



## ISRAEL CONCERNED OVER MOUNTING INFLUENCE OF SYRIA IN LEBANON

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA)--Israel's mounting concern over the growing Syrian influence in Lebanon was reflected here in warnings by the President, the Premier and the Defense Minister that Israel would be forced to intervene militarily if Syria invaded or took over Lebanon.

The warning by President Ephraim Katzir, in a speech to a United Jewish Appeal mission headed by Walter Segaloff of Newport News, Va., was unexpected because the President of Israel rarely makes political statements in public. Katzir's words, therefore, seemed to underline the gravity of the situation in Lebanon where a cease-fire between the warring Moslem and Christian factions went into effect yesterday under the aegis of the Syrian-sponsored Palestine Liberation Army.

Katzir said: "Our policy is not to interfere in Lebanese internal policy. But if Syria interferes, we will have no choice but to send in our troops. If Syria takes over Lebanon it will pose a serious threat to Israel." The President added that Israel would not cross the Lebanese border but would continue "to fight those terrorists who try to cross over." In the past, however, Israeli troops have frequently crossed into Lebanon to attack terrorist strongholds there and Israel Air Force planes have bombed terrorist bases in that country.

### Strong Warnings Sounded

Premier Yitzhak Rabin, addressing the closing session of the United Israel Appeal-Keren Hayesod mission here last night, also warned Syria not to intervene in Lebanon. He declined to specify what Syrian move would be regarded by Israel as an act of war. However, he declared, "Our neighbors know exactly" what developments would force Israel to act and they should therefore "think and think again before precipitating such developments."

Rabin noted that Lebanon was the only Arab country in the Middle East where Islam is not the official religion. He said the developments there have demonstrated that the Moslem majority is not prepared to tolerate any autonomy for the non-Moslem minority.

Defense Minister Shimon Peres, who addressed a 52-member UJA mission from Cleveland, said "We feel our warnings regarding Lebanon have been sufficient until now. I know that some elements in Lebanon are appreciative. If the Syrians are around in Lebanon it will mean a new war, but they have an appreciation of their strength compared to ours and for that reason they are being careful."

### On The Eve Of Rabin's U.S. Visit:

## SENSE OF UNCERTAINTY CLOUDS MIDEAST SITUATION AND BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES

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JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA)--The Cabinet held its political debate on foreign policy and defense today on the eve of Premier Yitzhak Rabin's departure for the United States. The Premier's visit beginning tomorrow--his third since taking

office and the second to be officially designated a State visit--has been described here and in Washington as an attempt to develop a common U.S.-Israeli strategy in pursuit of a Middle East peace settlement and to renew the momentum of negotiations.

What emerged from today's Cabinet session was the sense of uncertainty that clouds the Middle East situation and bilateral relations between Israel and the U.S. The situation in Lebanon, where a Syrian-sponsored cease-fire went into effect yesterday, is unclear and there is mounting concern here that events in Lebanon will hereafter be controlled by the Syrians with the balance of power in that country shifting from moderates to extremist supporters of the PLO.

The outcome of the Security Council's Mideast debate is also unclear. The Council is expected to vote tomorrow on a resolution which, though modified somewhat from the original hard-line Arab draft, nevertheless would enhance the position of the PLO and support its political aims.

### Disappointed With U.S. Cuts

Relations with Washington are also under a cloud. Israeli circles are reportedly disappointed by the news that the Ford Administration will request \$500 million less in aid for Israel next year. (See JTA Daily News Bulletin Jan. 22.) A certain tension has arisen over reports that even State Department officials in Washington were surprised that the Administration's aid cut plans were leaked at a time when the Administration is taking pains to develop a comfortable atmosphere for Rabin's visit.

Officials here believe Washington's main concern is to get through 1976 without a new Middle East war. The U.S., therefore, wants "momentum" in negotiations because it believes that stagnation can only lead to war. One of the common drums that Rabin will have to solve in his talks with President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is how to generate momentum in a situation that has changed substantially since the second Israeli-Egyptian interim accord was signed last September.

