



# daily news bulletin

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## STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS IT IS NOT U.S. POLICY TO VIEW PLIGHT OF SYRIAN JEWS AS INTERNAL-SYRIAN MATTER

WASHINGTON, May 13 (JTA)--The State Department offered today what was a virtual apology for an official letter stating that the plight of Jews in Syria was "an internal Syrian matter" and stressed that this was not American policy. Department spokesman Paul Hare, replying to questions by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, confirmed that such a letter had been circulated by the State Department in response to public inquiries on the subject of Syrian Jews, but said it has since been replaced by another letter.

"Our view, which is reflected in the current letter replying to queries in this subject, is that we are concerned about the fate of the Jewish community in Syria" and "we have made repeated and vigorous efforts at high level to help these people," Hare said. He added that "a peaceful solution to the current Middle East crisis offers the Syrian Jewish community the best opportunity to lead the kind of life free from restrictions and intimidation to which the U.S. believes everyone is entitled."

Hare could not say how long the original letter had been in circulation but believed it was only for "a short time." He said Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger did not sign the letter and noted that a member of the Secretary's party currently in the Middle East had said that Dr. Kissinger was unaware of it.

State Department sources explained that letters of this kind which resemble form letters are drafted by the Department's public affairs bureau in consultation with responsible political officers but not necessarily on the highest level. Kissinger apparently was made aware of the letter when a complaint came up in the Israeli parliament and directed that a new letter be drafted. The new letter expresses American concern with the plight of Syrian Jews, according to the State Department, although technically it continues to be an internal Syrian affair in the sense that the Syrians control the situation.

Last week, Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said in Tel Aviv that "we have been assured by a very senior personality in the State Department that the question of Syrian Jews would be taken up with the Syrians at every possible instance." The U.S. has no diplomatic relations with Syria. (Joseph Polakoff)

## KISSINGER BRINGS NAMES OF 3 POWs FROM DAMASCUS TO JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, May 13 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger brought back the names of three Israeli prisoners of war recently captured in Syria when he returned from Damascus last night. Kissinger told Premier Golda Meir he had been given the names by President Hafez Assad in what was regarded as a good will gesture.

The POWs were identified today as Binyamin Kiryati, an air force navigator who baled out over Syrian territory when his Phantom jet was shot down April 19; and Amikam Markus and Yosef Weitz, tank corpsmen captured by the Syrians May 2. Israel had asked Kissinger to seek infor-

mation from Syria on recently captured POWs. The two tankmen are believed to be among three Israeli soldiers captured in a Syrian commando raid on Israeli positions on Mt. Hermon.

## SQUATTERS TAKE OVER KUNEITRA

TEL AVIV, May 13 (JTA)--Israeli authorities were pondering today what to do about a group of Israelis who settled themselves in the abandoned Syrian town of Kuneitra on the Golan Heights last night in an apparent demonstration against an Israeli withdrawal from the town. So far no steps have been taken against the "settlers" who come from settlements on the Golan Heights, the Jordan Valley and the Huleh district.

They made their move apparently in response to reports that the government is prepared to pull back from Kuneitra, captured in the Six-Day War, as one of the concessions offered toward disengagement with Syria. Those reports sparked widespread protests and charges that the surrender of Kuneitra would imperil the safety of all Golan settlements. The Israeli plan was said to include safeguards for the settlements.

## 2 ISRAELI SOLDIERS WOUNDED

TEL AVIV, May 13 (JTA)--Two Israeli soldiers were wounded by Syrian shellfire today. Syrian artillery went into action at 7 a.m. local time, concentrating on Israeli positions in the southern section of the Yom Kippur War enclave. Fire was also directed at the northern section, particularly the Mazraat Bet Jan and Tel Shams regions and the area around Kuneitra. Israeli artillery and tank guns returned the fire.

Israeli air force jets staged a 25-minute attack early this morning on the "Fatahland" area of southeastern Lebanon to silence guns shelling Israeli positions on Mt. Dov. Lebanon admitted several days ago that its artillery was participating in the shelling of Israeli positions on Mt. Dov and Mt. Hermon.

## PROTESTS MOUNT AGAINST PLANNED DEMOLITION OF WARSAW GHETTO WALL

LONDON, May 13 (JTA)--The Polish Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association has sent a protest to the Polish government in Warsaw against the planned demolition of the last standing section of the old Warsaw Ghetto wall. The section of wall is a monument to the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943 and the Jews who died in it. Simon Frisner, Association chairman, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that their protest was sent directly to Warsaw because of the unsatisfactory response to an earlier communication sent through the Polish Ambassador in London.

