



# daily news bulletin

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## RABIN'S INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE ISRAEL WILL NOT BOW TO ANY PRESSURE

JERUSALEM, April 14 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin, in his Independence Day message to world Jewry, declared that Israel "would not bow to any pressure but will continue to stand firm in order to promote genuine movement towards genuine peace."

Referring to the recent unsuccessful shuttle talks, Rabin said: "We would have wished on this Independence Day to be able to record progress towards lasting peace with security....Once again in recent weeks Israel demonstrated how ready it is to take real risks for peace, providing there is a response from the other side. This, regrettably, has not been the case. Nevertheless we shall continue patiently to pursue our quest towards this goal."

"Israel will not and dare not, however, experiment with its vital security in return for vague commitments and fragile arrangements. We have too often in these past 27 years granted concessions...that turned out to be one-sided and that ultimately encouraged our neighbors to choose war....Israel cannot forget those past experiences...."

The Premier continued: "In a world whose moral strength is being sapped by extortion and political manipulation, the Jewish State looks to its fellow Jews as never before to join with it in proclaiming the human and historic justice of its cause. Together we represent an unbreakable strength born out of our common heritage and destiny."

"Let that strength be expressed not in words alone but in tangible and dramatic action through personal aliyah, increased material assistance, intensified Jewish education and an unprecedented tourist flow. Let us together make the 27th Independence Day of Israel a time of Jewish rededication to the upbuilding of the land...."

## TIGHT SECURITY ALONG ISRAEL'S BORDERS AS INDEPENDENCE DAY ACTIVITIES BEGIN SUNDOWN TUESDAY

TEL AVIV, April 14 (JTA)--Israel's armed forces tightened security measures and increased their vigilance along all borders today against possible terrorist attempts to infiltrate Israel during Memorial Day which begins this evening and Independence Day which commences officially at sundown tomorrow. Special attention has been given to the Lebanese border, especially the Fatahland region which contains the largest terrorist concentrations.

Strong security measures have also been taken on the West Bank. A number of known terrorist sympathizers have been taken into preventive detention for the two-day holiday period. Road blocks are being set up and check points established to prevent suspect elements from entering Israel proper from the administered territories.

Border patrols have been increased in size and provided with additional weapons. Police and civil guards will be posted in all villages and towns, especially in the border regions, to protect the population during Memorial and Independence Day ceremonies.

Memorial Day, a day of remembrance for Is-

rael's war dead, will be ushered in by air raid sirens all over Israel this evening. All places of entertainment will shut down and memorial lights will be kindled publicly and in most private homes.

President Ephraim Katzir will light a memorial lamp at the Western Wall this evening in the presence of 50 families whose members lost their lives in Israel's wars. Premier Yitzhak Rabin and former Premier Golda Meir will address a Memorial Day rally in Tel Aviv. Air raid sirens will sound again at 11 a.m. tomorrow signaling two minutes of silence and suspended activities. Memorial ceremonies will be conducted at schools, and Memorial Day parades will be held at military camps. Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur will read his special Order of the Day tomorrow, honoring the men who fell in line of duty defending the nation.

## New Fighter Jet Unveiled

Meanwhile, on the eve of Independence Day, Israel unveiled a home-produced jet fighter plane, the "Lion Cub," a delta-winged single-seat aircraft with a reported speed of Mach 2.2 (2.2 times the speed of sound) and an operational ceiling of 50,000 feet. Newsmen permitted to view the plane at a military airfield outside of Tel Aviv were told by Defense Minister Shimon Peres that the "Cub" ranked with the best warplanes in the world and, at \$4 million each, was among the cheapest.

## THOUSANDS OF LETHAL DETONATORS WASHED ASHORE IN RECENT DAYS

TEL AVIV, April 14 (JTA)--The beaches of Netanya and adjacent shores have been closed to the public and placed under guard because of thousands of lethal bomb detonators that have been washed ashore in recent days. The public has been warned that the small, plastic-coated objects which could cause severe injury may be imbedded in sand or floating in the surf over a wide area.

The Defense Ministry has set up a special committee to investigate the matter and report directly to the Defense Minister. But the cause is apparently known. The defense authorities discarded some 20,000 bomb detonators by dumping them into the sea two months ago, about 15 kilometers offshore.