### Problems With Israel's Neighbors

Officials here see no chance of interim talks with Syria since that country continues to pursue a hard line which so far has advanced President Hafez Assad's political stature in the Arab world as champion of the Palestinian cause. Although implementation of the Sinai accord with Egypt is proceeding smoothly, there is no question of initiating a further step-by-step process with Cairo. The U.S. and Israel in fact agreed in their September Memorandum that the next stage of negotiations with Egypt must be for a final peace settlement.

This leaves Jordan as the only front where a negotiating "momentum" might be developed. Officials here have shown a renewed interest of late in "the Jordanian option" and say the U.S. is also interested in exploring the possibility that Jordan can reinstate itself as a negotiating partner on behalf of the West Bank Arabs. Since the October 1974 Arab summit meeting at Rabat established the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian Arabs, Jordan has taken a back seat and has

acquiesced, at least in public, to the PLO's role.

The U.S., as is well known here, held and still holds Israel responsible for failing to negotiate an interim pact with King Hussein before the Rabat meeting which might have headed off the PLO resolution.

Some officials here, however, detect signs that Hussein may be trying to find a way back to the center of negotiations. He has announced that he will convene his parliament in March with the participation, for the first time, of its West Bank members. There will be municipal elections on the West Bank in April--held under Israeli aegis, but according to Jordanian law--which could become a showdown between PLO sympathizers and more moderate forces who remain loyal to Hussein or favor a non-PLO indigenous representation of West Bank interests.

Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, who visited Washington earlier this month, is understood to have tentatively raised his latest ideas for informal talks between Israel and Jordan with the participation of non-PLO West Bank leaders. According to Allon, U.S. officials seemed interested in his ideas. What remains unclear and indeed doubtful is whether Rabin can make an attractive and authoritative proposal to the Americans for transmission to Amman, that might induce Hussein to risk the anger of Arab hardliners in the hope of regaining part of the West Bank in an interim settlement.

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Many observers here believe the Rabin government is too weak to negotiate with Hussein. Some say Ford and Kissinger are aware of the Premier's internal difficulties and will not press him for any definitive proposals on Jordan at this time but would seek instead a broad, general statement of Israel's willingness to consider interim talks with Jordan.

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#### PINHAS LAVON DEAD AT 72

TEL AVIV, Jan. 25 (JTA)--Funeral services were held today at Hulda for Pinhas Lavon, a veteran Labor Party and Histadrut leader who, as Defense Minister in 1954 became the central figure in this country's most prolonged and bitter political dispute that led to the resignation of Premier David Ben Gurion. Mr. Lavon, who was 72, died yesterday at the Gedera Hospital for the disabled where he had been confined for several

years, paralyzed and in a coma.

His career followed the pattern of many of Israel's leaders who came from Eastern Europe, identified with the kibbutz movement and rose to leadership positions in the Labor Party and government. Born Pinhas Lubianiker in Poland, Mr. Lavon attended Lvov University and immigrated to Palestine in 1929 at the age of 25. He founded the Gordonia Labor Zionist youth movement while still in Poland and after coming to Palestine was one of the founders of Kibbutz Hulda near Ramla. He also founded the Ichud Hakvutzot Vehakbutzim, the united Mapai-sponsored kibbutz movement.

Mr. Lavon's leadership abilities and talent as a speaker helped him rise rapidly in Labor ranks. He became secretary of Mapai and secretary of Histadrut. After the State of Israel was founded he entered the Cabinet as Minister of Agriculture. He also served for a time as a Minister-Without-Portfolio. When Ben Gurion retired temporarily in 1953 to his Sde Boker home, Mr. Lavon took over the Defense portfolio previously held by the Premier.