Israeli Deputy Premier Yigal Allon told the Knesset in Jerusalem several days ago before leaving on a visit to London that the Israeli government was aware of reports that the Warsaw Municipal Council planned to pull down the wall. If this happens it will be "a blow against history, against culture and against Jewry," Allon said.

Joel Gang, a journalist and writer, told the JTA that he recalled that in 1945, the late Michael Sylberberg, then the chairman of the Jewish religious community in Warsaw, had proposed that the bricks from the Ghetto wall should be incorporated in Jewish public buildings in Palestine and throughout

the world as a tribute to the heroic revolt. But the idea never materialized, Gang said.

### KISSINGER AND NIXON IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER ON MIDEAST TALKS

WASHINGTON, May 13 (JTA)—President Nixon was pre-occupied yesterday with communications from Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger regarding Israeli-Syrian disengagement, the White House said today. Deputy press secretary Gerald Warren declined, however, to specify what messages the President received from Kissinger and what his instructions were to the Secretary of State. "The Middle East is very important to him (the President) and has taken up much of his time recently," Warren said.

(See P. 3 for Kissinger and Israel Cabinet talks.)

Warren noted that "as the talks develop" in the Middle East, "the Secretary sends back reports on specific points that need Presidential guidance and he sends back guidance to the Secretary." Warren refused to comment on reports that Kissinger has made progress toward a separation of forces between Israel and Syria. "Any specific assessment of progress must come from the Secretary's party. That's the proper place. I'm hopeful disengagement can be reached," Warren told reporters.

Asked about reports that Nixon has communicated directly with Israeli Premier Golda Meir, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat or indirectly with the Syrians, Warren replied, "We don't as a rule discuss Presidential communications from here." When newsmen suggested that the U.S. may be moving faster toward disengagement, faster than the situation warrants, Warren said, "Obviously we are interested in seeing the fighting stop and disengagement reached."

### RALLY AGAINST FORMER NAZI

NEW YORK, May 13 (JTA)—Metropolitan area survivors of the Riga Ghetto announced today that they would hold a demonstration tomorrow in Mineola, NY, in front of the home of Boleslav Malkowskis who has been identified by the survivors as a Latvian who collaborated with the Nazis in his native country during World War II. According to one of the participants in the demonstration, Malkowskis was sentenced to death in absentia by a Riga court in the mid-1960s as a "mass murderer." The informant said he was chief of the security police in Riga and that his name is currently on the list of the U.S. Immigration Service as one of the 33 persons suspected or accused of war crimes now living in this country.

Last month the U.S. Immigration commissioner, Gen. Leonard Chapman Jr., told an audience of survivors of Nazi mass murders that the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service was conducting "full-scale and comprehensive investigations" on 33 such individuals. Chapman, who made this statement at a news conference in the New York office of the service headed by Sol Marks, which has been named the National Control Office for Nazi Criminals, said that 7 of the 33 cases are in the New York area, two in Newark and the rest in various parts of the country.

The press conference followed a charge made earlier last month by Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D.NY) that at least 38 Nazi war criminals are being allowed to remain in the U.S. because the U.S. Immigration Service has neglected to move against them. She said that some alleged war criminals have been in this country almost 25 years and that 25 of the 38 have become naturalized U.S. citizens. There is no statute of limitation on deportation,

Rep. Holtzman said.

### GOLDMANN SAYS USSR INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING UNOFFICIAL DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, May 13 (JTA)—Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, said here yesterday that the Soviet Union was interested in establishing unofficial ties with Israel prior to any peace settlement with the Arab countries and might agree to resume formal diplomatic relations if sufficient progress toward a Middle East peace was made at the Geneva conference. Dr. Goldmann, addressing a press conference, urged Israel to reach a peace accord with the Arabs as soon as possible because, in his view, time is working in the Arabs' favor.

Dr. Goldmann did not name the sources of his information on the alleged intentions of the Soviet Union. He observed, however, that Moscow was interested in preserving Israel's existence to prevent the Arab states from swinging toward the U.S. He said he had a standing invitation to visit the USSR but would go there only if he is assured of meetings with top Kremlin leaders and guaranteed that his visit would lead to positive developments for Soviet Jews.

