



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036

© 1974, Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc.

Vol. XLI - 57th Year

Thursday, August 1, 1974

No. 147

NAHAL INCREASES MILITARY TIME

TEL AVIV, July 31 (JTA)--As part of the increased preparedness of the military in the wake of fears of a renewed war by the end of the year, the Nahal units have been ordered to increase the time spent on military exercises. Nahal is a corps of the army whose members live on border settlements devoting part of their time to agriculture and part to military defense. New methods have enabled the time devoted to agriculture to be shortened.

Meanwhile, the army has put a priority in readying tanks, armored cars and other vehicles for combat. Reserves, who are garage mechanics in private life, have been called up to beef up the regular maintenance units. A visit to a maintenance unit showed that each tank needs between 800 and 1000 working hours to put it into service. In addition to the tanks damaged or over-used during the war, necessary alterations are being made on the hundreds of Soviet tanks captured in the Yom Kippur War.

IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST NIXON DOWNPLAYED IN ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 31 (JTA)--The news of the historic action of the House Judiciary Committee in recommending the impeachment of President Nixon was received in Israel with interest and concern but not with the attention so momentous an event deserved, observers here agreed today. They attributed the relatively low-key reaction here to a welter of problems suddenly faced by Israelis, notably the unsuccessful attempt by a group of Orthodox Jewish families to establish an illegal settlement near Nablus in the West Bank over the weekend.

Israelis also were grappling with problems of energy shortages, a partial strike by media workers which has curtailed radio and television broadcasts, and warnings of the possibility of a new war breaking out toward the end of the year.

As has been the situation since Nixon's Watergate troubles began more than a year ago, the government has maintained total silence, a correct attitude toward what is considered at the official level as totally an internal American affair.

The proceedings in the House Judiciary Committee have failed, to date, to evoke any editorial reaction from any of the major newspapers. Man on the street comments also have been limited to such remarks as, "You know, he is the best President we ever had in the United States," and, "After all, had it not been for Nixon, we might not have received what we did in the Yom Kippur War"--a reference to the President's quick action in providing emergency airlifts of urgently needed military equipment to Israel.

Other Israelis simply shrugged their shoulders and said, "It's an American affair altogether. Let them solve their problems. We have enough on our hands with Jordan, Egypt, Syria--and the mortality rate in traffic accidents." Israeli officials reported one of the worst weeks in such accidents, with the number of deaths reaching 30, a record.

Some Israelis, reportedly not very many, are prepared to accept an impeachment if the President is proved to be really involved in the Watergate affair. But the general popular view seems to be, according to observers, that the impeachment procedures have not been completed and that it is better to wait and see. But, in terms of Israel's needs, there seems to be no question among Israelis generally that Nixon has been a good President.

SUBSIDY TO DUTCH-ISRAEL COMMERCE CHAMBERS ENDED BY THE NETHERLANDS

AMSTERDAM, July 31 (JTA)--The Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs has decided to discontinue an annual subsidy of 45,000 guilders (about \$18,000) to the Central Dutch-Israel Chambers of Commerce located in The Hague and Tel Aviv. These funds are usually used for the promotion of Dutch-Israeli trade. A spokesman for the economic affairs ministry said the decision was taken for "economizing reasons." It will go into effect as of Nov. 1.

The decision will mean the end of both Dutch market research in Israel and publicity for Israeli products in The Netherlands. Trade between the two countries now amounts to nearly 200 million guilders (about \$80 million) yearly. The Netherlands imports from Israel mainly citrus fruits, textiles, diamonds, chemicals, bromides and spare parts for computers and automobiles. Dutch exports to Israel include agricultural products, food products, naval construction and electronic equipment.

KNESSET BACKS RABIN ON GOVERNMENT ACTION IN OUSTING SEBASTIA SETTLERS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 31 (JTA)--The Knesset, by a 55-46 vote today, supported the government's policy in removing the 150 persons who attempted to establish a settlement in Sebastia near Nablus. During a long, heated debate Premier Yitzhak Rabin stressed that the Sebastia incident was not an argument over the Jewish right to the Land of Israel, but rather over the foundations of the democratic system.

