



## ISRAEL EXPECTS EGYPT TO LET CARGO THROUGH SUEZ CANAL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--Officials here said today that Israel expects Egypt to honor its January 1974 disengagement undertaking to permit the transit of Israeli cargoes through the Suez Canal when the waterway is officially reopened for the first time in eight years on Thursday. But, the officials said, Israel, for the present does not intend to test Egypt on this point but would await a statement of intention from the Egyptians--either publicly or through a third party--before attempting to send a cargo through the canal.

So far, the public response by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat on the matter of cargoes has been hedging and non-committal although the Egyptian leader voiced approval of Premier Yitzhak Rabin's announcement yesterday that Israel would unilaterally thin out its forces in Sinai on the eve of the canal's reopening. Defense Minister Shimon Peres announced this morning that the thinning out process will be completed by 8 a.m. local time tomorrow.

But Sadat, in an ABC television interview in Salzburg, Austria last night where he had just concluded two days of meetings with President Ford, said the thinning out action by Israel was "not sufficient" to justify lifting Egypt's embargo on Israeli cargoes. Asked to define what conditions would be required to end the embargo, Sadat replied, "I answered this question before and I said it will be according to the conduct of Israel. If the conduct of Israel is like it started today (Monday) there will be no problem in this. It has nothing to do at all with the cargo."

### Sadat's Remarks 'Encouraging'

Nevertheless, Israeli officials said they found Egypt's reaction to the "thinning out" gesture to be "encouraging," the very word Sadat himself used yesterday to describe the Israeli move. Peres, who toured the Sinai front today with Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur, said the disengagement agreements specifically called for Egypt to permit Israeli cargoes through the canal in foreign ships and said he hoped Egypt would indeed comply with this undertaking. He said there was no need to supervise the Israeli reduction of forces because both sides use electronic surveillance devices which gave them a good picture of what the other side was doing.

Peres disclosed that Israel has found the bodies of ten more Egyptian soldiers killed in the Yom Kippur War in Sinai and would return them to Egypt.

### TERRORIST KILLED IN GAZA

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--An Arab terrorist was killed yesterday in Gaza during a clash with an army patrol. He was Ibrahim Halil Badawi, 32, who had been wanted for some time, the army announced.

Badawi threw a hand grenade at the Israeli force, and as he was trying to throw a second one, he was shot and killed. There were no Israeli casualties. A Kalashnikov rifle, ammunition and hand grenades were found at the spot.

## IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL DROPS BY HALF

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--Immigration to Israel is down fifty percent this year compared with last year. This figure was reported by Jewish Agency Chairman Pinhas Sapir this week at a meeting of the government-Agency "joint coordinating committee" chaired by Premier Yitzhak Rabin. The total figure for January to May inclusive is around 6000 (half of them from the USSR) compared to 12,000 (with over 7000 of them from the Soviet Union) in the same period last year.

The committee meeting--the first held since the Rabin government took over a year ago today--was attended by thirteen ministers apart from the Premier and an equal number of Agency officials. Among the proposals raised: the establishment of a faculty of "absorption studies" in one of the universities. No decisions were taken during the four-hour session--but Rabin said he wanted the committee to meet again on his return from Washington later this month.

### MOST ISRAELIS APPROVE SINAI THINNING; LIKUD OPPOSED BUT DIVIDED ON KIND OF PROTEST

By Gil Sedan and David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--Reaction was overwhelmingly favorable to Israel today toward Premier Yitzhak Rabin's announcement yesterday that Israel would unilaterally thin out its forces in Sinai coincidental with the reopening of the Suez Canal this Thursday. Even the Likud opposition, which not surprisingly registered disapproval, was divided over how vehement its objections should be.

A strong statement flatly rejecting Rabin's move, advocated by Likud's militant Herut wing, was toned down by more moderate elements in the party to one of opposition on grounds that a unilateral move by Israel was not justified as long as Egypt bars Israeli cargoes from the reopened waterway. Even that was too strong for some Likud MKs. Avraham Katz of the Liberal Party and Akiva Nof, of the Free Center, voted against it. Shmuel Tamir, leader of Likud's Free Center faction spoke in favor of the gesture--before the party as a whole officially disapproved it.