Dr. Goldmann said the time factor favored the Arabs because their influence and power was increasing, not only on the oil level but in the economic sphere throughout the world. He said the Arabs were investing billions of dollars in the U.S. and Europe, have control over large public relations offices and were engaging the services of political scientists as advisors.

### Explains Shift Of WJC Meeting Site

Dr. Goldmann referred to the forthcoming Plenary Assembly of the WJC which was to have been held in Holland last month but was cancelled for security reasons. A controversy developed over the choice of an alternate site, with many Zionists threatening to boycott the meeting unless it was held in Israel. Dr. Goldmann said today, however, that the nature of the "Plenary Assembly" precluded Israel.

He said that some delegations from Eastern Europe who might be permitted by their governments to attend a Jewish gathering elsewhere would not be allowed to go to Israel. Christian clergymen invited to take part in a symposium on the Church and Judaism may not want to go to Israel because of the political implications, Dr. Goldmann said, and similarly guests from "Third World" countries that have no diplomatic relations with Israel would not come. He said the WJC was maintaining contact with "Third World" figures and that relations between Judaism and the "Third World" was scheduled to be a symposium topic at the Plenary Assembly.

Dr. Goldmann suggested Washington, D.C. as a site for the gathering and said the best time would be next Dec. when the U.S. Congress is in recess.

### YITZHAK KIPNIS DEAD AT 78

LONDON, May 13 (JTA)—Yitzhak Kipnis, a distinguished Yiddish writer in the Soviet Union, has died in Kiev at the age of 78, Jewish sources in the USSR reported today. Mr. Kipnis was the author of a number of books and many essays and short stories and was a holder of the Opatoshou Prize. He spent four years in jail during the Stalin era.

BASEL (JTA)—A Swiss-Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been set up in Geneva to promote economic relations between Switzerland and the Arab world.

## ISRAELIS ARE NOT OFFERING ANY NEW CONCESSIONS TO THE SYRIANS

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 13 (JTA)--The Cabinet held a four-hour special session on disengagement this afternoon followed by a 90-minute meeting of the Israeli and American negotiating teams in which Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger participated. A terse communique released after the Cabinet session said that reports were heard from the ministers who have been negotiating with the Secretary of State and were followed by discussions. No decisions were announced, leading observers to conclude that the care-taker government is offering no new concessions to the Syrians.

No statements were issued following this evening's meeting between the Israeli and American negotiators. As he emerged, Kissinger was asked if he expected to reach an agreement before the end of the week, to which he replied sharply, "I make no speculations about this." Israelis who attended the meeting sounded no more hopeful. One highly placed Israeli source admitted that there had been a "worsening of the situation" but added, "There is still room for hope."

Apparently the Cabinet has refused to consider an Israeli withdrawal from the strategic hills surrounding the Golan Heights town of Kuneitra. Israel's offer, which Kissinger brought to Damascus last week, included a partial withdrawal from Kuneitra and two nearby villages but retention of the hills to safeguard Israeli settlements on the Golan Heights.

Kissinger returned from Damascus last night with Syria's further demands. A senior U.S. official in the Secretary's party said tonight that the concessions demanded by the Syrians were much smaller than those already made by Israel. He said the U.S. did not expect Israel to make concessions regarding the hills and did not believe Israel would agree even to hand them over to a United Nations force. However, he put the chances for a successful agreement at a little better than even and said the main obstacle was the disengagement line.

### Subtle, Intense Form Of Pressure

Kissinger met with Israeli leaders for three hours last night on his return from Damascus and had an hour-long meeting with Premier Golda Meir and the two negotiating teams this morning before the Cabinet convened. Neither side made any statement but observers here believe Kissinger urged Israel to offer new concessions to keep up the momentum of disengagement and save the talks from deadlock. Last night's meeting was particularly grueling, informed sources indicated. Kissinger warned that if no new concessions were forthcoming, his efforts were doomed, the sources said.

The fact that the Secretary was in Jerusalem--not Damascus--awaiting offers from the Israeli government rather than from Syrian President Hafez Assad was regarded here as a most subtle but intense form of pressure. Reporters who accompanied Kissinger to Damascus said they were told that the territorial issue was still the nub of the dispute and that Kissinger believes once that is solved, everything else will fall into place.