"Our right to this land is indisputable," Rabin said in an opening speech to a Knesset session devoted to the affair, but "in the State of Israel the procedures of the rule of law shall be maintained and no one shall be permitted to violate them. I regard this event as a test of the inner strength of Israeli society, and not as a test of strength for the Israel Defense Force. I am glad that we have saved ourselves pain and shame--and perhaps even more."

Rabin added that the government would work for the continuation of settlements, but "in accordance with the decision that the government of Israel will adopt."

A group of 35 families evaded an army cordon last Friday in an attempt to establish a settlement at Sebastia. The government ordered them out but did not act, first because of the Sabbath and then Tisha B'Av. The settlers, who were supported by members of Likud, the National Religious Party and the Aguda faction, agreed to leave Sunday night to avoid a clash with the army, but stressed they were going against their will.

Rabin disclosed that in the meetings he had with the settlers prior to their act, practical proposals

were made for other locations where there was sparse population and needed reinforcement. They were promised consideration of specific proposals.

Accomplished Facts Intolerable

Rabin accused the settlers of being determined to impose their plan on the government. "The people knew that the government would use its authority, and nevertheless they believed that they would create an accomplished fact and the government of Israel would say amen."

He challenged the settlers and their supporters to influence the government by the ballot box, by Knesset decisions, and by public opinion, but "not by deeds which undermine the foundations of our regime." Rabin called on the Knesset to support the policy "which provides a guarantee for the maintenance of the rule of law and the authority of the administration and the Knesset."

Rabin's position received support from former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, who told the Knesset that while he favors Jewish settlement in the West Bank, the place to challenge the government's policy is in the Knesset and not in the administered territories.

Likud leader Menachem Begin praised the Samaria settlement in comparison with the "incitement" against it. Somebody is trying to turn things upside down, he said. Settlements in Samaria and Judea are described as irresponsible, whereas Judea and Samaria without Jews is described as responsible, he declared. "I believe the majority of the people of Israel are convinced that keeping Judea and Samaria without Jews is the record of national irresponsibility."

EURO-ARAB JOINT COMMISSION APPROVED

PARIS, July 31 (JTA)--Plans for a permanent joint commission to develop long-term economic cooperation were approved here today at a meeting of the nine-nation European Common Market and the 20-nation Arab League. The commission is scheduled to have its first meeting in Nov.

French Foreign Minister Jean Sauvagnargues, who led the talks for Euromart as current chairman of the European Community Council of Ministers, said the agreement was an extremely important "political fact." Mahmoud Riad, Arab League Secretary-General, said the "Arab world" was trying to build a strong base for economic development by combining European technology and Arab capital.

Observers said that the European community, which depends heavily on Arab oil for energy, hopes that offering long-term technological aid to the Arab world will prevent interruption to oil supplies, such as that which occurred during the Yom Kippur War, when the oil-producing Arab nations reduced or halted crude oil shipments to European countries. Even after the oil boycott was ended, soaring oil prices led the European community to seek the agreement with the Arab League reached today.

WOMEN WANT TO JOIN CIVIL GUARD

TEL AVIV, July 31 (JTA)--The general secretary of the Working Women's Council, a division of the Histadrut, has asked that women be included in the Civil Defense Units. Tamar Eshel, the council's general secretary has told Premier Yitzhak Rabin that her organization, which includes a half million women, would be ready to help recruit and train women willing to become civil defense guards.

The Working Women's Council, which is linked to the Pioneer Women abroad, has resolved that

the place of women is with their husbands within the civil defense framework. Mrs. Eshel said. "We are witnessing in the seventies a regression of the process of integrating the woman in the country's life, including the defense network," she said.

ISRAELI SUPPORT FOR CHRISTIAN SCHOLAR

JERUSALEM, July 31 (JTA)--Several prominent Israelis have come out in support of Dr. Douglas Young, president of the American Institute of Holy Land Studies, who has been accused of missionary activities in the last few weeks. The American Institute of Holy Land Studies is an American secular educational institution designed to teach the history, geography, culture and language of Israel and, by this means, counteract anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism in Christian communities.