Apparently the corrosive action of salt water fractured their containers and the detonators, lighter than water, floated to the surface and were washed ashore. They are 3 inches long and 1 1/2 inches in diameter. People who frequent the beaches anywhere in the vicinity of Netanya have been warned to notify a lifeguard, policeman or civil defense guard if they find a detonator and not to touch it.

## RABIN DEFENDS ALLON'S TRIP TO THE U.S.; DENOUNCES LIKUD FOR DEMANDING DEBATE ON THE SUBJECT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 14 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin strongly defended Foreign Minister Yigal Allon's trip to the U.S. in the Knesset today and angrily denounced Likud for demanding a debate on the subject especially "during this week of national unity and identification." Rabin ad-

dressed a special recess session of the Knesset called at the insistence of Likud. The House, by a vote of 43-27 with six abstentions, decisively defeated a Likud motion protesting Allon's visit to the U.S. during which he will meet with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in Washington later this week.

Rabin spoke briefly and forcefully and without notes. He demanded to know "what right" Likud had to question or doubt the government's resolve to stand firm on the positions it took during the bilateral negotiations with Egypt conducted by Kissinger which were suspended March 22. He declared that his government considered itself strictly bound by its decisions of last month which were approved at the time by the Knesset.

The Premier said that he himself had asked Allon to respond to the United Jewish Appeal's request that Israel dispatch a top minister to participate in a major fund-raising and information campaign in the U.S. and that, in fact, he wanted to send the minister, Allon, who was most directly involved in the recent unsuccessful negotiations so that Israel's position would be most effectively and authoritatively explained. Allon's acceptance of the UJA's invitation led to an invitation from Kissinger to meet in Washington.

During the session, which lasted only 20 minutes, Rabin accused Likud of trying to mar the national consensus that stands behind the government's position. He said it was particularly inappropriate that Likud insisted on a divisive debate during a week marked successively by Solidarity Day for Soviet Jewry, Memorial Day for Israel's war dead and Independence Day.

#### SLEPAK CONFIRMS SOVIET MILITIA BROKE UP PASSOVER SYNAGOGUE SERVICE

WASHINGTON, April 14 (JTA)--In a dramatic Moscow-Washington telephone call that was frequently interrupted, an American trade union leader heard Vladimir Slepak, a Soviet Jewish activist, confirm that Soviet militia terminated a Passover service at Moscow's main synagogue. Soviet and synagogue officials have denied that soldiers stopped the prayer service and herded the worshippers into the street.

During the telephone conversation last Friday, Slepak also told Glenn E. Watts, president of the Communications Workers of America, that he and his wife and their son would begin a hunger strike yesterday to protest Soviet government refusal to grant them exit visas to emigrate to Israel. They had applied for the visas April 13, 1970.

Speaking in English, Slepak said that his conversation with Watts was the first trans-Atlantic talk he had been permitted to make in a year. His own phone was torn out in his home on May 21, 1961.

Watts said that he thought Slepak was permitted to engage in the conversation because the Soviet government recognized that a workers' union was involved. During the approximately 15 minute call, witnesses, who included newsmen, trade unionists and members of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, the organization which originated the "messenger call," noted that there were at least a half dozen interruptions.

#### RELIGIOUS DEMONSTRATORS TRY TO HALT FILM SHOWING ON SHABBAT

TEL AVIV, April 14 (JTA)--Police used water hoses to disperse religious demonstrators--mostly yeshiva youths--who tried to break into a Tel Aviv movie house Friday night to stop a film performance on the Sabbath. The demonstrators

were led by Tel Aviv Rabbi Israel Lau and Deputy Mayor Chaim Bassuk, of the National Religious Party. The incident is expected to further endanger the uneasy Likud-NRP coalition that governs the Tel Aviv municipality under Likud Mayor Shlomo Lehat.

Traditionally, all movie and theatrical performances are banned on the Sabbath in compliance with the so-called status quo that has governed relations between Israel's secular majority and Orthodox minority since the inception of the State. But several movie houses have opened in Tel Aviv on Friday nights without interference from the authorities. Deputy Mayor Bassuk urged the NRP leadership to consider breaking away from the coalition in protest.