Hundreds of Israelis demonstrated throughout the day in front of the Premier's Office protesting any withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Ministers entering and leaving the building where the Cabinet met were jeered by the crowd. Most Cabinet ministers refused to make any comment after the session. Health Minister Victor Shemtov told

reporters, however, that he didn't think a disengagement accord would be reached this week but there were still chances for one at a later stage.

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur assured demonstrators this morning that Israel would not sacrifice the settlements for disengagement. But Dayan said that Israel would have to give up some territory in the interests of disengagement with Syria, just as it did in Sinai to reach a disengagement accord with Egypt. Information Minister Shimon Peres also met with demonstrators this morning and urged them to refrain from derogatory references to Kissinger. The protestors had been chanting, "Kissinger, go home." Likud leaders Menachem Begin and Shmuel Tamir led a delegation to express solidarity with the demonstrators.

Kissinger said on his arrival from Damascus last night that "some progress" had been made though no agreement was reached. He said he was prepared to continue his efforts "as long as there is hope of making progress on this round." The Secretary is due to fly back to Damascus tomorrow and it appeared today that he faces several more rounds of negotiations before further progress can be made.

## RABBIS MUST BE SHAPERS OF TOMORROW, SAYS NEW RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY HEAD

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., May 13 (JTA)--It is the duty of the American rabbinate to look upon themselves "as shapers of tomorrow, to look beyond the present so that we may not be victims of the future." This was the message given to the 1100-member Rabbinical Assembly by Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, its newly elected president, in a statement following his installation into office at the conclusion of its five-day 74th annual convention at the Concord Hotel.

"These are unprecedentedly stormy times for American society and very hazardous times for the Jewish people," Rabbi Waxman said. "The values and the structures by which we have lived are all being questioned. It is thus our prime duty today to remind our fellow Jews and our fellow Americans that there are permanent values learned over the ages which must be maintained as the enduring girders of any social structure." Rabbi Waxman is the spiritual leader of Temple Israel of Great Neck, NY for the past 27 years and author of many works of Jewish scholarship.

The convention referred to the RA's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards further action on the recommendation by Rabbi Judah Nadich, the RA's outgoing president, that the rabbinical organization of Conservative Judaism accept ordained women for membership.

Rabbi Seymour Siegel, professor of theology at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and chairman of the committee, told the convention that the RA has taken action in the area of women's role in the synagogue and ritual life "mainly because we have felt it ethically imperative to do so. This view of the relationship of the ethical to the ritual, the aggada to the halacha, is in harmony with Jewish tradition and the history of Jewish law."

The final decision as to whether women will be allowed to be ordained by the JTS is up to the seminary which sets standards for admission to its rabbinical school. Two other rabbinical seminaries which have alumni in the RA--the Reform Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College--permit the ordaining of women, Rabbi Siegel noted.

## DORON ASSAILS SYRIA, IRAQ FOR THEIR TREATMENT OF JEWS

UNITED NATIONS, May 13 (JTA)--Ambassador Jacob Doron denounced the governments of Syria and Iraq for their treatment of their Jewish minorities and accused the Soviet Union of applying new restrictions on Russian Jews seeking to emigrate. Doron spoke Friday as an observer at a session of the Economic and Social Council dealing with human rights. Reviewing the problems of the Jewish community of Syria, which he said now totalled about 4500 persons, he stated they had been for many years "the victim of humiliating persecution and oppression in every sphere of life," including "discriminatory restrictions, arbitrary arrests, tortures and even mysterious murders."

Doron cited as examples of the condition of Syrian Jews the recent rape and torture murders of four Jewish women in Damascus and the arrest of four men, two of them Jewish, for the crime on false charges. He also reported the arrest of 11 Jewish women in Aleppo who he said were taken to Damascus and tortured to obtain information on relatives who had escaped from Syria.

Doron charged that in Sept. 1972, Iraq plainclothes police and security forces started picking up Jewish men and women from their homes and from their places of business. During the next seven months, he said, a total of 18 Jews, including three women, were abducted and have not been heard from since.

He cited the machine-gun murders in April, 1973 of five members of the family of Reuven Kashkush, including the father, wife, two sons and a daughter, in their home at midday. Doron said the government of Iraq "must at least show some elementary decency" by providing the next of kin of the abducted 18 Iraqi Jews with "an unequivocal answer" as to their fate, and to provide information on the whereabouts of the bodies of the Kashkush family "and others who have perished," so they can "at least be brought to proper burial."