#### 'Lavon-Affair' Recalled

The famous "Lavon Affair" of the 1950s centered over whether Lavon, as Minister of Defense, had issued the orders for an abortive attempt by Israeli agents in Cairo to turn the U.S. and British governments against Egypt by trying to bomb U.S. libraries in Cairo and Alexandria and Egyptian theaters that showed British and American films. The plan was to have these terrorist acts attributed to Egyptians. But it misfired. The perpetrators were caught and exposed. One committed suicide, two were executed and five sentenced to long prison terms.

The incident rocked Israel and seriously compromised its relations with the U.S. and Britain. The government of the then Premier Moshe Sharet had not been consulted about the operation and Mr. Lavon said he had no knowledge of it. But Col. Binyamin Gibli, chief of military intelligence, insisted that Lavon had given the orders to proceed with the plan. A committee of inquiry reached no conclusions.

Lavon resigned from the government but was subsequently elected secretary general of Histadrut. In 1961, evidence emerged that appeared to clear Lavon of complicity in the Cairo incident. The government issued a statement absolving him of responsibility against the protests of Ben Gurion who was once more Premier. Ben Gurion contended that the exoneration of Lavon was a miscarriage of justice and resigned, bringing down his government.

#### MOYNIHAN INDICATES U.S. MAY VETO RESOLUTION IN SECURITY COUNCIL

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Jan. 25 (JTA)--Daniel P. Moynihan, the American Ambassador to the United Nations, indicated today that the United States will veto a resolution in the Security Council tomorrow affirming the "right" of the Palestinians to an independent state and calling for Israel to withdraw from all Arab territories held since the 1967 Six-Day War.

Appearing at the final session of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy's four-day symposium on "The Middle East--Critical Choices for America," Moynihan said it would be improper for him to state how the U.S. will vote before tomorrow's session. But when asked directly

for a statement, he replied, "the United States will act forthrightly and correctly and we hope not alone."

The U.S. had been expected to veto the resolution introduced Friday by six Security Council members since it changes Resolution 242 by calling for a Palestinian state and a total withdrawal by Israel. The proposed resolution also advocates security guarantees for all nations in the area, although it does not mention Israel specifically. Israel is expected to find unacceptable a clause affirming the right of Palestinians to either repatriation, meaning to Israel, or compensation to those who choose not to return.

In his prepared address today, Moynihan explained why the U.S. had not vetoed the presence of the Palestine Liberation Organization at the Security Council debate on the Middle East. He said there was no way to prevent the PLO from appearing because it had been the long-standing policy of the U.S. and the other permanent members of the Council that a procedural matter cannot be made substantive--and thus subject to a veto--if the majority of the Council is against such a move.

"We would have ignored long-standing and recorded American tradition (in the Security Council) and there would have been no support for us on our attitude," he said.

#### PLO Presence May Have Helped

Prof. Thomas M. Franck, of the New York University Law School, said that the PLO presence in the debate may have been beneficial because in the long run it may convince Israel it must negotiate with the PLO and it may convince the PLO that paper victories are useless and it must come to an accommodation with Israel.

Although Franck urged negotiations with the PLO most of the speakers during the previous sessions, including the symposium's chairman, former Undersecretary of State Eugene V. Rosstow, denounced the PLO and said the Palestinian question must be solved in the context of Israeli-Jordanian negotiations.

The National Committee, which was formed after the Yom Kippur War, said it convoked the symposium in response to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's call for a serious public debate on his policies. Speakers over the weekend denounced Kissinger's policies and accused him of misleading the American public on detente and on what they said was the United States' declining power position.

Prof. Gil Carl Alroy, of Hunter College, said that the American attitude on the Middle East was shaped by people who know little about the area and have disregarded the enormous studies by American Orientalists. He said in dealing with the Mideast, "We are projecting our own awareness of the world" on the Mideast. He said Americans ignore the centrality of religion in the Mideast and also deny that the Arabs mean what they say. He said the Arabs want armistice not peace in the Mideast and seek to destroy the State of Israel, differing only as to the method.

#### REFORM LEADERS HOLD IN-DEPTH TALKS WITH DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25 (JTA)--The leaders of two Reform Jewish groups met here with eight declared candidates for the 1976 Democratic Presidential nomination in what was described as in-depth discussions to ascertain their views on "major domestic and international issues con-

cerning the nation's more than six million Jews and their institutions."

