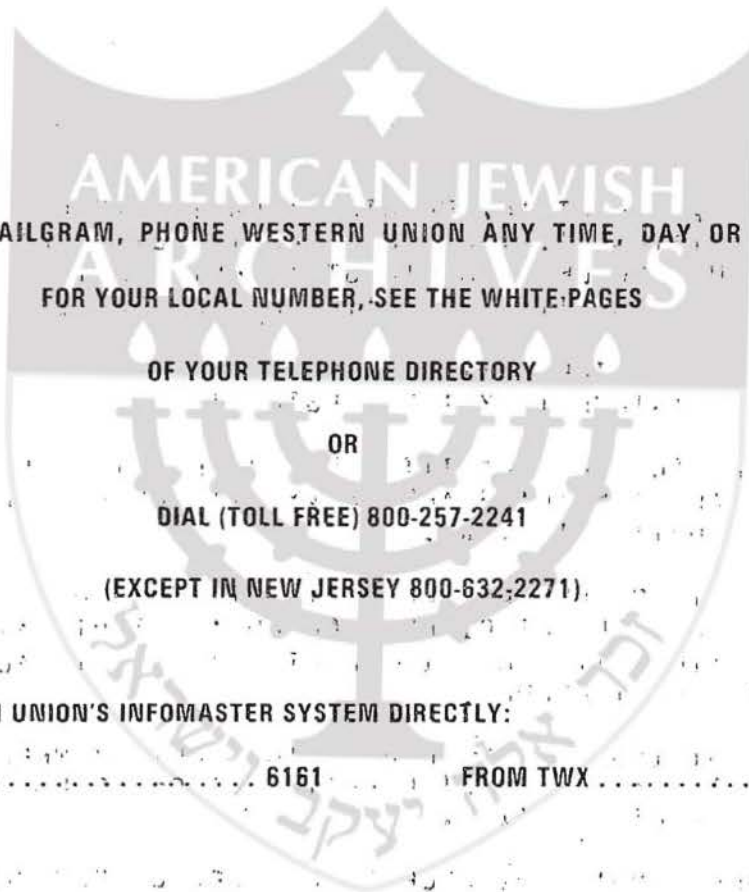
LET US SEEK GOD'S GUIDANCE IN OUR SEARCH FOR PEACE AND HUMAN BROTHERHOOD, AND PRAY FOR THE SAFE RETURN OF THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE THREATENED. MAY WE COME WITH GRATITUDE FOR OUR ABUNDANT BLESSINGS, AND HUMILITY BEFORE THE HEAVY BURDEN OF WORLD RESPONSIBILITY THAT OUR BLESSINGS AND POWER HAVE BROUGHT.

#

BOB MADDOX
THE WHITE HOUSE

22:04 EST

MGMCOMP MGM



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No. 217

DEPORTATION OF NABLUS MAYOR APPROVED BY CABINET COMMITTEE; SUPREME COURT HAS FINAL SAY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- The Ministerial Defense Committee decided today to deport Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus despite his reported willingness to make a public denunciation of terrorism. The final decision rests with the Supreme Court which issued a temporary injunction against his expulsion last week. But the ministerial action today indicated that at least a majority in the government is opposed to any deal and believes that the pro-Palestine Liberation Organization mayor must be deported.

News of that decision spread rapidly on the West Bank where the mayors of Bethlehem and Hebron promptly resigned, joining 16 other mayors and municipal council members who handed in their resignations yesterday in protest against the treatment of Shaka. Shaka remains in the Ramle jail where he was confined since his arrest last Sunday. His attorney, Felicia Langer, said he would begin a hunger strike.

Until this morning there was wide speculation that Shaka would be released and allowed to return to office on condition that he declared his opposition to terrorism and the loss of civilian life. Langer said her client was prepared to make such a statement. He was removed from office by the Military Government last week because of statements he made at a private meeting with a Defense Ministry official in which he allegedly condoned the massacre of 34 civilians in a terrorist attack on Israel's coastal highway in March, 1978. Shaka insists that his remarks were distorted and taken out of context.

