



# daily news bulletin

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## AUSTRALIA-REFUSES TO LET

### PLO OPEN OFFICE

By Sam Lipski

MELBOURNE, June 19 (JTA)--An official of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Gamal Surani, left Australia yesterday after a ten-day visit having failed to secure a commitment from the Australian government to open a PLO information office here. Surani, the director of the PLO's Cairo office and its representative on the Arab League, had claimed earlier this week that as a result of his visit there would be favorable changes in Australia's attitude to recognizing the PLO and that it would soon have an information office here with diplomatic status. He made his prediction after a meeting with the Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, in Canberra.

Yesterday an official in the Prime Minister's office said there was no possibility of Australia's granting the PLO diplomatic status in the foreseeable future. Whitlam had made this clear during his meeting with Surani, the spokesman added, and he had also told him there was no possibility of the PLO establishing an information office in Australia "at present."

In contrast to a visit last month by two representatives of the General Union of Palestinian Students, a PLO affiliate, Surani's visit was marked by an absence of violent clashes between Jewish demonstrators and PLO supporters. But there was violence within the local Lebanese community when supporters of the Phalangists demonstrated against Surani outside the Lebanese consulate in Sydney. Police had to break up fighting between the Phalangists and PLO supporters. Nine people were arrested and a number of rifles, pistols, knives and ammunition was confiscated.

The discovery of arms among local Arabs shocked many Australians and led to demands by the Premiers of all states for the immediate deportation of Surani. The Premiers of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia--four of Australia's six states--refused to give Surani any courtesies normally extended to visiting dignitaries. Leading members of all political parties signed letters of protest and petitions calling on the Australian government to deny entry to any further representatives of the PLO.

## SPAIN REFUSES BASES FOR U.S. TRANSIT OF MIDEAST SUPPLIES

WASHINGTON, June 19 (JTA)--The Spanish government has informed the United States that it would not permit the use of Spanish territory for the transit of military supplies to Israel in the event of a new war in the Middle East. According to American sources, the Spanish position is one of the conditions for the renewal of American air and naval bases in Spain. Previously, the Portuguese government ruled out the use of Portuguese territory for that purpose. During the Yom Kippur War in 1973 the Azores served as a refueling stop for American transports flying military supplies to Israel.

## CALLAGHAN, KHADDAM MEET

LONDON, June 19 (JTA)--The Foreign Office

replied in the negative today when asked whether Foreign Secretary James Callaghan had discussed an arms deal with Syria during his meeting here today with the visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam. A Foreign Office spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that it had no comment on Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon's expression of concern in the Knesset yesterday about the pending British-Egyptian arms deal. The spokesman said that Callaghan's reply will reach Allon "indue course."

Khaddam, who is also Syria's Deputy Prime Minister, arrived here today for a brief visit en route to Washington where he is scheduled to meet with President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger tomorrow. He met with Callaghan for 75 minutes at Admiralty House this morning. A Foreign Office spokesman said the two ministers reviewed the Middle East situation and bilateral relations.

The spokesman told the JTA that the Foreign Secretary was pleased with the opportunity to obtain a first-hand insight into Syria's official thinking from Khaddam whom he met for the first time today. The Syrian diplomat invited the Foreign Secretary to visit Syria and the invitation was accepted, the spokesman said. No date was announced. Callaghan and Khaddam also discussed ways to bring about closer relations between Syria and the United Kingdom in the fields of economic and commercial cooperation and cultural exchanges, the spokesman said.

## KATZIR VISITS TERRORISM SCENE

TEL AVIV, June 19 (JTA)--President Ephraim Katzir visited Kfar Yuval today where three members of one family were killed in a terrorist assault Sunday morning. "I came here to console, to encourage and found myself encouraged," the President said after meeting with the townspeople and hearing a description of the tragedy from Gen. Raphael Eytan, commander of the northern district.

The President said he was deeply impressed by the courage and determination of the Kfar Yuval settlers, young and old, in face of the dangers arising from the village's proximity to the Lebanese border. Yaacov Mordechai, his wife Simha and her brother, Nehemia Yossef-Chai, were fatally wounded by four terrorists who invaded their home. All four were slain. Military sources reported today that their rucksacks were found in a creek near the village. They contained food, American cigarettes and first aid kits.

## CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION EXPECTED TO FUNDS FOR ILO FOLLOWING ADMISSION OF PLO AS OBSERVERS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 19 (JTA)--Strong Congressional opposition, centering in the Senate, was forecast today against continuing payment of United States contributions to the International Labor Organization because of its grant of observer status to the Palestine Liberation Organization. Delegations representing United States trade unions, the U.S. government and American employers, walked out of the ILO annual conference in Geneva last week after the United Nations spe-

cialized agency voted observer status to the PLO.

In the latest Senatorial expression of opposition toward a UN agency extending recognition to the PLO, Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R., Pa.) served notice he would urge Congress to withdraw U.S. financial support from the ILO for "legitimizing" Arab terrorists. The House Appropriations Subcommittee has approved funds totalling nearly \$30 million for payment by the U.S. of its 25 percent share of the total ILO budget, as requested by the State Department.

"The United States has nothing in common with an arm of the UN which recognizes the PLO as a bona fide spokesman for the Arab people," Schweiker said last night at a Jewish United Fund of Chicago meeting. "This intentional isolation of Israel from the international community is a grave threat to the viability of the United Nations itself."

Senators Schweiker, Clifford Case (R., N.J.) and Hubert Humphrey (D., Minn.), all members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, were among those instrumental in convincing the U.S. delegation to the World Health Organization to oppose recognition of the PLO which the WHO did not admit. The Senate also has blocked U.S. support of UNESCO in response to its anti-Israel actions. Congressional foes of the PLO also are looking into the UN Development Fund which helps finance the ILO. The U.S. contributes about 20 percent of the Development Fund or about \$12 million.

#### MERGER TALKS DISCONTINUED

NEW YORK, June 19 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee announced today that discussions between these two organizations concerning a possible merger have been discontinued. Both groups agreed that the discussions, which have been intensive and cordial, have provided them with a deeper understanding of each other and their respective programs. The two organizations will continue to cooperate as they have done in the past on specific domestic and foreign problems that confront the Jewish community today, and they will seek to explore ways of enlarging such cooperation, the announcement said.

#### CONGRESSMEN SEEK TO BAR \$58 MILLION AID FOR SYRIA

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 19 (JTA)--Three New York Congressmen introduced legislation today barring \$58 million in economic assistance to Syria. In addition, one of them telegraphed President Ford to urge him to bring up the subject of Syrian Jewry when he meets the Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul-Halim Khaddam tomorrow at the White House. A telegram also went to the Syrian Embassy addressed to Khaddam on the subject.

The State Department would not say today whether Secretary of State Kissinger would raise the matter of Syrian Jewry with Khaddam in their talks here beginning tomorrow. Replying to a question by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, a Department spokesman said bilateral matters would be taken up.

Reps. Stephen J. Solarz, Jonathan B. Bingham and Benjamin S. Rosenthal, all New York City Democrats, urged Congress to block the economic aid for Syria by invoking the Foreign Assistance Act of 1974 that stipulates that the President may not expend funds from the \$100 million Special Requirements Fund for the Middle

East if Congress adopts a concurrent resolution disapproving such action within 30 days after notice from the President of his intention.

#### Note Syrian Jews Cannot Emigrate

They cited language in the law which expresses the sense of the Congress that funds should not be provided "to any nation which denies its citizens the right or opportunity to emigrate." The Congressmen pointed out that Syrian Jews are forbidden to leave Syria, even to join relatives far from that country, in direct contravention of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which Syria is a signator. The U.S. Agency for International Development has notified Congress that it wished to provide Syria with \$48 million for the Damascus water supply system and \$10 million for agricultural loans. Earlier in the year, President Ford notified Congress he was providing Syria with \$25 million in agricultural assistance.

No action was taken to disapprove of that request as the Congressmen did not want to affect Kissinger's efforts for an interim agreement at that time. However, 82 Representatives, in a letter to Kissinger, urged that action be undertaken "to prevail upon the Syrian government to give those Syrian Jews who wish to leave their country the right to do so." No meaningful progress, however, has been made on emigration rights for Syrian Jews and the foreign aid legislation left no room for compromise, the Congressmen said. Their legislation has been referred to the House International Relations Committee.