The big surprise of the day was the strong denunciation of Rabin's action by Arye Eliav who quit the Labor Party last March because his outspokenly "doveish" views clashed with government policy. Eliav contended that Rabin's gesture was nothing more than a hastily taken ad hoc decision that was a poor substitute for a carefully planned, detailed Israeli program for a peace settlement that he and other "doves" inside and out of the Labor Party have been advocating. On the other hand, Meir Payil of the leftist Moked faction, praised the government's decision in principle. He said, however, that since it did not entail any military risks for Israel, he would have preferred a broader political gesture.

### Question Of Risk Debated

The question of whether or not Israel was taking a military risk was also a matter of conjecture today. When he announced his move yesterday, Rabin conceded that it involved "a measure of risk." But Israel's leading military commentator, Gen. Haim Herzog, the Ambassador-designate to the United States, said that the move was a "calculated risk" and that it was "a necessary step" to achieve a peace settlement.

## 2 U.S. ORTHODOX RABBIS RAP ISRAELI RABBINATE FOR IGNORING PROBLEMS

FALLSBURG, N.Y., June 3 (JTA)--Two prominent American Orthodox rabbis today sharply criticized the Israeli Chief Rabbinate for ignoring social and political problems in Israel. The criticism was expressed at the 39th annual convention here of the Rabbinical Council of America by Dr. Emanuel Rackman, professor of Judaic studies at City University of New York and rabbi of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue, and Rabbi Walter Wurzburger, first vice-president of the Rabbinical Council and editor of its periodical "Tradition."

But the Israeli Chief Rabbinate was defended by Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld, president of the Rabbinical Council, who observed that the "process of halachic shaping in every generation requires careful deliberation and it is unfair to demand immediate solutions for every problem from Israel's rabbinate." He contended that the role of religious authority is to find within the Torah "solutions to netting religious, social and political problems."

Rabbi Wurzburger scored Israel's religious leadership for its failure to make an "effective contribution toward the resacralization of Jewish life by providing an example of ethical sensitivity and confronting courageously the grave social and moral issues besetting society." He decried "this embarrassing silence" and added that "halachic Judaism cannot thrive in the narrow confines of a religious ghetto isolated from the mainstream of society."

### Warns Against Secularization

Rabbi Norman Lamm, professor of Jewish philosophy at Yeshiva University and rabbi of the Jewish Center of Manhattan, said Jewish scholars must achieve a greater understanding in the application of Jewish religious laws and must be made aware of the "social and psychological climate of our times.... Legislation and judgements are of little value if pronounced in a vacuum," he said.

Rabbi Rackman, in his remarks, urged Conservative and Reform rabbis not to strike up an alliance with secular bodies in Israel. He referred specifically to Justice Haim Cohn of Israel's Supreme Court who, he charged, was conducting a campaign against Jewish religious law and was trying to influence Conservative and Reform rabbis in this country. Justice Cohn recently suggested that Reform and Conservative rabbis could successfully challenge the domination of the Orthodox religious authorities in Israel in Israel's courts.

Addressing himself to the Conservative and Reform rabbis, Rabbi Rackman said "It ill behooves those who are committed to the religious heritage which is Judaism to let themselves be beguiled by Jews who hate that heritage into an alliance to put an end to the role of halacha in the Jewish State." He said "the total secularization of the Jewish State would be tragic for Israel and world Jewry" and neither Conservative nor Reform Judaism "can profit from Israel's secularization."

### UJA SAYS ISRAELI SCANDALS DON'T HURT CONTRIBUTIONS

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA)--Irving Bernstein, executive vice-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal said today that allegations that the UJA

loses money because of the recent political and economic scandals in Israel "are not true" and that "although we deplore" those misdeeds in Israel "they are not a factor in American Jewish life."

Addressing a press conference for Israeli correspondents in New York at the UJA headquarters here, Bernstein refuted press reports in Israel and the United States that following the scandals in Israel some Jews decided not to pay their pledges to the UJA. He contended that the UJA "shrinkage" from pledges to cash is only a marginal five percent, which he described as the lowest "shrinkage" of any fund-raising organization in the United States.

"Jews pay 95 percent of what they are pledging," Bernstein said, adding that pledges are not met, only in cases of death or "when business goes bad."