Weizman Reconsiders

Defense Minister Ezer Weizman appeared yesterday to have had second thoughts about the wisdom of deporting Shaka. His comments in private and before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee indicated that he would have preferred to settle the matter quietly. But the Voice of Israel Radio reported this afternoon that Weizman reconsidered again and concluded that the government had no choice but to deport the deposed mayor. The report said it was Weizman himself who demanded that the expulsion order be carried out.

The decision was reported just as the Israeli and Egyptian working groups met in Tel Aviv for another round of talks on autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. (See separate story.) The chairman of the Egyptian delegation, Ahmad Izzat Abdul Latif, made a brief statement on the Shaka case. He spoke before the deportation decision was announced, expressing concern over its possible effects on the future of the autonomy talks. Haim Kubersky, head of the Israeli delegation, insisted that the Shaka case had nothing to do with the autonomy negotiations.

U.S. HAS 'NO COMMENT'

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- The State Department had "no comment" today on the resignations of 18 mayors of West Bank and Gaza

Strip towns in protest against the impending deportation of Mayor Bassam Shaka of Nablus.

The Department's chief spokesman, Hodding Carter, said "A causal step has been taken which led to the resignations and until the precipitating matter has been resolved, until the legal and political situation has played itself out," he would have "no comment." Carter also refused to comment on reports that the State Department has told Israel privately that it opposed its action in the Shaka case.

WOUNDED AMBASSADOR OUT OF DANGER

PARIS, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Israel's Ambassador to Portugal, Ephraim Eldar, shot by unknown gunmen outside his Embassy yesterday, was reported in good condition today following surgery at the Santa Maria Hospital in Lisbon. Hospital officials said the 44-year-old Israeli envoy was hit in the right leg and arm and was treated for fractures and a severed artery but is out of danger. The assassins, whose machinegun and grenade attack killed Eldar's 30-year-old Portuguese bodyguard and wounded three other persons, are still at large. Although several extremist groups have claimed credit for the attack, the Portuguese authorities have no firm clues yet as to the identity of the killers.

ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN WORKING GROUPS 'FRIENDLY' AS THEY DISCUSS MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING AUTONOMY

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Israeli and Egyptian working groups met at the Laromme Hotel in Tel Aviv today for another round of talks on autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Haim Kubersky, chairman of the Israeli delegation, opened the proceedings with a summation of the legal powers invested in the Military Government. This was an introduction to the agenda item dealing with the "powers and responsibilities" of the proposed autonomous authorities, a subject on which Israel and Egypt remain far apart.

The Egyptians insist that the autonomy council be given the widest possible authority while the Israelis want its powers strictly limited. The Egyptian delegation asked for time to study Kubersky's report and further discussion of the "powers and responsibilities" item was postponed until tomorrow.

The atmosphere of the talks was described as "friendly" and informal. The Israelis and Egyptians are on a first name basis and chat amiably during their coffee breaks, one source said. There is no sense of urgency. "There is no rush so why pretend there is," one observer said.

This afternoon's talks were devoted to the technical matters involved in holding elections for the autonomous authority. Kubersky told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that progress was being made and the two parties have gotten down to the discussion of details.

The present round of talks is to continue through next Tuesday. The United States is represented by James Leonard, deputy to Robert Strauss, President Carter's special envoy to the Middle East. Strauss is to be replaced shortly by Sol Linowitz, who is expected to visit the Middle East at a later stage. President Anwar Sadat of Egypt meanwhile continues to express optimism over the successful outcome of the negotiations. Asked about the basis for Sadat's

confidence, the chairman of the Egyptian working group, Abdul Latif, told the JTA that "He hopes a breakthrough will come sooner or later but we still have to work on it."

STRAUSS OPTIMISTIC AUTONOMY TALKS WILL HIT TARGET DATE

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Ambassador Robert Strauss, who is ending his duties as President Carter's special Middle East envoy to head Carter's reelection campaign, expressed "cautious optimism" last night that the Palestinian autonomy negotiations between Israel, Egypt and the United States will reach a successful conclusion by the end of May, the "target date" for the talks.

But he admitted, however, that the negotiations face "a great deal of trouble," although, he said "progress has been made," and "we are moving ahead" with the talks.