On Friday night, masses of yeshiva students joined by worshippers leaving synagogue services converged on the Allenby Cinema on Allenby Road where an old American film, "From Here to Eternity" was being shown. The demonstrators confined themselves to shouting at first but when a group attempted to storm the theater, they were blocked by a cordon of police. Eventually, a police water tanker was summoned and the hoses brought into play. Non-religious youths taunted the demonstrators with exhortations to join the army and do their fighting on the front.

#### RABBINIC BODY CONCERNED THAT ARAB STUDENTS IN U.S. COLLEGES ACT AGAINST ISRAEL, U.S. JEWS

NEW YORK, April 14 (JTA)--The head of the largest Orthodox rabbinic body today expressed grave concern over a concerted effort by Arab students in various American colleges and universities to launch a campaign of propaganda and vilification against Israel and American Jews.

Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, urged the American Jewish community to take steps to counter the impact of this propaganda campaign. "The effort to combat this new danger must be a united one," he stressed. "No one Jewish group can possibly cope with all the dimensions that this problem poses. The number of Arab students is constantly increasing and they are now present, in force, on practically every campus in the country. The parameters of the situation will require the participation of the total Jewish community."

He noted further, "Thousands of students are the guests of the American government and are studying in American universities under scholarships and grants by the United States. It is inconceivable that guests should be sowing the seeds of dissension and hatred against American citizens whose taxes are paying for their scholarships. It is the responsibility of our Department of State which handles these scholarships to review and correct this situation."

Rabbi Schonfeld proposed that the Jewish community tackle this problem on three levels, namely: "a series of lectures and educational programs dealing with the Arab-Israeli problems; to institute in depth seminars throughout the colleges and universities in the country and, finally, the publication of relevant material and literature."

#### CANADIAN GOVERNMENT URGED TO INTERVENE WITH SOVIET UNION ON BEHALF OF SOVIET JEWRY

MONTREAL, April 14 (JTA)--More than 100 representatives of major Canadian Jewish organizations and institutions called yesterday on the Canadian government to intervene with the Soviet Union in behalf of Soviet Jewry. The Jewish leaders met in an all-day conference under the auspices

of the Canadian Jewish Congress to consider means of combatting the repressive policies of the Soviet government toward Jews.

August Stern, the son of Dr. Mikhail Stern, the Vinnitsa physician who was sentenced to eight years in prison, told the conference that "My father's trial was almost a re-enactment of the Dreyfus case." He said the demonstrations are important because "If the Russians feel they can get away with the sentence of an innocent man without world reaction it will be a sign to them to conduct trials against Jewish dissidents." Stern and a group of people demonstrated outside the Soviet Consulate here today. A solidarity day for Soviet Jews will be held in Montreal next week.

In the United States where "Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry" was held yesterday, some 1500-2000 marched in a candlelight parade in Washington in support of Soviet Jews. The marchers were addressed by Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the American Section of the World Zionist Organization, and Viktor Polsky, a Soviet Jewish activist who recently immigrated to Israel.

#### Police Arrest 134 Youths

Polsky described the plight of Vladimir Slepak who yesterday began a hunger strike to mark the fifth anniversary of the refusal of the Soviet government to give him and his family an exit visa. In the Miami, Fla. area, five dentists and their wives began a hunger strike in support of Slepak. The five American Jewish couples had attempted to hold a picnic with the Slepak family in a Moscow park last year and were harassed by Soviet police.

Polsky is also scheduled to speak next Sunday in Los Angeles during the midpoint of the second annual Am Yisrael Chai-Solidarity Walk. The walk climaxes a week of activities in Los Angeles in support of Soviet Jewry under the sponsorship of the Commission on Soviet Jewry of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation-Council.

Meanwhile, in New York, where some 200,000 persons marched yesterday in support of Soviet Jewry, police arrested 134 young people who had sat down on Second Avenue following the march in a Jewish Defense League-sponsored demonstration against American foreign policy in the Middle East. The sit-down occurred after police refused to let about 250 persons march to the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. The 134 young people did not resist being arrested.

#### FALASHAS ELIGIBLE FOR ISRAELI CITIZENSHIP UNDER LAW OF RETURN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 14 (JTA)--An inter-ministerial committee of experts has recognized the Falashas--the Black Jews of Ethiopia--as eligible for Israeli citizenship and other rights under the "Law of Return." The committee, under chairmanship of Justice Ministry Director-General Zvi Terlo, reached its conclusion early last month, but it was only reported last Thursday night by radio and television.