Bernstein disclosed, however, that pledges for 1975 are expected to be \$650 million compared to \$675 million in 1974. He added that "for the first time in UJA history" there will be a raise in cash contributions to the UJA while the pledges are down. He said that cash donations in 1975 will reach the sum of \$300 million compared to \$220 million last year. Up to date, the UJA received \$400 million in pledges and \$118 million in cash for this year.

Bernstein attributed the decline in pledges and cash to the ill economic situation. "People are not worth this year what they were worth last year," he explained, pointing out that despite the economic difficulties "money comes in" because "there is a general Jewish unease" in view of the political developments since the Yom Kippur War and their effect on the Jews.

Bernstein also said that this month "will be the biggest collection month we ever had." He said that Premier Yitzhak Rabin's visit next week to the United States and the Mobilization for Survival campaign launched by the UJA recently are the reasons that more donations will be made to the UJA this month.

### '60-MINUTE' PROBE ASKED

By Sheryl Anne Gura

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress announced today that it registered a complaint with the National News Council accusing CBS News, and in particular its "60 Minutes" program, with "excessive, inaccurate and distorted representations" of the condition of Syrian Jewry and with an obdurate refusal to rectify the picture. The AJCongress also attacked CBS News for presenting an "inaccurate and undocumented assertion" that the devastation of Kunetra, a city located in the Golan Heights, occurred "not by shell fire and war but by bulldozer and dynamite" as the Israelis vacated it following the 1974 disengagement agreement.

The AJCongress requested the Council to investigate its complaint against CBS News and to approve its suggestion that, as a resolution to the "inaccuracies" in the "60 Minutes" program, Mike Wallace, the program's host, interview a former Syrian Jew now living in the United States, one who, having recently existed under substantial terror in Syria could "speak openly and present an accurate account of the conditions in the country and thus present an alternative insight" into the problems of Syrian Jews. The Council agreed to investigate the complaint.

Speaking at a press conference today, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, AJCongress president, emphasized that "in absolutely no way do we ask for any restrictive measures on the news media; we are only interested in establishing that the actual and unprejudiced situation is presented to the public."

nate to the United Nations, said in a radio interview today that the Israeli gesture had no military significance whatsoever. According to Herzog, the present Israeli military posture on the Sinai front is not predicated on what forces are deployed in the thinned out zone but "on something far more substantial in the rear areas."

He ruled out the possibility that the reduction of forces would make Israel more vulnerable to a surprise attack by the Egyptians. "In any case, the Egyptians would take into consideration the forces behind the thinned out areas because these are the deterrent," Herzog said. He assessed Rabin's move as a gesture of "good will, nothing more and nothing less," and said it should demonstrate to the Arabs and to the world that Israel is prepared to do everything she can to reduce tension and create an atmosphere conducive to peace talks.

Tamir said he was sure the Israeli defense forces took into account all military factors before the government decided on the move. Yehuda Ben Meir, of the National Religious Party's militant "young guard" said he saw no reason to object, assuming that Israel's military deployment would not be impaired. The NRP, which is a member of Rabin's coalition government, approved the gesture. Former Religious Affairs Minister Zerach Warhaftig said it was the act of a "strong government."

#### Timing Criticized

Whatever criticism there was of Rabin's move outside of Likud focussed on its timing rather than its substance. Many political observers felt that once the decision was made it should have been announced before the meeting of President Ford and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Salzburg instead of at the end of that meeting. In any event, they said, the gesture by Israel appeared to be a hasty reaction to the Ford-Sadat talks.

There were reports of friction between Rabin and Defense Minister Shimon Peres over the timing of the announcement. Peres was said to have urged that it be made on Sunday, coincidental with arrivals of Ford and Sadat in Salzburg. But Rabin allegedly opposed him in the Cabinet and forced his wishes on the other ministers. It was decided to hold up the announcement until later in the week, probably on the eve of the reopening of the Suez Canal. But in a last minute reversal, Rabin decided to make the announcement Monday morning and informed Peres and Foreign Minister Yigal Allon of his intentions only a few hours before issuing it.

Another dispute was reported in the government over who first thought of the gesture. Some sources credit Peres with coming up with the idea two months ago and claim that Rabin and Allon responded negatively at first on grounds that it might be interpreted as a sign of Israeli weakness. But they reversed their positions, the sources said, after a series of positive developments that included the renewed American peace initiative and Syria's agreement to a six-month extension of the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observers Force (UNDOF). Still other sources insisted last night that the idea did not originate with Peres but with the army high command.

