



# daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036

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Vol. XLIII - 59th Year

Friday, January 30, 1976

No. 21

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Total Figure Will Be Announced Next Month  
By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA)--White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen said today that President Ford will request a "very substantial" assistance program for Israel in fiscal 1977 which the President believes "is fully adequate for Israel and meets its future security requirements." He said that "Israel has been told what the program requests will be--told in fact before the meetings" between Ford and Premier Yitzhak Rabin.

Nessen made his reference to the aid program in a briefing for reporters following the third and final meeting at the White House between President Ford and the Israeli Premier. Their session this morning lasted 30 minutes. They met for 80 minutes on Tuesday and for 55 minutes yesterday. Nessen said no joint communiqué would be issued by the two leaders because "it was just decided not to have one."

He described the Ford-Rabin talks as "part of the explorations we are making with all the parties at this stage," and added, "I am just going to let quiet diplomacy go forward and not to talk too much about the conclusions."

## Israel's Security, U.S. Economy Considered

Nessen said the total figures on assistance for Israel in the new fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 will be made known when the President submits the entire foreign aid program for all countries to Congress in mid-February. With respect to the aid package for Israel, he said the considerations were "first of all, Israel's security and economic needs and secondly, America's own economic situation and America's own interests."

On the aid question, Nessen continued, "The budget shows a billion dollars which is a part and not a total assistance for fiscal year 1977." The sum of \$1 billion for military assistance next year represents a half-billion dollar cut from the military assistance recommendations for the current fiscal year which has been extended to Oct. 1.

Israel is believed to have felt that it requires at least \$1.5 billion to meet its defense needs in light of the arms flowing into the Arab states which threaten to alter the Mideast power balance. Israel has also requested about \$800 million in economic support assistance. The Administration has not revealed what amount it will ask for in this category.

However, the impression appeared to be after the Ford-Rabin discussions that the military aid figure will not be altered but the economic support assistance would approach Israel's request, bringing the total aid package to about \$1.8 billion. Nessen said the U.S. did not contemplate that the elevation of assistance to Israel should be continued on the same level as in the years following the 1973 war.

## U.S. Not Offering Own Plan

Nessen said, in reply to questions, that the U.S. is determined not to have the peace process in the Middle East fall into stagnation. He said

he did not want to leave the impression that there is a new initiative in the area. He noted that the Ford-Rabin talks concerned, among other things, what steps may be taken next and asserted that it was up to the parties in the area to decide the next steps. The U.S., "at this point has not offered a plan of its own" on the diplomatic process in the Middle East, Nessen said.

He said that "quiet diplomacy is better than public discussion" and that it was "my understanding" that the U.S. could not put forward a new initiative. Asked about reconvening the Geneva conference, Nessen noted that Israel is on record in favor of it. He said the U.S. favored a preliminary conference, but would not elaborate.

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Sen. Frank Church (D, Idaho), a ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will head a delegation of nearly a dozen members of Congress who will fly to Belgium for the meeting. Details of the Brussels conference--which will convene less than two weeks before the All-Union (Communist) Party Congress in Moscow--were disclosed at a news conference today by three American Jewish leaders who will play key roles there:

—Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the American Section of the World Zionist Organization, who is co-chairman of the Brussels steering committee; Stanley H. Lowell, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, one of the seven Jewish organizations around the world that are sponsoring the conference; and Rabbi Israel Miller, immediate past chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the other American sponsoring organization. Other convenors of the Brussels conference are the B'nai B'rith International, European Conference on Soviet Jewry, Israel Public Council for Soviet Jews, Latin American Jewish Congress, World Jewish Congress and World Zionist Organization.

## 112,000 Jews Left USSR Since 1971

The Brussels conference has been called just five years after the first international assembly on the plight of Soviet Jews, held in the Belgian capital in February, 1971. Since that meeting, Mrs. Jacobson said, Soviet authorities have issued exit visas to an estimated 112,000 Jews--almost all of whom have gone to Israel--compared to only 10,000 in the previous 25 years.