The discussions, sponsored by the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, were held at the UAHC building here. Each candidate spent about an hour in dialogue with Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the UAHC, and Rabbi Ely Pilchik, vice-president of the CCAAR.

The Democratic hopefuls who participated were Gov. George Wallace of Alabama; Sargent Shriver, of Massachusetts; Morris Udall of Utah; Lloyd Bentsen, of Texas; Gov. Milton Shapp of Pennsylvania; Henry M. Jackson of Washington; Fred Harris of Oklahoma; and Jimmy Carter, of Georgia.

Sen. Birch Bayh of Indiana was unable to attend and Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia did not participate because he announced his candidacy after the dialogues were arranged. Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, who is regarded as a leading candidate, was not present because he has not officially announced his candidacy.

Rabbi Pilchik said the sponsors tried until the last minute to have President Ford and Ronald Reagan, the two leading contenders for the Republican nomination, attend, but were not successful.

#### Not A One-Issue Electorate

Schindler and Pilchik stressed that the purpose of the dialogues last Wednesday and Thursday was not to endorse any candidate but "to convey our concerns to the candidates" on international and domestic issues and obtain their views. They said another purpose was to "sensitize the congregations" on the candidates' positions "because we are not unconcerned with the apathy of voters."

Pilchik emphasized that Jews do not vote as a "block." Schindler noted that "the candidates may think we are limited to so-called Jewish issues--the Middle East, Soviet Jews, the Arab boycott, Syrian Jews." But, he added, "Jews certainly are not a one-issue electorate." He stressed in fact that domestic issues "predominated in the dialogues" among which were "unemployment in America as a first concern"; civil liberties; civil rights; welfare programs; national health services; crime; and gun control.

The rabbis said that in foreign affairs, "first and foremost, Israel has to be supported." Pilchik reported that "every candidate in expressing unquestioned support for Israel, was not doing it as a favor for Jews or a come-on for Jewish votes but as a necessity for the geo-political position of the United States."

Schindler said "The question of Soviet Jews was very heavy upon us." He said the dialogues also covered "Jews remaining in Arab lands, particularly Syria, and the Arab boycott that discriminates against American firms whose officers happen to be Jews."

#### DAVID HOMSKY DEAD AT 63

TEL AVIV, Jan. 25 (JTA)--David Homsy, a poet and secretary of the Israeli Writers Union, died here last Tuesday of a heart attack at the age of 63. Mr. Homsy was born in Minsk, Russia, and came to Palestine in 1936. He served in Haganah and later in the Jewish Brigade that fought under the British Army command in World War II. After the war he travelled to Poland and South America on missions for the Jewish Agency. He published many volumes of poetry for which he was awarded numerous literary prizes.

## VATICAN IN 1943 OPPOSED CREATION OF JEWISH STATE IN PALESTINE

ROME, Jan. 25 (JTA)--Documents released by the Vatican last Friday revealed that during the last years of World War II it opposed the creation of a Jewish State in Palestine and that its policy of public silence on the plight of the Jews under Nazism was an effort to avoid endangering its quiet diplomacy on their behalf. The declassified wartime Vatican papers, titled "The Holy See and the Victims of the War, January-December 1943," showed that Luigi Cardinal Maglione, the then Vatican Secretary of State, expressed grave concern over the efforts of Zionism.

In a letter to the Vatican's Papal Nuncio in Washington, Amleto Cicognani, Cardinal Maglione wrote: "If Palestine fell under the rule of the Jews, it would give birth to new and grave international problems and make the Catholics of the world unhappy. It would cause righteous complaints of the Holy See and would poorly reciprocate the charitable concern that the Holy See has had and continues to have for non-Aryans."