#### ASHKELON OIL TERMINAL CLOSED

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--The Eilat-Ashkelon oil pipeline company announced today that it was shutting down the Ashkelon oil terminal.

and was sending out dismissal notices to 87 employees of its marine division who have been on strike for more than two weeks. The decision to shut down the oil port was taken by the company's board of directors after the government and Histadrut intervened last night to prevent the company from breaking the strike by force. An attempt to do so last week resulted in a bitter clash between strikers and police.

The government backed the company's decision to shut down and Dr. Tzvi Dienstein, the Finance Minister's advisor on oil and energy, summoned workers' representatives to his office this afternoon to explain why. The strike, which has paralyzed Israel's oil exports, is estimated to be costing the government IL 2 million a day. The closing of the Ashkelon oil terminal, however, is not expected to disrupt work at the Abu Rodeis oil fields in Sinai which moves its oil destined for European markets through the pipeline to tankers in Ashkelon on the Mediterranean Sea. Nevertheless, once the oil storage tanks at Ashkelon and Eilat are filled to capacity, the drilling operations may be forced to halt.

#### ALLON: ISRAELI-RUMANIAN FRIENDSHIP CONTINUES

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, returning from a four-day official visit to Rumania yesterday, said the friendship between Israel and the only Communist bloc country to maintain diplomatic relations with it persisted despite sharp differences over issues pertaining to the Middle East. Allon said that the most serious divergence was over Bucharest's recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization; Israel and Rumania are also at loggerheads over the interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242 but the differences there were less pronounced than over the PLO, the Foreign Minister said.

On the other hand, he reported, his four hours of talks with Rumanian President Nicolai Ceausescu and his several working sessions with Foreign Minister George Macoveanu, produced occasions in which both sides publicly reiterated their friendship which was a valuable development in itself. He said agreements were reached on efforts to extend cooperation in trade, tourism and culture and that formal pacts covering those areas would be drafted soon.

A joint communique issued in Bucharest at the end of Allon's visit stated that both sides favored the elimination of out-dated policies of pressure and dictats in international relations. The communique expressed agreement on the urgent need to end the Middle East conflict through diplomatic and other peaceful means. Allon said he invited Macoveanu to visit Israel again at a time to be announced later. The Rumanian Foreign Minister visited Israel last September and Allon's visit was in reciprocation.

#### LEVENZON TO APPEAL SENTENCE

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA)--Sendor Levenzon, sentenced last week to six years in prison, will appeal his sentence in a Kishinev court on June 17, according to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. His sister, Clara, originally sentenced to three years corrective labor, obtained her release because of inclusion in a pardon given for certain women prisoners. Another activist, Anatoly Malkin, recently arrested and charged with draft evasion, faces a sentence of three years in prison. Mark Azbel, Moscow activist, said at a news conference that he was told by the KGB that the seminars he held at his home are "anti-Soviet activities initiated by Israeli intelligence."

## REGIONAL ALIYA COUNCILS FORMED IN DETROIT, MIAMI

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA)--A major step in the organization of a national council of Jewish community leaders working toward increased aliya from North America was achieved this week with the formation of Regional Aliya Councils in Detroit and Miami.

The establishment of these two Regional Councils is a result of a National Aliya Planning Conference which took place in New York on March 2 when Pinhas Sapir, chairman of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization Executives, approached the American Jewish community to undertake the responsibility for American aliya.

The conferences in Detroit, attended by 111 delegates, and in Miami by 86 delegates, included workshops on the viability of aliya for American Jews, methods of education so as to create a fertile atmosphere for aliya, and ways to facilitate aliya for American olim. There were also discussions with recent olim and American Jews who are planning to learn their experiences and views on aliya. The Regional Aliya Councils, once formed, will offer a continuity of programming for aliya in the local Jewish communities, and offer assistance to aliya offices.

Plans are now in progress for the establishment of Regional Aliya Councils in Cleveland, Montreal, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., St. Louis, Seattle, and Los Angeles in the near future.