The Institute, which has carried out educational programs on Mt. Zion in East Jerusalem since 1959, recently found itself involved in a property dispute with the Diaspora Yeshiva, also on Mt. Zion. According to Jerusalem police, the yeshiva students broke through the main gate of the Institute and forcibly resisted police attempts to oust them. Fourteen yeshiva students, headed by the leader of the Yeshiva, Rabbi Mordechai Goldstein, were arrested.

This happened a month ago and the matter is now before the court. Meanwhile, a public campaign has been launched against Dr. Young and his Institute by a "public committee" whose spokesman and apparent organizer is Rabbi Arye Julius, a former aide to Rabbi Meir Kahane.

In a press conference some two weeks ago Rabbi Julius and Rabbi Goldstein charged that the Institute was a missionary outpost. Dr. Young denied the charge at a press conference this week. Mayor Teddy Kollek wrote him a letter saying that extremists had made him the target of an ugly campaign. "I am disgusted at the slanderous accusations they have made," Kollek wrote.

Dr. Moshe Bernard Reznikoff, director of the American Jewish Committee here, described Dr. Young as "a sincere and devoted friend of Israel. The current campaign against Dr. Young and his school has no foundation in fact and may seriously impair Israel's image both here and abroad."

Yosef Emanuel, secretary of the Israel Interfaith Committee, said that the architects of the campaign were trying "to blackmail public opinion to their side by playing on the missionary issue. A statement supporting Dr. Young was published by the Interfaith Committee leadership, including Prof. Shemaryahu Talmon, the noted Bible scholar, and Dr. Andre Chouraui, the historian.

BUENOS AIRES (JTA)--Employees of the Argentine Keren Hayesod have been staging a slow-down to protest against what they claim are low salaries and lack of advancement. In an advertisement in the Jewish weekly, "Mundo Israelita," some 50 administrative employees said: "Our demands have not been listened to and have been delayed." The slow-down and sit-down strikes have been going on for 16 days completely paralyzing the KH here. Intensive efforts are being made to solve the situation but up to now the employees have not accepted any of the offers made.

SOFIA (JTA)--The Bulgarian drama and theater competition has awarded first prize to Jewish playwright Dragomir Assenov for his play "Journey Towards Truth," which is enjoying great success throughout Bulgaria.

CREDIT FREEZE IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, July 31 (JTA)—In another measure to fight inflation, the Bank of Israel has ordered the nation's banks to cut back on the amount of credit they have been giving out. No date has yet been set for the new regulation and the amount and type of credit frozen will be decided jointly by the individual bank and the Bank of Israel.

The decision for the new measure was made because the amount of loans the banks have been making has considerably exceeded the rate of deposits, causing a constant flow of money into the economy. Up to now, the banks have been able to give credit according to their liquidity rate, the sum total of their deposits. This figure varies from day to day and so is difficult for the Bank of Israel to control.

Despite heavy fines by the Bank of Israel, the nation's banks have been exceeding the credit regulations because of customer pressure. The amount over the regulations has exceeded IL 900 million during a time when bank deposits have dropped IL 400 million. The first expected to feel the new pinch are small depositors who will no longer be able to make overdrafts on their accounts. But business will also be hit except for those industries which are involved in export. These firms will continue to get credit on special terms.

The new regulations come after a two percent increase in the rate for loans were put into effect two weeks ago as part of the government's efforts to combat inflation.

Israel-British Bank Still In Trouble

Meanwhile, an offer to purchase the failed Israel-British Bank by an international consortium was withdrawn after the prospective buyers said they could not meet the Bank of Israel conditions for the transaction. The Israel-British Bank, which is still under the Bank of Israel control, is still up for sale for another nine days. A Tel Aviv District Court earlier this week named lawyer Ezra Goddard as receiver for the bank. Goddard said the bank had 10 days to find a serious buyer.

The first offer—and so far the only one—came from an international consortium headed by Dr. Tibor Rosenbaum, the owner of International Credit Bank in Switzerland. The Bank of Israel said the government would underwrite \$25 million of the Israel-British Bank's debts for anyone willing to buy it, but the foreign group had already announced it was not interested.

In the meantime, the Bank of Israel is reportedly determined to underwrite losses of the British branch of the bank, but no official stand had been adopted. The Supreme Court overruled Monday a lower court's decision and decided that Yehoshua Bension, former manager of the Israel-British Bank should remain in custody eight more days. Bension was arrested two weeks ago on suspicion of embezzling funds from the bank.