## Visas For 1500 Soviet Jews Rejected

Reviewing the problems of Soviet Jews seeking exit visas, Doron said there were currently "at least" some 1500 prominent Soviet Jews whose applications for exit visas for Israel have been continuously rejected and the applicants subjected to repeated harassment. He termed "most distressing" the problem of some 40 Jewish prisoners "whose only offense" was their "ardent desire to return to their ancestral homeland by exercising their basic human right to leave the Soviet Union."

Doron said that there had been "a substantial decrease in the number of exit permits granted in the months of Jan., Feb. and March of this year" and that some 120,000 applicants were now waiting for their visas. In recent months, he said, there has been a cut in even the "meager number" of exit permits granted to Jews with university degrees or professional skills.

"The latest bureaucratic 'invention' is the 'disappearance' from their offices of the regular staff of the ovir," Doron said. "This compels Jews to wait for weeks and sometimes months, for the chance of merely presenting their requests for emigration visas. For example in Kishinev only one ovir official remained on duty last month, charged with the task of dealing with requests for exit visas of over 1800 families." Thus, the Israeli diplomat noted, the Soviet authorities "kill two birds with one stone--they deliberately delay

the presentation of applications for exit visas, and then claim that 'fewer Jews' are now applying for immigration."

## FOUR GENERATIONS OF SOVIET JEWS TO SETTLE IN CHICAGO AREA

CHICAGO, May 13 (JTA)--A Soviet Jewish family from Odessa, ranging in ages from 2 to 76, began settling down here this weekend after being greeted by the press and Jewish community leaders upon their arrival at O'Hare Airport last Thursday. The family, first with four generations intact to resettle here since Soviet Jewish migration began in 1970, were brought to this city by United HIAS, a Jewish United Fund-supported agency. They were met at the airport by JUF leaders Leonard H. Sherman and David Smerring.

News and television cameras recorded the arrival of Shieva Visitsky, 76, Roman Bromberg, 66, Dvoira Yasnogorodskaya Bromberg, 59, Anatoli Visitsky, 47, Maria Bromberg Visitsky, 41, Osip Visitsky, 17, Alla Visitskaya Bergman, 21, Michail Bergman, 27, and Alexander Bergman, 2. Also on the flight was Smil Tsaskin, who was reunited with his wife, Sana, who arrived in Chicago Oct. 1, 1973.

Though tired, the family answered questions through an interpreter from the Jewish Family and Community Service, which will assist them in resettlement. When asked why she emigrated, Mrs. Visitsky, Alexander's great grandmother, replied: "I want to be with my family. When I die I want to be buried where my children can cry over my grave." Her daughter-in-law, Maria, wept when she got off the plane. She told the interpreter that she cried for joy, that she was thrilled to be in America and that all her life she had hoped to come to this country. "Life in Russia is very difficult," she said. "That is all I can say. I have cousins who are still there."

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATES OF BEN GURION UNIVERSITY OPENS OFFICES IN N.Y.

NEW YORK, May 13 (JTA)--Establishment of national offices of the American Associates-Ben Gurion University of the Negev at 342 Madison Avenue, was announced by Lawrence Phillips, president of Phillips Van Heusen Corp., who is acting chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Associates. The tax-exempt organization is serving as liaison between the American community and Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel's newest and fastest growing institution of higher education. The university's student body has increased from 1300 in 1969 to 3500 presently.

In making the announcement, Phillips pointed out that Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel's only regional university, is already making major contributions to the economic growth of the Negev, which covers some 60 percent of Israel's area, and to the progress of the people who live there. He emphasized that more than one-half of the population of the Negev consists of Sephardic Jews and recent immigrants from the Soviet Union. Phillips also noted that 25 percent of the university's students are of Sephardic origin, and this percentage is steadily growing.

Among the leaders of the American Associates, Phillips said, are Abraham Borman of Detroit, Arnold Forster of N.Y., Joseph Meyerhoff of Baltimore, Max Ratner of Cleveland, Sam Rothberg of Peoria, Ill., Mr. and Mrs. Nate Shafran of Cleveland and Dr. William Wexler of Savannah, Ga. "By 1980 the university hopes to have a student body of about 10,000," Phillips said, adding, that this would involve major increases in scholarship and other aid to students.