

AUTONOMY TALKS END

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israeli and Egyptian Ministers ended two days of talks in Cairo with both sides affirming their commitment to the Camp David process and their determination to continue the negotiations on the issue of Palestinian autonomy for the time being on the working level. But at the same time, both parties conceded that the "attempt at a breakthrough" on Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank and Gaza Strip had eluded them.

A joint statement by the ministerial teams at the close of the session said they had instructed the "working team" of Israeli and Egyptian civil servants to continue deliberations on a draft agreement "on understanding and principles for the ministers' consideration" as soon as they could. No deadline was set. The "working team" resumed meetings in Cairo and is expected to remain in session during the week.

The joint statement concluding the session instructed the "working team" to concentrate on the "scope structure and powers and responsibilities" of the proposed administrative council that

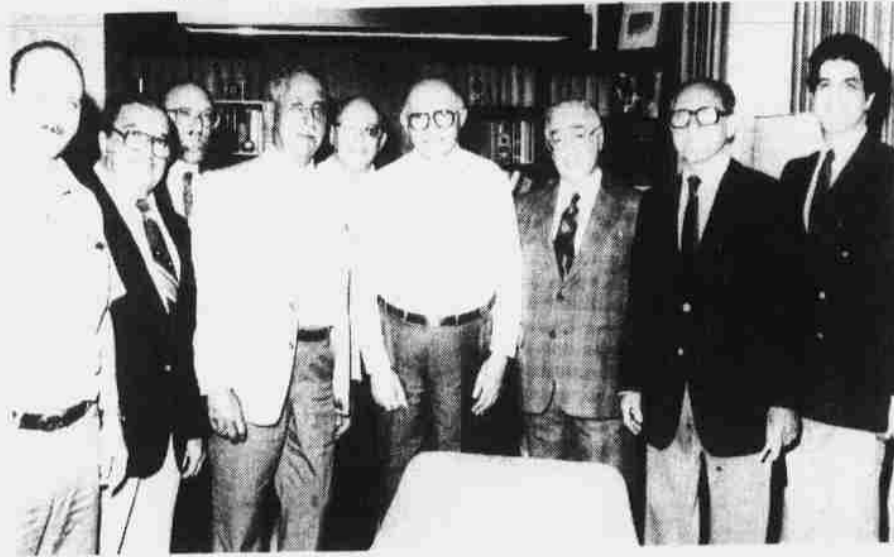
would be the self-governing authority in the territories under autonomy. But the working level delegates were told, at the same time, to give priority now to security and to consideration of legislative and regulatory power.

Israeli sources admitted that the shift of priority was agreed to because the negotiators had "exhausted themselves" on the scope, structure and powers issue without making progress. Israeli sources blamed the Egyptians for being "unyielding." They said Israel was "forthcoming" and had presented new

formulations which were "a step toward the Egyptian viewpoint."

These formulations were said to include readiness to enlarge the number of members of the administrative council -- Israel had originally suggested no more than a dozen -- and, more important, to invest the council with the character of an elected political leadership which the Palestinians could feel actually represented them rather than being merely a panel of administrative functionaries.

YOUNG ISRAEL LEADERS MEET BEGIN



LEADERS OF THE YOUNG ISRAEL MOVEMENT FROM BOTH ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES MET WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN IN HIS JERUSALEM OFFICE. THE YOUNG ISRAEL LEADERS WERE IN ISRAEL ATTENDING AN EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF SYNAGOGUES, AND NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG ISRAEL PRESIDENT, HAROLD M. JACOBS, WAS ATTENDING A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE OF THE JEWISH AGENCY.

JEWISH FEDERATIONS HAVE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

ST. LOUIS (WNS) -- Morton Mandel, the outgoing president of the Councils of Jewish Federations, addressing the 50th anniversary General Assembly, said he looked ahead toward a future "we can design for our children and grandchildren."

Mandel, in viewing the future, told the more than 2,500 representatives from the 200 Jewish Federations in the United States and Canada

which comprise the CJF that he visualized a closer relationship between Federations and synagogues; progress in areas like Jewish education, leadership and development in financial management; Federation leaders playing a major role in seeking to promote welfare and dignity of all; and working with others to renew and develop distressed neighborhoods.

"On the interna-

tional scene I look forward to a relationship with Israel that is on a much deeper level -- that is a people - to - people basis. This will be different from and better than what we have today," Mandel declared.

As one example of this new relationship, he cited Project Renewal which, "though still a young program, has every likelihood of creating a sound and rewarding people-to - people relationship." Along with rebuilding neighborhoods, he said, Project Renewal "may well be a major opportunity to weld together diaspora communities and Israeli communities."

Mandel stated that the Jewish Agency will

require continuing attention particularly if the present promise for change is to develop. "The current self - study of the Jewish Agency, in which our leaders are deeply involved," he said, "holds great potential for helping the Jewish Agency to be more responsive to the needs of the people it serves."

He viewed the future with "tough - minded optimism," based on a sober analysis of "both our assets and liabilities -- on the one hand, our impressive track record, and our great opportunities on the other, the dangers of a world in disarray, hostile forces overseas and assimilation at home."

Mandel disclosed that overall campaign results in the United States had definitely improved, since CJF and the United Jewish Appeal have been working more closely together. Furthermore, he said, Federations' endowment funds are growing at an astonishing pace and "we should reach \$1 billion dollars within five years."

BLUM CALLS FOR NUCLEAR FREE ZONE

UNITED NATIONS (WNS) -- Israel renewed its call for establishing a nuclear free zone in the Middle East through negotiations by the states in the area.

Addressing the General Assembly, which started a debate on Israel's attack on Iraq's nuclear facility June 7, Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, declared: "Israel believes that the most effective way to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to the Middle East is through the creation of a nuclear - weapon-free zone, in the region, modeled on the Tlatelolco Treaty, which is based on the initiative of Latin American states and on direct negotiations among them."

During his address, Blum repeated Israel's contention that in destroying the Iraqi nuclear plant "Israel was exercising its inherent and natural right of self-

defense, as understood in general international law."

Blum also said that over the last six years Israel has tried to have the Iraqi nuclear threat halted by diplomatic means, but without success. He said Israel conducted since 1975 diplomatic contacts with various governments "which Israel believed could avert the dangerous development in Iraq. In a document circulated here by Israel this week Israel named those governments as France, Italy and the United States."

The debate in the General Assembly was initiated by Iraq despite the fact that the Security Council met last June and discussed the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear plant. The Security Council at that time condemned the attack and called upon Israel to open its nuclear facilities to international Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspection.



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