Speaking at a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Strauss said the gap between the Egyptians and Israelis on self-rule for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is that Israel objects to giving the proposed self-governing authority any legislative power while the Egyptians believe the Palestinians should have the ability to determine their own future. Premier Menachem Begin, Strauss noted, says that if the Palestinians will receive "legislative authority" they will legislate the creation of a Palestinian state. This is "a logical" concern on the part of Begin, he said.

Strauss, who will be going to the Mideast again this weekend before taking over Carter's reelection campaign, said that Begin "captured my imagination," and said he became the Israeli Premier's "defender around the world." Describing Begin as a "brave" leader who had to take bold decisions, Strauss said Begin faces complex internal problems. While President Anwar Sadat enjoys full support in Egypt, he observed, "the coalition government (in Israel) is very hard on Begin."

Strauss said that he believes that if the coalition government in Israel collapses, it will be for "something trivial" and marginal and not for the major issues concerning foreign policy. He said President Carter and himself are aware of Begin's internal difficulties.

Cites Closeness Between Begin, Sadat

Strauss pointed out that an achievement by itself is the "amazing" climate in which the negotiations on autonomy are taking place. "Begin and Sadat are not just friends ... their relations are deeper than that. The chemistry between the two men is unbelievable. You have to see it to believe it," Strauss told the more than 30 Jewish leaders present at the meeting, recalling that Sadat told him after one of their meetings before he (Strauss) flew to Israel, "Don't push Menachem like you did me ... he is too fatigued."

As for the Carter Administration's Mideast policy, Strauss said its "cornerstone" is that there must be a stability in the Mideast and that there cannot be a stability in the Mideast without a secure and strong Israel. He said President Carter has a "Zionistic"-like commitment to the State of Israel which grows from his "religious belief."

Strauss reiterated the Administration's commitment to Israel before several hundred businessmen at a dinner last night given by the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here.

ISRAELI AWARD TO BRZEZINSKI'S FATHER

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- A former Polish diplomat who sheltered Polish Jews from the Nazis at his consulate in Leipzig, Germany just before World War II was honored by Israel at special ceremonies at the Jewish Public Library here this week. Israeli Consul General Zvi Caspi conferred "special recognition" on Tadeusz Brzezinski, now a resident of Canada, who was Poland's Consul General in Leipzig during the 1930s.

He is the father of Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's National Security Advisor, who also lived in Canada as a young man. Caspi disclosed that his own father was one of the Jews who found asylum at Brzezinski's consulate. In presenting a citation to the elder Brzezinski "for his courage and intellectual integrity," Caspi said, "Mr. Brzezinski opened the gates of the Polish Consulate in Leipzig to Jews of Polish citizenship residing in that town and took them under his protection, among them my own late father. Little did I dream that I, as a representative of the State of Israel, would express gratitude to this man for his courageous act."

Caspi also conferred the "Righteous Gentile Award" on Mrs. Barbara Makuch who risked her life to save a Jewish child during the Nazi occupation of Poland. "The Jewish people," he said, "will never be able to erase from their memories the dramatic events in the lives of those who survived the brutalities of the Nazi regime. We, the Jewish people, have coined the tenet of the sanctity of human life and this tenet is inscribed on the medal and documents which I present today to Mrs. Barbara Makuch who has risked her life in order to harbor a young Jewish child during the German occupation of Poland."

Caspi concluded his remarks by expressing the "hope that the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights will not be a mere paper and that the world will find ways and means to object against inhuman treatment whether of Jews or any other minorities in the Gulags or for the remnants of the Jewish community in Syria."

LISBON ATTACK CONDEMNED

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress today condemned the attack on Ephraim Eldar, the Israeli Ambassador to Portugal, in which Eldar and three other persons were wounded and his Portuguese bodyguard killed. "The WJC strongly condemns the acts of terrorism committed in Lisbon Tuesday and deplores the injuries and loss of life suffered by innocent people," WJC president Philip Klutznick said in a statement issued here.

"We regret that events have so tragically confirmed the objections and the foreboding expressed to the Portuguese authorities by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, a member of the World Jewish Congress family, about the possible consequences of the Portuguese decision to permit the holding in Lisbon of a conference of solidarity with the Arab people and the Palestinian cause, at which PLO leader Yasir Arafat would be the central figure."