## B'NAI B'RITH CITES LOW EMIGRATION FROM ROMANIA

WASHINGTON, June 3 (JTA)--B'nei B'rith, citing a new low in Jewish emigration last month, yesterday urged the Senate Finance Committee to withhold approval of trade concessions for Rumania because that country is not "in compliance" with the Jackson Amendment. In a letter to Sen. Russell B. Long (D., La.), chairman of the committee which is holding hearings on an Administration request to grant Rumania most favored nation status, B'nei B'rith president David M. Blumberg said that "fewer than 60 Rumanian Jews were permitted to leave" in May although thousands have indicated a desire to do so.

Blumberg said that less than 100 a month had emigrated in the first four months of this year, compared with some 3500 a year in 1973 and 1974. Commending Rumania's past efforts "to normalize relations with nations outside the Soviet bloc," Blumberg said he favored "a very liberal interpretation" of the Jackson Amendment, relieving Rumania of the statutory requirement of "written assurances" or "a benchmark figure" that would indicate an effort toward freer emigration. "But we could not blink our eyes to the fact that since the Congress adopted the Jackson Amendment, Rumania's emigration practices have taken--and continue to take--a turn for the worse," Blumberg declared.

## TEKOAHS URGES AMERICAN ALIYA

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA)--Recalling his own immigration to Israel as a young man, Yosef Tekoah, who is shortly departing as Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, said that aliya was the greatest fulfillment for any Jew. Tekoah, who immigrated to Israel in 1948 when he was 23 years old, addressed approximately a thousand people who filled Congregation Talmud Torah in Brooklyn Sunday.

He noted that with the search of young people for importance in their lives, "Aliya can be the fulfillment of a challenge for every young Jew." As for "those who are not so young," Tekoah said that "Aliya is the culmination of all our hopes, our dreams, our plans since youth. Anyone who appreciates the splendor and grandeur of our Jewish culture, heritage, and destiny finds aliya the climax, the ultimate goal of their lives."

Agreeing that there were difficulties in immigrating to Israel, Tekoah noted that the difficulties faced by American Jews were small in comparison with other Jews throughout the world or the Jews who struggle to escape from the Soviet Union. He said the rewards of living in Israel far outweigh the sacrifices. "Aliya is for those who value more than just material comforts but who wish to be able to say to themselves, 'I have lived a full and satisfying life.'"

Tekoah urged those who wish to go on aliya to make the step as soon as possible. "Those who believe in our own rebuilt Jewish State realize that now is the time to take the steps of living in Israel." The rally was organized by the Israel Aliyah Center in cooperation with the Mizrahi-Poel Hamizrachi Organization (Religious Zionists of America).

## MRS. MEIR INSCRIBED IN JNF GOLDEN BOOK

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--Former Israeli Premier Golda Meir was inscribed in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund today. The United Jewish Appeal, Keren Hayesod, JNF, the Histadrut and heads of local authorities from throughout the country participated in the special ceremony at Beit Sokolov in Tel Aviv. The UJA presented Mrs. Meir with two albums containing 500 certificates of those participating in the project.

## OPPOSE PLO ATTENDING TORONTO MEETING

TORONTO, June 3 (JTA)--The province of Ontario would consider it "an affront and a provocation" if members of international terrorist groups such as the Palestine Liberation Organization were allowed to attend a United Nations conference here, Ontario provincial Premier William Davis has said.

A letter from the premier to Prime Minister Trudeau was read to the legislature by Attorney General John Clement. Reports have said PLO members may try to attend the fifth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Treatment of the Offender, scheduled in Toronto for September.

In his letter, Davis said if the PLO seeks to attend, "I would appreciate being advised of the measures which your government proposes to take. Furthermore, I am obliged to inform you that if they are permitted to attend, the government of Ontario will be obliged to reconsider the extent, if any, of its participation."

MEXICO CITY (JTA)--Resolutions calling on the Soviet Union to provide equality of rights to Soviet Jewry and permission for Jews to emigrate to Israel were adopted here at a study conference on the results of 12 years of struggle in Latin American Jewish communities for the rights of Soviet Jews. The conference was sponsored by the Mexican Committee for the Rights of Soviet Jews under the presidency of Andres Henestrosa, which was attended by leading artists, intellectuals and politicians of Mexico and 20 Latin American countries.

NEW YORK (JTA)--A model camp especially designed for cardiac children has been donated by Associated Cardiac Leagues, Inc. to Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, for its Junior Young Judea camp program.