Meanwhile, Rosenthal in a telegram to the President, urged him to convey to Khaddam "the deep concern and interest of the American people and the Congress over the plight of Syrian Jews and our desire that Syrian authorities allow those individuals who wish to emigrate to do so freely and express their desire to do so without fear for their lives and property." To Khaddam, Rosenthal wired that allowing Jews to emigrate "would be recognized as a positive move towards peace in the Middle East and encourage more responsive U.S.-Syrian relations."

#### PROF. SAMUEL H. BERGMAN DEAD AT 92

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA)--Funeral services were held today for Prof. Samuel H. Bergman, professor emeritus at the Hebrew University and one of Israel's outstanding philosophers, who died at his home here yesterday at the age of 92. Hundreds of Israelis filed past his coffin in the central court of the Hebrew University today prior to burial.

Prof. Bergman, who was born in Prague and settled in Palestine in 1920, belonged to a generation of intellectual giants that included Martin Buber. Like Buber, he was active in trying to develop friendly relations between Jews and Arabs. He was one of the founders of Brit Shalom, a group of intellectuals dedicated to peaceful coexistence between the two peoples. He was the first director of the National Library at the Hebrew University in the early 1920s and was the university's first Rector. He also served as secretary of the culture department of the Zionist Executive in London before coming to Palestine.

Prof. Bergman published more than 2000 works which were translated into many languages. These included "Introduction to the Theory of Knowledge" (1940); and "Introduction to Logic as the Science of Order" (1954). He was awarded the Israel Prize for the latter work and received the Israel Prize again last year for his special contribution to the advancement of the State and Society.

## **JEWISH AGENCY BOARD RE-ELECTED; FIVE NEW MEMBERS NAMED**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency's Board of Governors, under the chairmanship of Max Fisher, of Detroit, was unanimously re-elected last night at the Agency's fourth annual Assembly. Six former members who did not stand for re-election were replaced by five new members for a total membership of 42 instead of 43. The new members are Joseph Kumkummer, of Belgium; Donald Robinson and Frank Lautenberg, both of the United States; Dr. Carlos Goldmann, of Venezuela; and Phillip Granowsky of Canada. Lautenberg is general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal.

They replaced Rabbi Israel Miller, of the U.S., chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations who was previously president of the American Zionist Federation; Thomas Hecht, of Canada; and Max Schein, of Mexico, all of whom declined to stand for re-election for personal reasons; and Tibor Rosenbaum, of Geneva; Albert Adelman and Edward Ginsberg, of the U.S. Rosenbaum, whose International Credit Bank in Geneva, failed last year, was the key figure in a major international financial scandal involving Israel and is presently free on bail pending trial by Swiss authorities for mismanagement of his bank.

There was some confusion following the vote last night over whether Jewish Agency chairman Pinhas Sapir and Agency treasurer Leon Dulzin were required to stand for re-election or whether their election last year was for four-year terms. Legal experts asked to interpret the Jewish Agency's constitution on this matter were looking into it. The Herut and other opponents of Sapir did not, however, make a major issue of it.

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON '60 MINUTES'**

NEW YORK, June 19 (JTA)--The National News Council announced today that a public hearing will be held July 9 on a complaint by the American Jewish Congress charging CBS News with inaccuracy and distortion in a segment of the "60 Minutes" program dealing with Syria's relationship to Israel. The AJCongress charged that "Israel's Toughest Enemy," a program originally aired on Feb. 16, 1975 and re-broadcast on June 8, 1975, misrepresented the status of Syrian Jews and the destruction of the city of Kuneitra.

## **DR. STERN'S SON APPEALS TO FORD**

WASHINGTON, June 19 (JTA)--August Stern, son of Dr. Mikhail Stern, appealed to President Ford yesterday to urge the Soviet authorities to grant clemency to his father who is serving an eight-year sentence in a Soviet labor camp. Stern met with Phillip Buchan, President Ford's Counselor, at the White House and appealed for intervention by the President and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, the Union of Councils of Soviet Jews reported. Buchan promised to take up the matter with the President. Dr. Stern, a 55-year-old endocrinologist from Vinnytsa, Ukraine, was tried and convicted for alleged malpractice after his sons applied for exit visas from the Soviet Union.