* * *

NEW YORK (JTA) -- "Sabbath of Peace" was judged best TV public service motion picture at the International Film and TV Festival of New York last week. The half-hour documentary on the universal significance of the Sabbath, narrated by Eli Wallach, was produced by the Jewish Chautauqua Society for television and group showings. The Festival's gold medal award was presented to Sylvan Lebow, producer of the film.

**MISSIONARY GROUP DROPS BID
TO GET ZONING EXEMPTION FOR
'CONGREGATION' NEAR PHILADELPHIA**
By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Beth Yeshua, described by the Philadelphia Jewish Community Relations Council as a group of "fundamentalist Christians masquerading as Jews," has cancelled a bid to buy a residential building for worship and a private school and dropped a request for a needed change in the zoning law.

Michael Masch, JCRC interreligious affairs director, said the group had an agreement of sale to buy a three-story mansion in Merion for \$210,000. Merion is a suburb contiguous to Philadelphia and is part of Lower Merion Township, an area heavily populated by Jews. The vacant building is up for sale by the estate of a wealthy couple.

An outpouring of protest at an Oct. 23 session of the Lower Merion Township Zoning Hearing Board forced the board to move a second session to larger quarters. The second session, scheduled for tomorrow, was cancelled when the "congregation" withdrew its bid to buy and its application to the zoning board, Masch told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

The group, which now meets in a hotel, asked the zoning board for permission to operate a house of worship and a day school for 12 children from kindergarten to ninth grade. The school, which operates under the name "Halutzim" (Hebrew for pioneers) is conducted in a private home.

Lawyers for the Merion Civic Association, in opposing the zoning petition, did not use the JCRC charge that the group was engaged in "deceptive practices" in the zoning hearing, Masch said. He said the main opposition complaint, supported by Jews and non-Jewish residents, was that the area already has several religious institutions, including an Episcopal Academy, a Jewish day school and two synagogues.

Jews, Christians Sensitized

But the lawyers used the issue of the "deceptive practices" indirectly by questioning at the hearing the credibility of the "congregation's" spokesmen, Masch said. He added he believed the group pulled out because of the possibility of a protracted and costly legal battle during which aspects of their finances would become public they preferred to keep private.

Masch said that the issue had "sensitized a great number of people -- Christian as well as Jew -- to the deceptive character of Beth Yeshua and the unethical nature of its attempts to seduce and entrap Jewish young people."

Masch said the "congregation" had been functioning in the area for about five years and had grown from 30 members to between 150 and 200. He estimated that about half of the increased membership was made up of Jews, particularly young adults.

He also told the JTA that Beth Yeshua is one of about 25 so-called messianic synagogues affiliated with the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America, which has its headquarters in Chicago.

He said the group was unique among missionaries to Jews in that it refused to use the word "Christ" or "Christian" in any of its programs. But, he added, while the group observes many Jewish rituals, it has altered their content to conform to Christian theology. He said that, according to the group's worship doctrines for Yom Kip-

pur, "Jeshua Hamashiach" is the scapegoat. Its members study the Hebrew Scriptures but they also study the New Testament, he said.

**90TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST JEWISH
SETTLEMENT IN ARGENTINA MARKED**
By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- The Argentine Embassy officially marked the 90th anniversary today of the founding of the first Jewish agricultural colony in Argentina by refugees fleeing persecution in Europe. A press release circulated by the Embassy recounted the history and accomplishments of the Colonia Moisesville in Santa Fe province, established on Nov. 14, 1889.

The founders were 824 Orthodox Jews from Eastern Europe who had arrived at Buenos Aires shortly before in the North German Lloyd steamer Weser from Bremen. The Argentine Ambassador to the U.S., Jorge A. Aja-Espil, said in a statement on that occasion that "Argentina will never forget the important contributions of its Jewish community. I am glad to join in commemorating the anniversary of the founding of that community."

The press release also quoted a statement by the Argentine Secretary of State for Culture in Buenos Aires, Dr. Raul Crespo Montez, praising the contributions of Argentine Jewry. It noted that a distinguished Jewish academician, Dr. Abraham Rosenvasser, was elected recently to the prestigious Bartolome Mitre Chair at the Argentine Academy of Letters.