ISRAELI SUGGESTS UNIFICATION OF JEWISH GROUPS IN NEW YORK CITY

NEW YORK, July 31 (JTA)—Although the Jewish community of this city is one of the biggest and most effective centers of Jewish strength in the world, the maze of Jewish organizations lacks an important unifying factor, Benjamin Abileah, Deputy Consul-General of Israel to New York told the JTA today. Abileah

spoke after a luncheon sponsored by the American Zionist Federation, which honored him at the completion of his 11-month tour of duty in New York.

"I was critical of the situation in New York when I first came here," said Abileah, "and although the city's Jewish community has responded promptly, warmly and effectively to Israel's needs this year, the unifying factor is not there. There is a need for a city-wide coordinating committee. It would help this community's work become even more effective."

Abileah will return to Israel next Tuesday after five years in the United States. Before becoming Deputy Consul-General last year he served for four years as the Consul for Information for the Southwest, based in Los Angeles. He is returning to Israel after holding four foreign-based posts in succession. Abileah's successor in New York is Amos Ganor.

KISSINGER SAYS NEXT STEP IN MIDEAST PEACE WILL NOT BE DECIDED UNTIL FURTHER MEETINGS WITH ARABS, ISRAELIS

WASHINGTON, July 31 (JTA)—Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said today the next step in Middle East negotiations will not be decided until he meets with officials from Arab countries and then again with Israeli officials. Kissinger made his remarks as he and Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon emerged from a three-hour working lunch at the State Department.

Kissinger said that he and Allon had reviewed bilateral and other agreements and had made a great deal of progress for peace in the Mideast. He said he plans to meet with Allon again before the Israeli official leaves Washington.

Asked about the next step in the negotiations, Kissinger said he could not comment "because we cannot make a final decision before our talks with the Arab nations, Egypt, Jordan, etc., and then again with our Israeli friends. Then we shall work out procedures for peace in the Middle East."

Allon was tight-lipped and refused to comment even on whether he had held his scheduled meeting with Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger this morning. Some observers viewed this as evidence that the Israeli official has experienced some tough talks in his meetings with the Americans despite Kissinger's remarks today that his discussions with Allon took place in "an extremely cordial and friendly fashion."

Arab and other Israeli officials, including Premier Yitzhak Rabin, are scheduled to come to Washington during the next month to discuss Mideast peace and other issues.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION HALTED

TEL AVIV, July 31 (JTA)—Unless there is a change in the government's policy, visitors to Tel Aviv will find several huge construction projects standing unfinished in the middle of the city. The government's decision to freeze all non-essential building as part of its new economic policy has left the new Tel Aviv bus station with only one and a half floors built.

In the center of Allenby Street, one of the city's main business areas, only the first three to four floors of a huge 14-story shopping center-hotel-office building complex is completed. Several similar projects, which were also being built with foreign investments, also stand half completed. However, local contractors have decided to continue working until they receive an official notice ordering them to stop. They are demanding contracts for new immigrant housing to replace the construction projects they must now abandon.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES CHANGES IN THE POLITICAL SCENE

By Uri Benziman

JERUSALEM, July 31 (JTA)--Last week four Knesset members representing different political parties issued a memorandum calling for the widening of the parliamentary base of the Israeli government. Shalom Levin and Arie Eliav of the Labor Party and Dr. Benjamin Halevy and Zalman Abramov from the Likud bloc stated that considering the challenges facing Israel in the near future a broad-based government is essential.

The meeting of the minds of these rival politicians was not accidental. It reflected a profound process that is part of the current Israeli scene. The present political divisions appear to be temporary. Latent trends are discernible in most of the parties, threatening to transform the present political formations. The political factions represented in the Knesset were established long before the Yom Kippur War; the significance of the war and its consequences had no substantial impact on the political structures or on the composition of the parties' leaderships.

(Likud was formed before the war as a bloc of Herut, the Liberal Party, the Free Center and the State List. While the "old guard" of the Labor Party was replaced by younger persons the new leaders were new only with respect to the roles they were playing, not new to the political life of Israel.)