## **FREE EDUCATION BILL**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA)--A bill that would provide a free education in Israel for Jew-

ish youths from the diaspora, was presented in the Knesset today. Ze'evul Hammer of the National Religious Party introduced the measure as a private member's bill only a day after Education Minister Aharon Yadin announced that tuition fees for Israeli students would be increased from IL 1800 to IL 3000 next year. The Hammer bill is expected to encounter strong opposition from Israeli students, many of whom must struggle to meet their present tuition costs.

According to Hammer, any Jewish youth resident abroad between the ages of 14-25 would be provided with a free education at Israeli high schools, yeshivas and universities. Applicants, however, would have to satisfy the authorities that they are Jews according to halachic criteria as interpreted by Orthodox rabbis. Hammer contended that the sharp decrease in immigration made his measure especially important because it would create a bond between Israel and diaspora youth who might eventually emigrate to Israel. He said that since the students would be required to pay their own fare, Israel would benefit from the foreign currency. Presumably they would be required to travel by Israeli carrier.

Meanwhile, the Jewish Agency Assembly, in progress here, was informed today that the Israel Education Fund has built about 500 educational institutions in 90 towns and villages in Israel. The report was made by Philip Zinman, chairman of the Fund. Eliezer Shmueli, deputy director of the Ministry of Education said there was a growing interest in education among the poorer strata of society and warned that cuts in his ministry's budget could lead to difficulties, especially in post-elementary education.

## **RABIN GIVES SOBER REPORT**

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin gave a sober review of the Middle East situation at the closing session of the Jewish Agency's fourth annual Assembly here tonight and told the silent and solemn audience of more than 300 delegates and guests, "Let us be hopeful, but let us also be realistic." The Premier said, "In my talks in Washington, we proved that Israel is forthcoming. Egypt must prove that she too can be forthcoming--otherwise I doubt if an interim agreement will be achieved."

Apparently sensing the gloomy mood in the chamber, the Premier added, "But I think and hope it will be achieved. If it is not, though, then the efforts toward peace negotiations must be continued." Rabin said he hoped the efforts currently underway would succeed but he emphasized that there were positions beyond which Israel could not afford to retreat. It will depend, he said, "On the extent of Egypt's readiness to move forward" whether a settlement would be reached. He said that the U.S. had learned from the failure of the negotiations last March that if progress is to be made, both sides will have to be forthcoming, not just Israel. (By David Landau)

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NEW YORK (JTA)--Soviet Jewish wives and mothers now living in Israel appealed to delegates at the World Conference of the International Woman's Year to intervene on behalf of their husbands and sons who have been refused permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported Thursday. The World Conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, opened in Mexico City Thursday and brought together women from all over the world.

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VIENNA (JTA)--Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin will make an official visit to Austria in August.

## **JTA Daily News Bulletin**

### **MINISTRY REQUESTS RECOMMENDATION FOR CHARTER FLIGHTS TO ISRAEL**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA)--Transportation Minister Gad Yaaobi has flatly rejected the recommendation by a firm of American experts that Israel lift its ban on charter flights in order to boost its sagging tourist trade. A report submitted by the Minister to the Knesset Finance Committee contended that charter flights would not substantially increase tourism but would decrease the revenues of El Al, Israel's national carrier and of foreign airlines which would cause them to cut down their service to Israel. The only charter flights permitted to Israel at present are those of Christian pilgrim groups and of Scandinavian nationals.

Charter flights are bitterly opposed by El Al but are supported by the Israel Hotel Association whose members are dismayed by their current high vacancy rate. The American firm of Dixon-Spears, commissioned by the Ministry of Tourism to conduct a study of the problem, cited the high cost of transportation as a major cause of the reduction of tourist traffic and recommended charter flights as a solution. The Ministry of Tourism supports this conclusion.

Yaaobi questioned their premise, however. He claimed that charter fares would not be significantly cheaper than the present group flight fares during the slack season and said that during the three-month peak season, his Ministry would negotiate with the U.S. government for a reduction of group fares. Yaaobi also argued that the tourist slump was not due to high air fares but the result of world-wide economic recession. Any marginal increase realized by charter flights would be off-set in money terms by the loss to El Al, Yaaobi contended. He said the charters would also decrease the profitability of foreign airlines serving Israel which would cut back their schedules and, since landing rights are based on reciprocity, this would boomerang against El Al's landing rights overseas.

### **Questions Claim By Hotel Owners**

Yaaobi argued further that cheap charter flights from Israel would encourage Israelis to travel abroad, spending much needed hard currency. He also questioned the hotelmen's claim that charter flights would boost their business. According to Yaaobi, the patrons of charter flights stayed at inexpensive hotels while the hotels in Israel that are suffering most from declining tourism are the expensive ones in the four and five-star categories.

Yaaobi proposed that instead of charter flights, the government subsidize El Al to enable it to reduce its fares and provide cheaper package tours for American tourists. Minister of Tourism Moshe Kol was reported to be undecided whether to pursue the matter of charter flights at the Cabinet level. Meanwhile, the Hotel Association held a "crisis meeting" in Jerusalem at which it was reported that 12,000 hotel rooms go vacant every night as a result of the tourist lag.

### **CLERGYMEN REPORT SOVIET AGREEMENT TO PRINT HEBREW PENTATEUCH**

By Sheryl Anne Gura

NEW YORK, June 19 (JTA)--A Hebrew edition of the Pentateuch, the Five Books of Moses, with Russian translation, will be published in the Soviet Union for the first time since the 1917 rev-

olution. It was announced yesterday at a press conference here. The conference marked the return of three religious leaders and trustees of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation from their June 3-10 visit to the Soviet Union and Hungary; Rabbi Arthur Schneller, of Park East Synagogue in New York and president of the Foundation; Bishop Silas, head of the largest Greek Orthodox Diocese in the United States and chief aide to Archbishop Iakovos of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America; and the Rev. Donald R. Campion, editor-in-chief of the Jesuit national weekly, "America."

Free emigration and the opportunity for religious and cultural survival for those Russians who wish to remain in the Soviet Union stand as the main purposes of the Foundation and of this trip, they said. The three-man team acknowledged on behalf of the Soviet government officials, much greater receptivity and willingness to admit that there does exist a problem in the matter of religion which cannot be solved with the old methods of repression that had been witnessed on their previous trip in 1966.

Yet, although they received assurances on the publication of the Torah and the promise to consider the creation of a central organization for Russian synagogues, Rabbi Schneller agreed that, taken in itself, this display of "gradualism" holds little importance. Viktor N. Titov, the newly appointed Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council for Religious Affairs, refused to discuss the possibility of free emigration, Rabbi Schneller stated. But the Foundation is also deeply concerned with the condition of religious life within the Soviet Union itself, and therefore these gradual considerations are vitally important, he stressed.

Rabbi Schneller explained "you cannot compare two opposites. You cannot say what is the importance of a Hebrew Torah when citizens are imprisoned and lose their jobs when they request permission to emigrate to Israel. A comparison simply does not exist between the two issues." He concluded by emphasizing "the Hebrew Torah is important for those Russian Jews who wish to remain in Russia and retain their Jewish identity."

### **BOOK DENOUNCES VATICAN INACTION**

JERUSALEM, June 19 (JTA)--One of the key Jewish Agency officials involved in rescue work during World War II criticized the Vatican's inaction in a new book about that period. The book, "Rescue During the Holocaust," written by Haim Barlass, who directed rescue work from Geneva and Istanbul during the Holocaust, charges that Pope Pius XII had all the facts about Nazi atrocities, but did nothing to prevent them.

Barlass says that the World Jewish Congress and the Jewish Agency submitted detailed reports to representatives of the Pope in several countries and they received written confirmations that the reports had arrived. However, Barlass charges, at no time was there any indication that the Pope was doing something to save Jews, despite the fact that he declared he was doing so. There was no basis for arguments made later by the Catholic church that the Pope had not known about the Jewish Holocaust, Barlass charges.

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--The owners of the Tel Aviv, this city's largest movie house, are considering selling the theater after ushers went on strike for a special danger allowance. The ushers claim they are in constant danger of violence from the audience. The owners, 20th Century Fox, say the demand is not in accordance with labor agreements.