The Embassy's release reported that ceremonies commemorating the founding of Moisesville were held at the Argentine Hebrew Society's headquarters in Buenos Aires. The theme was "A tribute to the founding fathers by their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren." The descendants of the original immigrants described the colony's early days. On display were tools, carts and furniture used by the colonists. A documentary film on the colony was shown.

CRUISES BETWEEN ISRAEL, EGYPT LAUNCHED
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- The first commercial travel link between Israel and Egypt will be inaugurated Dec. 19 with the beginning of a series of eight-day "peace cruises" between the two countries, it was announced in a press conference here today.

Amram Zur, president of the New York branch of Kopel Tours, the Israeli travel agency which is organizing the "peace cruises," said the ship will sail each Wednesday alternately from Eilat, the Israeli city on the Red Sea, and from Ashdod, the city on the Mediterranean. There will be intermediate stops in Alexandria, Port Said, the Port of Suez and Safaga, Zur said.

The eight-day cruise is priced from \$580 and up per person. The cruise ship will also function as a shuttle between Israel and Egyptian ports. One way transportation between Ashdod and Alexandria and Alexandria-Ashdod; and one way transportation between Eilat and Safaga and Safaga-Eilat will cost \$135 per person provided it is booked 60 days prior to sailing.

In addition to being the only regularly scheduled commercial link between the two countries, the "Melody" will be the first commercial cruise ship to travel through the Suez Canal. Zur said that the cruises make it "clear we are on the brink of a great new era in regional tourism."

BEHIND THE HEADLINESISRAEL'S VIEW ON TERRORISM BROUGHT INTO FOCUS BY SEIZURE OF U.S. EMBASSY IN IRAN

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- The seizure by Iranian students of the U.S. Embassy in Teheran and their holding of some 60 Americans hostage with the approval of the Iranian authorities is giving Americans a sharper focus on the meaning of terror, why Israelis are so staunchly seeking defendable borders and the means to defend themselves against what is now called the New Barbarism.

Despite the attacks and threats inflicted upon Israel since the Palestine Liberation Organization was formed, Israelis have been accused in the West of being paranoid and unreasonable in their quest for security.

Although terrorists have been striking in Germany, Italy and Great Britain, these events have apparently not affected the thinking or action of governments to stem the spread of the terroristic means of acquiring power, particularly in the Middle East and against Israel.

Analysts familiar with the politics of terror noted that the seizure of the Embassy in Teheran plus the shooting of the Israeli Ambassador to Portugal, Ephraim Eldar, in Lisbon, illustrates again that the enemies of democracy have abandoned the codes of civilized behavior and are intent on using any means to achieve their aims.

In discussing the fate of the Americans in Teheran, the State Department's chief spokesman, Hodding Carter said: "Central to our view, the first question before us is the release of the hostages. Their release is the major focus of our efforts and our policy. That task is paramount and overriding The vast majority of the nations understand that the hostages are held illegally and in contravention of international law. The violation is clear, the remedy is clear We have nothing to negotiate about. We have nothing before us."

Israel's Position Similar

Equally clear and similar, analysts immediately noted, has been the position of successive Israeli governments on dealing with terrorism. They pointed out that terrorists have forced upon Israel circumstances of defense unknown elsewhere and yet some governments in the West have bent their knees to the PLO and increasingly are showing respectability upon it.

The Lisbon shooting exemplifies how such treatment does not deter terror. They pointed out that Israeli diplomats even on European soil are targets for assassins and the Lisbon shooting came only one week after PLO chief Yasir Arafat opened the Palestinian Solidarity Conference in Lisbon and met the highest Portuguese officials.

Arafat, now in Moscow, is gaining recognition as a "responsible statesman," as he was called following the red carpet treatment given him in Vienna and Madrid. His men are being consulted in Istanbul by the U.S. special emissary Ramsey Clark on a possible way to rescue the Americans in Teheran -- Arab terrorists to deal with Iranian kidnappers.

Analysts say this is understandable but it indicates the grip of terrorism on civilization.