With the passing of time, Israelis have become aware that the political scene is characterized by flexibility. The existing parties, will in all likelihood, undergo variations in their ideologies and thought processes. The transfer of individuals and even factions from one bloc to another has become a distinct possibility. Many MKs from different and even rival parties now hold similar views on matters concerning basic problems of Israeli life. Therefore, the "partnership" of Levin, Eliav, Dr. Halevy and Abramov may be considered not as a rare phenomenon but as a first sign of a possible meeting of the minds of diverse ideologists trying to find a common solution to the problems that were triggered by the Yom Kippur War.

Tension In The Likud Bloc

In fact, a few days after their memorandum appeared there was another development: several personalities representing various political groups declared in a statement they were calling on the Israeli government to negotiate with the Palestinians. Among those who signed this statement were Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat, Ramat Gan Mayor Israel Peled and MK Simha Flumin--all members of the Likud bloc who had recently been elected to their posts. Officially, Likud has been the most vociferous and constant opponent of the idea of granting recognition to the Palestinians.

During the past few weeks, astute observers have noticed an inner tension in the Likud bloc. The four parties comprising Likud were not expressing the same view on vital issues. Representatives of the Liberals, Free Center and State List in the Knesset spoke on the disengagement agreement with Syria in tones that were essentially different from that of the Herut delegates. While Herut Knesseters rejected the agreement the three other parties expressed only minor reservations. Furthermore several Liberal MKs left the plenum without

voting, thus expressing their dissatisfaction with the Herut-oriented official position against the agreement.

When a group of 150 Israelis made an attempt last weekend to establish a settlement at Sebastia near Nablus on the West Bank--with the active participation of two Likud MKs, Arlik Sharon and Geulah Cohen--most of the Likud members criticized the attempt. Only the Herut MKs supported the move of the settlers who, in the main, were Orthodox.

The divergence of opinions among the different Likud factions is also reflected in the daily parliamentary activities. The leaders of the Liberals, State List and Free Center continue to urge the Herut leaders to adopt more constructive and popular positions on various issues. They accuse the Herut "old guard" leadership of conservatism and opposition for its own sake. It is probable that new political formations will be established within the factions of Likud. Recently it was learned that Liberal and State List leaders were beginning negotiations for uniting the two parties to form one bloc.

Divergent Views In Both Blocs

One can surmise that the objective of this move is not only to strengthen the position of the two parties within Likud but also to prepare for a secession from the bloc at some time in the future. Most Liberal MKs, and probably those of the State List as well, wish to take an active part in the government. Most of them believe that under the current Likud leadership they will be thwarted from doing so.

In their closed-door meetings, the Liberal leaders often talk about the possibility, albeit remote, of splitting away from Likud and joining the government. As a matter of fact, most Liberal and State List MKs can hardly be characterized as "hawks," a term usually reserved for Herut. Their outlook on economics, too, is close to that of the main faction in the Alignment.

The Labor Party, like Likud, is also characterized by the same divergence of opinion on political, social and economic issues. There are "hawks" and "doves" in the Labor Party, just as there are in Likud; and there are those who are identified as socialists or even "petty bourgeois" in both blocs. The present boundaries of the Israeli political map are not permanent. Radical changes may take place in the not too distant future. There are some who say these changes may even take place sooner.

LUBAVITCHER YOUTH VISITING JEWISH COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT HEMISPHERE

NEW YORK, July 31 (JTA)--For the 26th consecutive summer some 200 Lubavitcher senior rabbinical students left New York to begin their Torah spreading mission to hundreds of Jewish communities across the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Central and South America. These students have volunteered to spend three to five weeks of their summer vacation time to travel to cities and towns to make contact with masses of Jews at the grass roots level, meeting them on the streets and in homes, in shopping centers and at work.

The young men, aged 18 to 24, travel in pairs. To some communities, namely, Houston, Milwaukee, Vancouver, Canada, Caracas, Venezuela and Panama City, Panama, the educational arm of the Lubavitcher movement, Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, has sent larger groups of students who will study together several hours each day and thereby form the nucleus of a Torah study group to attract local participants. They will spend the remaining hours of the day reaching out to the surrounding Jewish community.