The decision was immediately criticized by Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren who maintained the Jewishness of the Falashas ought to be a strictly halachic issue decided by halachic experts only. The committee was reportedly guided on the halacha by Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, who has for many years maintained that the Falashas are Jews under halacha.

Rabbi Yosef told the JTA some time ago that he relied on Jewish travelers and rabbinic experts of the late Middle Ages who reported on the Fal-

ashas and asserted that they were descendants of the tribe of Dan. Their forebears had apparently found their way to Ethiopia during or immediately after the First Temple period. Rabbi Yosef said he personally had checked into their religious practices and found that they paralleled accepted Jewish practices to a very large extent.

Rabbi Yosef, though, has generally insisted that Falashas settling in Israel "re-convert" to Judaism--as a formal measure. He noted that their marriage and divorce laws and practices are substantially different from those in force among world Jewry. Rabbi Goren insists on a full-fledged conversion, since he doubts whether the Falashas are in fact authentic Jews under halacha.

There are said to be several hundred Falashas living in Israel at present. Their leaders--and the widely acknowledged Falasha leader in Ethiopia, Yona Bogala--believe many more would willingly come if they were encouraged by the Jewish Agency and treated as Jewish immigrants once they arrived here.

#### Complicated By Situation In Ethiopia

The Falasha issue has always been complicated by their delicate political situation in Ethiopia. The ex-Emperor Haile Selassie was always loath to allow them to leave in large numbers, and during the long period of warm Israel-Ethiopia relations Jerusalem sought not to offend him by encouraging a large Falasha emigration.

During the last years of his tenure, the Falashas' position steadily grew worse, and Jewish pressure groups abroad lobbied with the Israeli authorities on the Falashas' behalf. With Rabbi Yosef's election as Chief Rabbi, the pro-Falasha lobby redoubled its efforts. The political upheaval in Ethiopia and that country's earlier break with Israel created a more propitious set of circumstances, too.

#### U.S. WILLING TO TRY AGAIN IF ISRAEL AND EGYPT ASK

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 14 (JTA)--The White House today described last month's breakdown of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's mediation efforts in the Middle East as a "suspension" of U.S. initiatives in the region and said "We would do what we could to help if they (Egypt and Israel) ask us" to try again. White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen made those remarks to reporters after announcing that President Ford had conferred today with the U.S. Ambassadors to Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

The envoys have been in Washington for almost three weeks in connection with the "reassessment" of American Middle East policy ordered by President Ford after Kissinger's shuttle mission broke down. Today's meeting was the first the President has held with the ambassadors to Israel and its neighboring states.

Kissinger, who was present at the meeting, has conferred with the four envoys collectively on at least two occasions since they were called home. Asked if Kissinger would return to the region, Nessen replied "We would do what we could if they ask us." Nessen said that he had not heard that Ford will receive Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Alon when he visits Washington, probably on April 21, to meet with Kissinger.

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--Michael Agursky, 42, a Soviet Jewish activist, has arrived here with his family. His father, Samuel Agursky, who died in 1947, was an associate of Lenin. Agursky applied for his exit visa 4 1/2 years ago.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF ALGERIA

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 14 (JTA)--French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's visit to Algiers last week, where he spent several days discussing French-Algerian relations and the Middle East with President Houari Boumedienne and other government leaders, has spotlighted a small Jewish community less than an hour's flight from metropolitan France, that of Algeria where 140,000 Jews lived some 10 years ago. Today, that once prosperous and rich community has dwindled to a couple of thousand old, sick and forgotten individuals. Even their exact number is not known.

The president of the Federation of Algerian Jewish Communities, Roger Said, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that some 3000 Jews continue to live in Algeria. According to him, there are 2000 Jews in Algiers, several hundred in Oran and small communities in Sidi Bel Abes, Mostaganem, Tlemcen, Bougie and Colon Bechar. The French Consistory believes that there are only some 1500 Jews left in the country and the Joint Distribution Committee puts their number at some 1000.