"It is true," the letter continued, "that at one time Palestine was inhabited by the Jews. But how can you historically justify a criterion of bringing people back to those territories where they were 19 centuries ago?" It is not difficult, the letter noted, "if one wants to build a Jewish homeland, to find other territories more fitted for the purpose; but Palestine, under Jewish pre-dominance, would cause new and serious international problems."

### Saw Israel As A Utopia

In a message to Msgr. William Godfrey, the Papal legate in London, Cardinal Maglione wrote that "The Holy See has never approved the plan to make Palestine a Jewish homeland." In another message to Msgr. Godfrey, he stated that Roman Catholics had special historic rights to the holy places and venerated the Holy Land. "Therefore, the Catholics' religious feelings would be injured and they would justly fear for the rights if Palestine belonged exclusively to the Jews," Cardinal Maglione said.

The Vatican documents also showed that similar concern was expressed by Msgr. Angelo Roncalli, then Papal Nuncio to Turkey and later Pope John XXIII, in a letter to Cardinal Maglione in which he wrote that helping Jews reach Palestine "produces some uncertainties in my spirit" because it did not seem "good taste" that this charitable work should help, or appear to help, "in the realization of the messianic dream." He added: "It is quite certain that the reconstruction of the Kingdom of Judah and of Israel is only a utopia." Msgr. Roncalli, during his tenure as envoy to Turkey, helped Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution reach Palestine.

On the plight of Jews under Nazism, the documents revealed that the Vatican was worried in 1943 that the Nazis might invade the Vatican and kidnap Pope Pius XII. Nevertheless, the documents show that the Vatican protested strongly on Oct. 16, 1943 when 1027 Jews were arrested by Nazi troops in the ghetto of Rome and transported to death camps in northern Italy.

The documents also include dozens of reports from outside Italy on the killing of Jews by the Nazis and pleas for the Pope to speak out. In addition they reveal dozens of messages from the Vatican saying that it was doing everything it could diplomatically for the Jews. Critics of

Pope Pius contend, however, that he failed to act in any decisive manner after the mass arrests in Rome.

## RAP CHRISTIAN SILENCE ON LEBANON

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA)--"Are political considerations so powerful that they silence men of faith and block any move to bring succor to brothers in distress?" Religious Affairs Minister Yitzhak Raphael posed the question in a strongly worded attack on the silence of church leaders over the slaughter and maltreatment of Christians in Lebanon. Speaking to a National Religious Party gathering in Tel Aviv, he blasted the "strange silence" of church leaders.

Meanwhile, informed sources closely familiar with the events in Lebanon told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency late last week, before the truce went into effect, that the fighting there has been particularly savage, with both sides often flagrantly violating the basic canons of the Geneva Conventions. Wounded fighters and POWs often did not receive the minimal consideration dictated by the Conventions, these sources said.

## KH DIRECTOR ASKS FOR MORE PARTICIPATION BY BIG GIVERS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA)--S.Y. Kreutner, director of the Keren Hayesod, urged big donors not to rest content with giving, but to approach other potential givers with that aim of prompting them also to give to Israel. Addressing members of the United Israel Appeal-Keren Hayesod international fact-finding mission (the annual-most prestigious KH mission to Israel), Kreutner suggested that each such donor approach 10 to 15 others in the course of a year. Kreutner also urged that more emphasis be placed on middle givers (in the \$3000-\$6000 range). The mission members toured an air force base Friday and lunched with Golda Meir in Tel Aviv. Earlier last week they had visited Yamit, the new town being built at the southern end of the Gaza Strip.

During a meeting with Yosef Almogi, chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive, one mission member asked why some Israelis left Israel. "For the same reason that you are not immigrating to Israel," he replied. Almogi said he favored the establishment of a top level committee to study the motives beneath the wave of yerida (Israelis leaving Israel to live abroad).

In a similar vein, Tourism Minister Moshe Kol has proposed an urgent debate in the Cabinet--to be followed by prompt action--on the problem of yerida. According to various estimates, there are some 250,000 Israelis now living abroad, more or less permanently. Government efforts in the past to attract them back home have not been successful.