What this boils down to is, an analyst noted that the Iranians seek a legal process for their illegal acts and the PLO is no different. Summing up the outlook on spreading terrorism, a political analyst remarked that "The terrorists continue re-

vealing the nature of their hostility. There is similarity between Teheran and Beirut. Both are uncompromising. The position of the Iranians and of the PLO is that they make demands and those who live by the rules of civilized conduct must make the concessions."

15,000 JEWS FROM IRAN IN ISRAEL

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Leon Dulzin, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, revealed here yesterday that some 15,000 Jews from Iran have reached Israel since the takeover of that country by the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Addressing the biennial convention of the United Synagogue of America here, Dulzin also said that every effort through diplomatic channels was being made to "rescue the more than 25,000 Jews of Ethiopia, all of whom wish to emigrate to Israel," but the effort is being frustrated by the unwillingness of the Ethiopian authorities to even discuss the matter.

Calling on the American Jewish community to increase the voluntary migration of larger numbers of American Jews to Israel so as to help "in the fulfillment of the Zionist ideal," Dulzin also urged that intensive Jewish educational programs be coupled with innovative plans designed to "enhance the quality of Jewish life."

HOUSE URGES NUDEL'S RELEASE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- A resolution was approved in the House of Representatives yesterday urging the Soviet Union to allow Ida Nudel to emigrate to Israel to join her husband and sister there. The resolution, which was recently introduced by Rep. Edward Stack (D.Fla.), passed unanimously on a voice vote.

A similar resolution was also introduced in the Senate yesterday by Senators Harrison A. Williams Jr. (D.N.J.) and Charles Percy (R.Ill.), who is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The National Council on Soviet Jewry helped draft the resolution in behalf of the Russian Jewish woman who is at present in poor health in a Siberian labor camp. Mrs. Nudel was arrested in 1978 for hanging a banner from her Moscow apartment asking for an exit visa. She was sentenced to four years exile in Siberia.

NEGEV BASES TO COST \$1.4 BILLION

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14 (JTA) -- Congress has been informed by the State Department that "current estimates indicate" the relocation of Israeli air bases to the Negev Desert from the Sinai will cost slightly over one billion dollars.

Rep. Lee Hamilton (D.Ind.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee for the Mideast, has disclosed that the estimated cost is \$1.4 billion and not the previously estimated cost of \$1.5 billion.

The U.S. government has pledged \$800 million in grants towards the cost of the air bases. The figures were reported in a letter to Hamilton from J. Brian Atwood, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, who reported that the cost between the U.S. grant and the actual cost will be borne by the government of Israel.

* * *

TORONTO (JTA) -- The Toronto Jewish Congress reported that "Echoes of Children," the cantata composed by Ben Steinberg of Toronto as a tribute to the 1,500,000 children who were killed in the Holocaust, has won the prestigious Gabriel Award of the Catholic Association of Broadcasters and Communicators in the United States. It was commissioned by the Holocaust Remembrance Committee of the Toronto Jewish Congress.

DRAFT

STATEMENT ON IRANIANS IN THE UNITED STATES

The American Jewish Committee (readily understands and) shares in the sense of outrage, indignation and frustration on the part of our people and government over the appalling situation in Iran and the urgent need to find remedies for those who are being held hostage. We also believe, however, that America's response domestically must not violate the spirit of our own legal system. Hence we are troubled by President Carter's recent order to the Immigration and Naturalization Service to check the status of Iranians in this country and to begin deportation proceedings against those who lack valid visas, even as we are gratified that this order will be implemented with sensitivity for those who may be placed in jeopardy if they were to be returned to Iran.

It is one thing to penalize Iranian aliens who commit violations of our laws by deporting them to Iran. That should be done, and our existing laws are quite adequate to do it. It is quite another to deport Iranian aliens, solely for technical violations of our immigration law that are overlooked in the cases of aliens from other countries, as a device for striking back at the government and people of Iran. To do that is to create a double standard in immigration law enforcement on the basis of national origin, which smacks of collective punishment and which cannot be reconciled with our cherished principle that persons should be held accountable for their behavior as individuals, and not because of accidental membership in a racial, religious or ethnic group.