In spite of their proximity to France, with which they have old and traditional ties, little is known about the community's activities. The French Consistory says that several synagogues operate in Algiers but a French university lecturer, Henri Chemouilli, who last week returned from a two-week study mission, told the JTA that only one synagogue is still open. Chemouilli said that last Saturday the entire congregation consisted of 11 men, including the local rabbi, and two women.

### Most Synagogues Expropriated

Most of the former synagogues have been taken over by the local authorities and have been converted into mosques or into libraries. Said stated that in most cases the expropriation was carried out with the agreement of the local community which could not oppose such a step because of an obvious lack of worshippers.

The French Embassy in Algiers and the various French consulates generally represent the local Jewish interests and intervene in cases of the expropriation of communal property, a Consistory spokesman here said. He quoted as an example the French Consulate's intervention during the expropriation of the Jewish cemetery in Oran.

A number of Algeria's Jews are French citizens and as such could leave for France. Others have opted, however, for Algerian nationality at the time of the country's independence. Others still are either stateless or Moroccan citizens. Practically all the local Jews are being financially helped by either the JDC or the French consulates. The Algerian authorities pay the equivalent of 100 Francs (about \$25) per month to those over 65 years old.

### 'We Are A Dying Community'

Said, an Algiers lawyer, told the JTA that the community's relations with the authorities and the local population are "excellent." Chemouilli said that he was "struck by the generally friendly attitude of the man in the street."

The community president is considered by the authorities as the official Jewish representative and is normally invited to all official receptions. The local authorities, Said said, also attend the rare Jewish functions. The community's prob-

lems are mainly due to its size and to the age of its members. "Whether we like it or not," an Algerian Jew said, "we are a dying community. Soon, there will be no Jews left in Algeria."

### COUNCIL VOTES TO ALLOW KUWAIT-OWNED FIRM TO DEVELOP ISLAND

CHARLESTON, S.C., April 14 (JTA)--The Charleston County Council rejected protests from Charleston Jews and conservationists and voted preliminary approval to a zoning change to allow a Kuwait-owned corporation to develop a barrier island near Charleston into a luxury resort. Local environmental and Jewish groups had lobbied strongly against the proposal since the Kuwait sheikhdom and Kuwait investors purchased the 5500-acre Kiawah Island for \$17 million in 1974.

The vote last Thursday by the council member acting as the council's finance committee, apparently cleared the way for a full council approval next month of a change in the classification of the island from general agricultural to a planned development area.

Frank Epstein, attorney for the Kiawah Defense Fund, which was organized by local environmental groups to battle the Kuwait project, said that the issue might be taken to the courts. In response to objections from the Charleston Jewish community the Kuwait-owned corporation issued a non-discrimination pledge, which was made part of the preliminary approval vote by the council.

### KOCH URGES KOSHER FOOD BE PROVIDED TO OBSERVANT JEWS AT FEDERAL JAIL

WASHINGTON, April 14 (JTA)--Rep. Edward I. Koch (D,NY) has urged that kosher food be supplied to observant Jews at the Allenwood (Pa.) Federal Penitentiary, the prison where Rabbi Meir Kahane is scheduled to serve the rest of a one-year prison term.

In a letter to Norman Carlson, director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Koch stated that special arrangements were frequently made in the prison system, as in the case of the Black Muslim population, and it would similarly be reasonable to meet the needs of the Orthodox Jewish inmates. Some of the prisons already serve kosher meals where necessary.

Last week, Kahane had protested the fact that he will be unable to observe kosher dietary laws when he enters Allenwood Prison despite an order by Federal Judge Jack Weinstein. Koch pointed out in his letter to Carlson that while he disagreed with Kahane's contention that he is a political prisoner, he did feel that the rabbi's not being allowed kosher meals would give added weight to this argument.

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--Gas masks sufficient to protect the entire population of Israel, from infants to soldiers in the field, have been produced locally by a firm associated with Koor Industries, it was announced Monday. The gas masks were prepared to foreign designs with Israeli innovations on orders of the Defense Ministry. Civil defense authorities said the masks are ready for distribution to the entire population if and when the need arises.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--Four Jewish activists in Moscow were warned last week that serious charges may be brought against them, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported Monday. Aleksandr Lunts was told he would be charged with violating foreign currency regulations; Benjamin Fine, with anti-Soviet propaganda; Elias Essas, with anti-Soviet slander; and Vladimir Lazaris, with treason.