Last year's yerida figure, estimated at 16,000, was only just less than the aliya figure. Kol said in his proposal for a Cabinet debate that of late yordim and those contemplating yerida "have no longer a sense of shame or regret" over their action or projected action.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--The International League for the Repatriation of Russian Jews has called upon the Polish government to withdraw its plans for uprooting the Jewish cemetery in Warsaw, replacing it with a housing project, it was announced by Rabbi Benjamin Blech, League president. He reported that leaders of the Warsaw Jewish community urged one of the League's officers who was recently there to carry the message to the West.





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By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Jan. 25 (JTA)--Daniel P. Moynihan, the American Ambassador to the United Nations, indicated today that the United States will veto a resolution in the Security Council tomorrow affirming the "right" of the Palestinians to an independent state and calling for Israel to withdraw from all Arab territories held since the 1967 Six-Day War.

Appearing at the final session of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy's four-day symposium on "The Middle East--Critical Choices for America," Moynihan said it would be improper for him to state how the U.S. will vote before tomorrow's session. But when asked directly

for a statement, he replied, "the United States will act forthrightly and correctly and we hope not alone."

The U.S. had been expected to veto the resolution introduced Friday by six Security Council members since it changes Resolution 242 by calling for a Palestinian state and a total withdrawal by Israel. The proposed resolution also advocates security guarantees for all nations in the area, although it does not mention Israel specifically. Israel is expected to find unacceptable a clause affirming the right of Palestinians to either repatriation, meaning to Israel, or compensation to those who choose not to return.

In his prepared address today, Moynihan explained why the U.S. had not vetoed the presence of the Palestine Liberation Organization at the Security Council debate on the Middle East. He said there was no way to prevent the PLO from appearing because it had been the long-standing policy of the U.S. and the other permanent members of the Council that a procedural matter cannot be made substantive--and thus subject to a veto--if the majority of the Council is against such a move.

"We would have ignored long-standing and recorded American tradition (in the Security Council) and there would have been no support for us on our attitude," he said.

#### PLO Presence May Have Helped

Prof. Thomas M. Franck, of the New York University Law School, said that the PLO presence in the debate may have been beneficial because in the long run it may convince Israel it must negotiate with the PLO and it may convince the PLO that paper victories are useless and it must come to an accommodation with Israel.

Although Franck urged negotiations with the PLO most of the speakers during the previous sessions, including the symposium's chairman, former Undersecretary of State Eugene V. Rosstow, denounced the PLO and said the Palestinian question must be solved in the context of Israeli-Jordanian negotiations.

The National Committee, which was formed after the Yom Kippur War, said it convoked the symposium in response to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's call for a serious public debate on his policies. Speakers over the weekend denounced Kissinger's policies and accused him of misleading the American public on detente and on what they said was the United States' declining power position.

Prof. Gil Carl Alroy, of Hunter College, said that the American attitude on the Middle East was shaped by people who know little about the area and have disregarded the enormous studies by American Orientalists. He said in dealing with the Mideast, "We are projecting our own awareness of the world" on the Mideast. He said Americans ignore the centrality of religion in the Mideast and also deny that the Arabs mean what they say. He said the Arabs want armistice not peace in the Mideast and seek to destroy the State of Israel, differing only as to the method.

#### REFORM LEADERS HOLD IN-DEPTH TALKS WITH DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25 (JTA)--The leaders of two Reform Jewish groups met here with eight declared candidates for the 1976 Democratic Presidential nomination in what was described as in-depth discussions to ascertain their views on "major domestic and international issues con-

cerning the nation's more than six million Jews and their institutions."

The discussions, sponsored by the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, were held at the UAHC building here. Each candidate spent about an hour in dialogue with Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the UAHC, and Rabbi Ely Pilchik, vice-president of the CCAAR.

The Democratic hopefuls who participated were Gov. George Wallace of Alabama; Sargent Shriver, of Massachusetts; Morris Udall of Utah; Lloyd Bentsen, of Texas; Gov. Milton Shapp of Pennsylvania; Henry M. Jackson of Washington; Fred Harris of Oklahoma; and Jimmy Carter, of Georgia.

Sen. Birch Bayh of Indiana was unable to attend and Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia did not participate because he announced his candidacy after the dialogues were arranged. Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, who is regarded as a leading candidate, was not present because he has not officially announced his candidacy.

Rabbi Pilchik said the sponsors tried until the last minute to have President Ford and Ronald Reagan, the two leading contenders for the Republican nomination, attend, but were not successful.

#### Not A One-Issue Electorate

Schindler and Pilchik stressed that the purpose of the dialogues last Wednesday and Thursday was not to endorse any candidate but "to convey our concerns to the candidates" on international and domestic issues and obtain their views. They said another purpose was to "sensitize the congregations" on the candidates' positions "because we are not unconcerned with the apathy of voters."

Pilchik emphasized that Jews do not vote as a "block." Schindler noted that "the candidates may think we are limited to so-called Jewish issues--the Middle East, Soviet Jews, the Arab boycott, Syrian Jews." But, he added, "Jews certainly are not a one-issue electorate." He stressed in fact that domestic issues "predominated in the dialogues" among which were "unemployment in America as a first concern"; civil liberties; civil rights; welfare programs; national health services; crime; and gun control.

The rabbis said that in foreign affairs, "first and foremost, Israel has to be supported." Pilchik reported that "every candidate in expressing unquestioned support for Israel, was not doing it as a favor for Jews or a come-on for Jewish votes but as a necessity for the geo-political position of the United States."

Schindler said "The question of Soviet Jews was very heavy upon us." He said the dialogues also covered "Jews remaining in Arab lands, particularly Syria, and the Arab boycott that discriminates against American firms whose officers happen to be Jews."

#### DAVID HOMSKY DEAD AT 63

TEL AVIV, Jan. 25 (JTA)--David Homsy, a poet and secretary of the Israeli Writers Union, died here last Tuesday of a heart attack at the age of 63. Mr. Homsy was born in Minsk, Russia, and came to Palestine in 1936. He served in Haganah and later in the Jewish Brigade that fought under the British Army command in World War II. After the war he travelled to Poland and South America on missions for the Jewish Agency. He published many volumes of poetry for which he was awarded numerous literary prizes.

## VATICAN IN 1943 OPPOSED CREATION OF JEWISH STATE IN PALESTINE

ROME, Jan. 25 (JTA)--Documents released by the Vatican last Friday revealed that during the last years of World War II it opposed the creation of a Jewish State in Palestine and that its policy of public silence on the plight of the Jews under Nazism was an effort to avoid endangering its quiet diplomacy on their behalf. The declassified wartime Vatican papers, titled "The Holy See and the Victims of the War, January-December 1943," showed that Luigi Cardinal Maglione, the then Vatican Secretary of State, expressed grave concern over the efforts of Zionism.

In a letter to the Vatican's Papal Nuncio in Washington, Amleto Cicognani, Cardinal Maglione wrote: "If Palestine fell under the rule of the Jews, it would give birth to new and grave international problems and make the Catholics of the world unhappy. It would cause righteous complaints of the Holy See and would poorly reciprocate the charitable concern that the Holy See has had and continues to have for non-Aryans."

"It is true," the letter continued, "that at one time Palestine was inhabited by the Jews. But how can you historically justify a criterion of bringing people back to those territories where they were 19 centuries ago?" It is not difficult, the letter noted, "if one wants to build a Jewish homeland, to find other territories more fitted for the purpose; but Palestine, under Jewish pre-dominance, would cause new and serious international problems."

### Saw Israel As A Utopia

In a message to Msgr. William Godfrey, the Papal legate in London, Cardinal Maglione wrote that "The Holy See has never approved the plan to make Palestine a Jewish homeland." In another message to Msgr. Godfrey, he stated that Roman Catholics had special historic rights to the holy places and venerated the Holy Land. "Therefore, the Catholics' religious feelings would be injured and they would justly fear for the rights if Palestine belonged exclusively to the Jews," Cardinal Maglione said.

The Vatican documents also showed that similar concern was expressed by Msgr. Angelo Roncalli, then Papal Nuncio to Turkey and later Pope John XXIII, in a letter to Cardinal Maglione in which he wrote that helping Jews reach Palestine "produces some uncertainties in my spirit" because it did not seem "good taste" that this charitable work should help, or appear to help, "in the realization of the messianic dream." He added: "It is quite certain that the reconstruction of the Kingdom of Judah and of Israel is only a utopia." Msgr. Roncalli, during his tenure as envoy to Turkey, helped Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution reach Palestine.

On the plight of Jews under Nazism, the documents revealed that the Vatican was worried in 1943 that the Nazis might invade the Vatican and kidnap Pope Pius XII. Nevertheless, the documents show that the Vatican protested strongly on Oct. 16, 1943 when 1027 Jews were arrested by Nazi troops in the ghetto of Rome and transported to death camps in northern Italy.

The documents also include dozens of reports from outside Italy on the killing of Jews by the Nazis and pleas for the Pope to speak out. In addition they reveal dozens of messages from the Vatican saying that it was doing everything it could diplomatically for the Jews. Critics of

Pope Pius contend, however, that he failed to act in any decisive manner after the mass arrests in Rome.

### RAP CHRISTIAN SILENCE ON LEBANON

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA)--"Are political considerations so powerful that they silence men of faith and block any move to bring succor to brothers in distress?" Religious Affairs Minister Yitzhak Raphael posed the question in a strongly worded attack on the silence of church leaders over the slaughter and maltreatment of Christians in Lebanon. Speaking to a National Religious Party gathering in Tel Aviv, he blasted the "strange silence" of church leaders.

Meanwhile, informed sources closely familiar with the events in Lebanon told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency late last week, before the truce went into effect, that the fighting there has been particularly savage, with both sides often flagrantly violating the basic canons of the Geneva Conventions. Wounded fighters and POWs often did not receive the minimal consideration dictated by the Conventions, these sources said.

### KH DIRECTOR ASKS FOR MORE PARTICIPATION BY BIG GIVERS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA)--S.Y. Kreutner, director of the Keren Hayesod, urged big donors not to rest content with giving, but to approach other potential givers with that aim of prompting them also to give to Israel. Addressing members of the United Israel Appeal-Keren Hayesod international fact-finding mission (the annual-most prestigious KH mission to Israel), Kreutner suggested that each such donor approach 10 to 15 others in the course of a year. Kreutner also urged that more emphasis be placed on middle givers (in the \$3000-\$6000 range). The mission members toured an air force base Friday and lunched with Golda Meir in Tel Aviv. Earlier last week they had visited Yamit, the new town being built at the southern end of the Gaza Strip.

During a meeting with Yosef Almogi, chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive, one mission member asked why some Israelis left Israel. "For the same reason that you are not immigrating to Israel," he replied. Almogi said he favored the establishment of a top level committee to study the motives beneath the wave of yerida (Israelis leaving Israel to live abroad).

In a similar vein, Tourism Minister Moshe Kol has proposed an urgent debate in the Cabinet--to be followed by prompt action--on the problem of yerida. According to various estimates, there are some 250,000 Israelis now living abroad, more or less permanently. Government efforts in the past to attract them back home have not been successful.

Last year's yerida figure, estimated at 16,000, was only just less than the aliya figure. Kol said in his proposal for a Cabinet debate that of late yordim and those contemplating yerida "have no longer a sense of shame or regret" over their action or projected action.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--The International League for the Repatriation of Russian Jews has called upon the Polish government to withdraw its plans for uprooting the Jewish cemetery in Warsaw, replacing it with a housing project, it was announced by Rabbi Benjamin Blech, League president. He reported that leaders of the Warsaw Jewish community urged one of the League's officers who was recently there to carry the message to the West.