It is precisely at a time like this, when feelings are running

so high, that our government should be scrupulous to assure equal treatment under the law for all persons, and not seek reprisal or retaliation against innocent individuals. In the words of Senator John H. Chaffee, Republican of Rhode Island, "Because we are justifiably enraged at the actions of a particular nation, let us not, either as a country or as individuals, conduct ourselves in a demeaning manner nor lower ourselves to the tactics employed by those on the other side."

It is especially important that the United States government provide an example of protection of the rights of foreign nationals as a dramatic demonstration to our own people and to the world of the meaning of a free society ^{under the rule of law,} at the very moment when the government of Iran is giving the world a clear view of an oppressive and lawless one.

ההסתדרות הציונית של ארצות הברית



Zionist Organization of America

JACOB and LIBBY GOODMAN ZOA HOUSE • 4 EAST 34th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016 • (212) 481-1500

In Israel:
ZOA HOUSE
1 DANIEL FRISCH ST., TEL-AVIV
CABLES: ZOAHOUSE, TEL-AVIV

November 13, 1979

CABLES: ZIONISTS, NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

TO: ZOA LEADERS
SUBJECT: IRAN

We attach a copy of a telegram sent on November 12, 1979 by Ivan J. Novick, President of the ZOA to President Jimmy Carter relative to the plight of American citizens being held hostage in Iran. (Ivan J. Novick quoted in New York Times 11/13/79)


Please make certain that this is conveyed to your local media, as well as to the members of our organization who should know the reaction of the ZOA to the present situation.

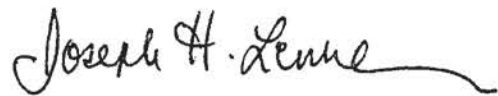
Prior to this sad episode, there was concern that Israel (and American Jews) would be held responsible for oil shortages and increased cost of fuel at some point during the winter period. Events now make it possible for us to convey in a very dramatic and specific way how the American people should view the situation from a broad perspective:

1. Iran represents the instability of Middle East nations. A policy of appeasement or acquiescence to blackmail by the United States is harmful to our nation's interest. America must be strong and self-confident.
2. Events reinforce our view that the United States requires strong allies in the Middle East, and that everything possible should be done to strengthen Israel.
3. The Arab-Israel issue and America's friendship with Israel did not create the present crisis in Iran. Hostility to the United States, as a bulwark of democracy by those nations influenced by the Soviet Union, must be understood.
4. The Administration must proceed with an energy program that is far-reaching and includes all options that will make our great nation self-sufficient.

Members of the ZOA who are affiliated with Labor Unions, Veterans Groups, Civic and Fraternal Organizations, etc., should become personally involved in the present public reaction to events in Iran. Now is the time to emphasize the points made above so that the American people will, from this unfortunate event, finally understand what is at stake! American policy in the Middle East should be adjusted accordingly.

Your follow up is urgently requested.


Paul Flacks
National Executive Director


Hon. Joseph H. Lerner, Chairman
National Public Affairs Committee

PF:JHL:meh
Attachment

TELEGRAM

PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

NOVEMBER 12, 1979

WE COMMEND THE ACTION YOU HAVE TAKEN IN ANNOUNCING THAT OUR NATION WILL DISCONTINUE THE USE OF OIL FROM IRAN. THIS FORTHRIGHT DECISION REJECTS THE THREAT OF OIL BLACKMAIL AND WILL RALLY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN UNITY IN SUPPORT OF YOUR PATRIOTIC DECISION. YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP IN THESE DIFFICULT DAYS WHEN THE SAFETY OF AMERICAN CITIZENS HAS BEEN JEOPARDIZED IN IRAN. YOU HAVE BEEN RESPONSIVE TO THE SPONTANEOUS REACTION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO REFUSE TO PERMIT OUR GREAT NATION TO BE HUMILIATED. WE PRAY THAT YOUR ACTION WILL SAFEGUARD THE LIVES OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS AND THAT WE WILL NOW GO FORWARD IN SEEKING THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS WAYS POSSIBLE TO MAKE OUR NATION SECURE AND ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENT.

IVAN J. NOVICK, PRESIDENT

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA