



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036
Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement

Vol. XLII - 58th Year

Tuesday, August 5, 1975

No. 149-

MOVES AGAINST ARAB BID TO EXPULSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UN IS HEARTENING TO ISRAELIS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4 (JTA)--Officials here say the fight against the Arabs' plan to oust Israel from the United Nations is by no means over yet--but they cautiously admit to a more hopeful and relaxed feeling than was prevalent here only a week ago. Developments in Helsinki, in Kampala and in Stockholm have demonstrated that if Israel must fight the ouster bid she will not fight alone. They have demonstrated, too, that the Arabs will not have the going as easy as they had perhaps thought--if they do decide to go ahead and press the ouster effort.

At the same time, though, political observers here are warning that Western and non-aligned help for Israel against the Arab bid will very probably have its price; those states rendering this support will make it contingent (at least tacitly) upon greater Israeli "flexibility" in the ongoing interim settlement talks with Egypt.

Israel for its part has tried to keep the two issues (the UN and the talks) separated. Its officials have stated on numerous occasions that the pace of the talks with Egypt is set solely by their content and intrinsic progress, not by extraneous considerations such as the UN ouster effort. At the same time, they add, the implementation of a new agreement, if and when concluded, would inevitably hinge upon the UN developments--since the UN Emergency Force is destined to play a central role in the new settlement.

The implication is that Israel would not move towards implementation if it had been discriminated against at the UN. (This policy is open to the question--which in Kampala took on a practical aspect--of how Israel would act if it were ousted by a UN majority which did not include Egypt. At the meeting of the Organization of African Unity in Kampala, Uganda, a number of nations, including Egypt, opposed a direct call for Israel's expulsion from the UN.)

Support May Have A Price

The Israeli policy of separating the two issues, however, is not necessarily adhered to by other states, including Israel's chief friends. Their support against the ouster bid is seen by some here as based on the assumption that a new Sinai accord will be achieved by further Israeli concessions if necessary.

Meanwhile, however, Jerusalem has naturally been heartened by the Arab failure at Kampala, by the Soviet Union's indications at Helsinki through such trusty front-men as Gustav Husak, first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, and by the firm stands taken by the U.S., Canada, and latterly by Western European leaders. (Husak reportedly was instrumental in getting his country to support the European Economic Community's declaration last Thursday opposing expulsion or suspension of Israel from the UN. The EEC declaration, which was also reportedly supported by Yugoslavia, was adopted at a meeting held in conjunction with the 35-nation Euro-

pean Security Conference in Helsinki.)

The Arab bid, it seems, will run up against the opposition of the Western and Communist blocs as well as from a number of the more sober non-aligned states.

Premier Yitzhak Rabin, returning from Stockholm yesterday, spoke of a possible shift in Euro-Arab relations as reflected in the strong stand of the European Socialist leaders, whom he had met, against the ouster bid. (See Monday's Bulletin P.1.)

Other highly placed sources here are less sanguine. Apart from the likely political price to be demanded of Israel later, these sources feel the European stand is less impressive than it perhaps looks at first sight. The Europeans, they say, have conveniently found a moralistic, universalistic motive by which they can support Israel and show a measure of tentative defiance of the Arabs--in the knowledge that the Arab ouster bid has not won respectability in the "Third World" nor is it supported with total enthusiasm even among the entire Moslem bloc.

ISRAELI MISSION DUE IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS REQUESTS FOR U.S. AID

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4 (JTA)--Malcolm Toon, the United States Ambassador to Israel, met for 45 minutes today with Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz to discuss Israel's proposal to send a delegation to Washington to discuss her requests for American aid. Observers here said the delegation would include members of the Finance and Defense Ministries to discuss both Israel's economic and military needs. No date has been set for the mission's arrival in Washington.

Israel is reported to have asked \$2.5 billion in aid from the U.S. for the fiscal year which started July 1. However, the Ford Administration, because of its reassessment of American policy in the Middle East, has not yet given Congress its recommendations for aid to Israel.

(In Washington, the State Department said today that Israel's proposal to send the delegation had "no political significance." Department spokesman Robert Funseth said the Israeli team "is an extension" of the continuing talks the State Department has been having with the Israeli Embassy here "in order to understand in detail Israel's overall aid requests." Funseth confirmed that no date has been set for the delegation's arrival.)

MEXICAN PRESIDENT DUE THURSDAY; TOUGH BUT FRIENDLY TALKS EXPECTED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4 (JTA)--"Bienvenido Senor Presidente," "Bienvenido Senora de Echeverria," say the red-green-and-white placards on the streets of Jerusalem in a greeting to Mexico's President Luis Echeverria and his wife, Maria Esther, due here Thursday for a three-day visit.

Israel will be the 14th port of call on the Echeverria's current world tour which will end next week in Jordan. Since Israel is not abundantly blessed with visits by heads of state, and since Echeverria is considered here a warm friend of Israel, Jerusalem is making every effort to give the guests a sincerely hearty welcome. Officials

here say they expect tough and frank talks with the Mexican leader—who does not hide his deep differences of outlook with Israel on matters of fundamental importance in the Mideast conflict.

Thus, Echeverria has already indicated that he will argue forthrightly with his Israeli hosts on behalf of self-determination for the Palestinian people, a cause which he has consistently supported. (Self-determination as a political principle of universal application is almost a part of the Mexican ethos, say observers of Mexican politics.) He will argue, too, against the acquisition of territory by force—a cardinal and consistent plank of Mexican political philosophy. Mexico itself had vast areas of fertile land taken by force by the U.S.—(California, Texas, New Mexico)—and partly as a result of that it firmly opposes such phenomena in other parts of the world.

Warm Friend Of Israel

But beyond the differences of view, which Israeli diplomats and others who know him well say are sincerely held on Echeverria's part, the Mexican leader is considered here to be a warm friend of Israel and the Jewish people and a frank and open admirer of the social, technological and agricultural development of the Jewish State.

During his visit, he will be shown sites of scientific and social interest around the country—as well as holding extensive political talks with Premier Yitzhak Rabin and other top ministers. He will spend Saturday as Foreign Minister Yigal Allon's guest on Kibbutz Ginosar. Echeverria and his wife have often expressed interest in the kibbutz as a socio-agricultural framework. He will hold a closing press conference together with Rabin here Sunday.

The Echeverrias will bring with them an entourage of 180 persons flying in two special jets. They include three of the President's eight children, the Foreign Minister and his wife, Emilio Rabasso and Mrs. Rabasso, several deputy ministers and officials, administrative personnel and reporters.

Meanwhile, Mexico's Ambassador to Israel, Dr. Benito Berlin, reiterated Echeverria's statement in Kuwait that Mexico will oppose Arab attempts to oust Israel from the United Nations during the meeting this month in Lima, Peru of foreign ministers of 70 non-aligned nations. Dr. Berlin said that although Mexico will be only an observer at the Lima conference, Mexico will exert its influence to prevent the adoption of any resolution calling for Israel's expulsion. It was understood that Mexico's stand at the Lima confab will have a strong influence there on Latin American delegates because of her independent position. (By David Landau)

ISRAELI SOLDIER KILLED, 2 INJURED DURING CLASH WITH ARAB TERRORISTS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 4 (JTA)—An Israeli soldier and an Arab terrorist were killed and two Israeli soldiers were injured during a clash late last night near Idmit on the Lebanese border. Two terrorists were captured by the Israeli forces. The dead soldier was identified as Pvt. Naja Sabah, 19, of the Druze village of Horfish in the Galilee.

According to an army spokesman, an Israeli patrol encountered an Arab terrorist group as it was crossing the security fence along the Lebanese border. The terrorists used hand grenades during the clash. Personal weapons belonging to the terrorists discovered by the Israeli patrol included grenades and wire cutters and food parcels.

Several of the terrorists managed to escape back over the border.

YUDEL MARK DEAD AT 78

NEW YORK, Aug. 4 (JTA)—Dr. Yudel Mark, foremost Yiddish lexicographer and Editor-in-Chief of "The Great Dictionary of the Yiddish Language," died Friday in the hospital in Wilmington, Delaware, after suffering a stroke. He was 78 years old. Interment took place today in the family plot in Toronto. Dr. Mark made his home in Israel since 1970 but had been here on a visit the past few weeks and had just arrived at the home of his son, a scientist in Wilmington.

Born in Polonge, Lithuania, Dr. Mark attended the University of Petrograd (now Leningrad) and from 1921 to 1927 was director of the Jewish Secondary School at Wilkomir in Lithuania of which he was also the founder. From 1927-1930 he taught at the Jewish secondary school at Riga, Latvia and from 1930-1936 he was the editor of the Yiddish daily newspaper in Kovno, Lithuania. In the latter year, he came to America where he taught in Jewish schools until 1940 when he joined the staff of the Jewish Education Committee of New York (now Board of Jewish Education) as educational consultant for the Yiddish schools. He retired from this position in 1968.

From 1940 to 1970, Dr. Mark was also professor of Yiddish language, grammar and literature at the Jewish Teachers Seminary-Herzliya in New York. He was the author of numerous books, principally grammars and other text books in Yiddish, and teachers' manuals.

"The Great Dictionary of the Yiddish Language" represents his life's work in collecting Yiddish words and phrases. Together with his associates, he amassed more than 250,000, and it was his ambition to have published a dictionary that would do for the Yiddish language what the Oxford dictionary is to the English language. Three large volumes have already been published and a fourth has been sent to the printers. This will complete the entries under "Aleph," the first letter in the Hebrew-Yiddish alphabet.

The headquarters of the Dictionary Committee are at 1048 Fifth Avenue, New York. It is associated with the Institute for Yiddish Lexicology of the City College of New York and with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

U.S. TO SELL MILITARY ARMS TO NORTH YEMEN WHILE STALLING ON ARMS AID TO ISRAEL By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 (JTA)—Robert Funseth, State Department spokesman, confirmed today that the United States is "prepared to sell appropriate military equipment and some training in them to the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) within the framework of our analysis of the need." He said this would include only defensive weapons and will come only after a U.S. survey team visits North Yemen to assess its needs. No airplanes will be sold, he said.

Funseth's remarks came after it was reported from Sanaa, North Yemen's capital, that President Ibrahim el Hamdi said his country will end its 20-year dependence on Soviet arms if a proposed arms deal with the United States goes through. North Yemen is reportedly seeking \$50 million to \$100 million worth of arms including at least one squadron of F-6 fighters as well as tanks and artillery. Funseth said the U.S. has "encouraged Yemen to work through Saudi Arabia and other

regional Arab states to assist in its military modernization program." He said no letter of offer has been sent to Congress as yet.

North Yemen has an army of about 10,000 men and has an estimated 30 Soviet T-34 medium tanks and a squadron of 12 MIG-17 jet fighters in addition to other weapons.

The disclosure of the U.S. willingness to sell weapons to North Yemen, which controls the entrance to the Red Sea, comes at a time of continuing U.S. refusal to enter into agreements for the sale of new weapons to Israel. Sales of F-15 fighters and "Lance" missiles to Israel were suspended last March 26 for the duration of a reassessment of U.S. Middle East policy. Funseth said today he did not know when the reassessment would end.

DENY FORD, TITO AGREE ON MIDEAST

PARIS, Aug. 4 (JTA)--White House press secretary Ron Nessen denied today that a reported identity of views on the Middle East between President Ford and Yugoslav President Tito meant that Ford had endorsed Tito's call for a separate Palestinian state, according to reports reaching here from Belgrade. Nessen's denial came after the two leaders, following talks which focused on the Mideast, called for moderation and flexibility in the attempt to reach a settlement in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The two Presidents spoke to reporters today at the end of Ford's visit to Belgrade which also marked the end of the American President's 10-day visit to Europe. Ford emphasized that a stalemate in the current Israeli-Egyptian talks on an interim Sinai agreement was unacceptable.

At a dinner for Ford last night, the 83-year-old Yugoslav leader said that Israel must withdraw from Arab territories as soon as possible and recognize Palestinian independence. Ford took no notice in his own remarks of Tito's surprise statement which was seen as implying criticism of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's step-by-step negotiations.

But then Tito again surprised newsmen today when he said his views and Ford's were identical on the Mideast, according to reports arriving here. He said he formed this opinion "after I heard what President Ford said about the actions the United States intends to take in the future." Nessen, according to the reports, said there was no change in U.S. policy which says that the rights of Palestinians should be recognized in any settlement but avoids any position on the eventual outcome of negotiations.

MAJOR STRIKES PENDING IN ISRAEL By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Aug. 4 (JTA)--Israel faces a week of labor strife as strikes are threatened by salaried engineers, El Al air crew members and the employees of Bank Leumi Le Israel, the nation's largest financial institution. The government, the Histadrut and other bodies are trying to avert the walkouts which could result in no construction work being done, no permits issued, no inspection by engineers, no fiscal transactions in the country's largest bank, and the grounding of Israel's national airline.

The labor disputes are a result partly of the new tax reforms and partly of the efforts to close the salary gaps between various employee groups. Gustav Badian, secretary of the Engineers Union, said some 15,000 salaried engineers will start a partial strike tomorrow because their demands to

maintain the ratio of salary differences between them and other groups have been turned down. He said the strike would hit all spheres of work except essential security projects and plants.

Badian rejected a call by the Histadrut for restraint and a postponement of demands for another half-year until the start of negotiations for a new labor contract. He said the Histadrut had rejected a request that it appoint a committee to examine the engineers' claims that they were lagging behind other salaried employees who had received various fringe benefits such as overtime payments, premiums and special allowances such as the "shame" allowance for income tax officials. (Some employees groups who claim their jobs incur social stigma receive a special allowance.)

The government has a special stake in the engineers' claim since it fears that if it gives in to them, others such as technicians, laboratory workers and journalists will make similar demands.

El Al's Crew Members Explain Stand

El Al's 900 air crew members have threatened to strike on Wednesday unless they receive certain guarantees on their salaries which are paid partially in Israeli and partially in foreign currencies. They want their present income to remain unchanged in case of any future devaluation of the Israeli Pound, their present labor agreement to be the basis of the new contract that will be negotiated next year and that their salary be legalized by law as promised them by the Ministers of Finance and Transportation.

Speaking for the air crew, Capt. Gideon Arbel said that claims that they get fantastic salaries are unfounded. He said the values of their salaries had dropped by 25 percent because of the change in monetary rates in various countries and inflation. An El Al spokesman said there was no reason for the strike since the tax-free salary of the air crew will be kept at the same level until April 1976 and their special problems will be taken into consideration in any new wage agreement.

The several thousand employees of Bank Leumi will start sanctions tomorrow because the bank has not agreed to their demands that the bank restore the special grants that have been eliminated by the new tax reforms. The sanction will start with a workers' meeting at noon when banks close and may continue beyond the scheduled afternoon reopening hour. The bank workers have a list of claims which the bank's management, with the support of the Ministry of Finance, has rejected. As with the engineers, the government here, too, fears that meeting the demands will mean that similar grants be given employees at other banks.

NO ACTION TAKEN ON POLICY STATEMENT

HOUSTON, Aug. 4 (JTA)--The JTA learned today that the B'nai B'rith board of governors meeting here took no policy action on the right of its professional staff members to disagree publicly with B'nai B'rith policy on controversial issues. Lawrence Peirez, chairman of the B'nai B'rith personnel policy committee, said that a "clarifying resolution" was being "routinely formulated" along with other personnel matters for future consideration by the board. A statement on B'nai B'rith official stationery was mailed out last month to various newspapers, including the JTA, which claimed that the organization had urged disciplinary action against any professional staff member who took a public stand in opposition to any lodge policy. B'nai B'rith issued a disclaimer and termed the statement "fraudulent."

B'NAI B'RITH TO TEST SOVIET INTENT BY SENDING DELEGATION TO THE USSR

HOUSTON, Aug. 4 (JTA)--B'nai B'rith's board of governors voted yesterday to test Soviet sincerity for the Helsinki declaration calling for the "free flow of peoples, ideas and information" by seeking to send an official delegation to the Soviet Union to meet with both Jewish activists and Soviet officials.

B'nai B'rith President David M. Blumberg, who introduced the proposal at the organization's board of governors' biannual meeting here, said the purpose of the delegation would be to establish regular religious and cultural ties with Soviet Jews and consult with Soviet authorities on liberalizing emigration policies, accelerating "reunion of families" and restoring Jewish communal life under Soviet law. "If Helsinki is a step toward genuine detente, then there should be a parallel step forward for Soviet Jews," Blumberg said. His proposal was endorsed by a large majority of the 102-member board of governors.

Minority Objects To Move

Objectors to the move, a small minority, argued that even if Soviet authorities agreed to a formal delegation, the efforts of the group would likely be futile in view of past Soviet behavior on human rights issues.

But proponents urged against "prejudgements, maintaining that the action, while a test of Soviet sincerity, also demonstrates continuing concern for the right of free emigration and for the survival of a Jewish cultural life in the USSR. Blumberg said that the proposed delegation would also include leaders of B'nai B'rith affiliates from countries outside the United States.

A senior B'nai B'rith official suggested here that the Helsinki agreement offers the Soviets a face-saving way of liberalizing its emigration policies. "The Soviets can ascribe the relaxation of their arbitrary restrictions to the voluntary multilateral agreements concluded in Helsinki and continue to reject claims that they are bowing to the Jackson Amendment," he said.

Urge Action Against UN Takeover

In a related development, the B'nai B'rith also called for "aggressive diplomacy" by the West to resist a Third World takeover of the United Nations. Such a takeover, they said, "could mean finish to the world organization as a viable institution." They endorsed recent moves by Congress and the State Department pointing to a possible American withdrawal from the next General Assembly and a cutoff of U.S. funds if an Arab-prompted campaign to suspend Israel succeeds.

But Blumberg said such "last resort" action "would likely diminish the UN beyond repair." He noted that "despite its defects and weakness, the UN is too valuable as an instrument for international exchange to be surrendered by its founders to a Third World cabal engaged in irrational diplomacy."

Blumberg said that public disillusionment with the UN should be expressed "in efforts to make it more responsive to its avowed purpose" rather than abandoning it to a "meaningless majority of small nations who would suffer most if it collapses." He said that the capacity of Western power to apply "diplomatic strength" had to be shown before the foreign ministers of some 70 non-aligned nations convene for a conference this month in Lima, Peru.

The B'nai B'rith leader also called the issue "another test" of the Soviet Union's sincerity about detente. "The Soviet Union has persuasive influence over Syria and other client states," he said. "Detente should mean something more than a handshake in space or buying wheat at a bargain price."

KISSINGER, DINITZ TO MEET

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is expected to meet tomorrow with Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz to give him Egypt's response to Israel's latest proposals for an interim Israeli-Egyptian agreement. Kissinger received the Egyptian proposals yesterday in Belgrade from Hermann Eilts, the American Ambassador to Cairo. The Israeli Cabinet has scheduled a meeting for tomorrow, although it will probably take place before the Kissinger-Dinitz meeting.

ARAB TERMINOLOGY QUESTIONED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4 (JTA)--Is the PLO really the PLO or should it have another title when mentioned on Israeli radio? Members of the Knesset will take their time discussing this issue, following a motion to the agenda submitted by Likud Knesseter Menahem Yadid. Yadid complained that Israel-Arabic radio programs used such terms as the "Palestine Liberation Organization" and "conquered" or "plundered" territories. He said he thought such terms served Arab propaganda.

But Education Minister Aharon Yadin, who is in charge of implementing the Broadcasting Authority Law, answered that these terms were used only in direct quotes of Arab spokesmen. This, he said, was done to maintain the station's credibility. However, he agreed that the issues be discussed by a Knesset committee.

DOYEN OF RABBINICAL SAGES HOSPITALIZED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4 (JTA)--The doyen of Rabbinical Sages, 90-year-old Rabbi Yehezkel Abramsky, former Av Beit Din of London, was hospitalized here this weekend with heart trouble. Informed sources said he was not seriously stricken and they hoped he would make a full recovery. Since his retirement from London in 1950 Rabbi Abramsky has lived in Jerusalem, working on his monumental "Hazon Yehezkel" commentary on the Tosephta. He also holds weekly lectures at the Slabodka Yeshiva in Bnei Brak.

LESS, BUT MORE VARIED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4 (JTA)--A slight decrease in numbers of participants but an increase in the variety of groups participating in this year's summer projects was noted by the Youth and Hechalutz Department of the World Zionist Organization. There were 8600 project participants last year compared with only 8100 this year. The sharpest decline was recorded in the number of youths coming from the U.S. However, there was a sharp increase of those coming from France--2022 compared to 1000 last year. Despite the general decrease, the variety of representatives is on the rise. Among those who came were an artists group from Canada, a theater group from Liverpool, a group of teachers from Iran, and 30 Orthodox rabbis from the U.S.

LONDON (JTA)--A national conference on Soviet Jewry will be sponsored in November by the Board of Deputies.