Mrs. Jacobson noted, however, that in the past two years the USSR had "cut back sharply" in the granting of permission to emigrate. From a high of 35,000 in 1973, visas to leave in 1974 were given to only 20,000 Jews and, in 1975, to 12,000. Commenting on this decline, Mrs. Jacobson said: "A

major purpose of Brussels II will be to draw world attention to the ever-harsher Soviet policy toward Jews seeking to emigrate and to the Kremlin's failure to live up to the 1975 Helsinki agreement on the free movement of people and ideas."

Lowell, who will be one of the speakers at the Brussels conference, reported that the U.S. delegation would comprise more than 300 persons, including Jewish community leaders, Catholics and Protestant church officials, Black spokesmen and personalities in law and government. The Congressional delegation will include, in addition to Church, Rep. Robert Drinan (D, Mass.), Joshua Eilberg (D, Pa.), Hamilton Fish (R, NY), Stephen Solarz (D, NY) and Sidney Yates (D, Ill.). Lowell said a large delegation at Brussels would consist of Soviet Jews who had emigrated to Israel, including a number of former "Prisoners of Zion."

Rabbi Miller said that official Soviet anti-Semitism had increased "sharply and alarmingly" since the Yom Kippur War. "The Brussels conference will serve as a signal to the free world of the unity of all those who have joined the Soviet Jewish struggle from outside the USSR," he said. "It will remind the men in the Kremlin of the strength of our identification with Soviet Jewry and of our determination to help them win their struggle. Finally, Brussels II will tell the Jews of the Soviet Union that they are not alone, that their cause is our cause and that we continue to take fresh inspiration from their incredible courage."

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The urging was in the form of a letter to all the delegates from Morris Brafman, an American industrialist, speaking for a group that is being organized which calls itself "The Action Committee for a World Secretariat for Soviet Jewry."

Brafman, who organized the International League for Repatriation of Russian Jews in 1968 and the American Federation for Soviet Jews in 1971, said the first Brussels conference in 1971 helped unite world Jewry around the struggle for Soviet Jewry. But he charged the conference was a disappointment because it failed to transform the "noble sentiments and critical resolutions" into a program of political and social action on a global scale.

"Brussels I left nothing permanent in its wake," Brafman declared. "It reduced the global impact by delegating its recommendations back to the national groupings in each country on an optional elective basis. And Soviet Jews have paid a bitter price ever since."

#### Proposals Outlined

Brafman's proposal is to set up a permanent secretariat at Brussels, Geneva or some other centrally-located European city staffed by professionals, including Soviet Jews; the creation of a protected fund to provide support and maintenance for Soviet Jewish refuseniks who can no longer support their families since they have lost their jobs after applying for exit visas; the publi-

cation of a bi-weekly newspaper on Soviet Jewry; and a telex "hotline" linkup with all Soviet Jewry organizations so that they will receive the latest information on developments.

Also the training and direction of an international group of "ambassadors" from Soviet Jewry to all Western parliamentary bodies; the establishment and coordination of a core of legal advisors to assist Soviet Jews, especially the Prisoners of Conscience; and the creation of a task force of psychologists, sociologists, educators and professional and vocational guidance counselors to help Soviet Jews with their absorption in Israel.

Brafman is the author of "Trade for Freedom: Detente, Trade and Soviet Jews," and co-author of the forthcoming "From Moscow to Jerusalem" which describes the experiences of some Soviet Jewish activists.

#### VLADIMIR GROSSMAN DEAD AT 92

GENEVA, Jan. 29 (JTA)--Vladimir Grossman, well-known Jewish activist, journalist and historian, died here on Jan. 22 after a short illness. He was 92 years old. Mr. Grossman was born in Temruk in the North Caucasus in 1884. After finishing studies in Agronomy at the University of Berlin and Law at the University of St. Petersburg, he took over the publication "The Jewish Immigrant," sponsored by the Jewish Colonization Association. He left Russia in 1915 to represent the Jewish Defense Committee of St. Petersburg in Copenhagen. It was at that time that he established his lifelong friendship with the leaders of the Scandinavian Social Democratic movement and also became a correspondent for the Danish daily newspaper "Politiken." At the end of World War I, Mr. Grossman moved to Paris where he wrote for the Yiddish newspaper "Haint" and headed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in France.

At the beginning of World War II, he went to Canada as delegate of the World ORT Union and in this role he developed an important retraining program for European refugees. Immediately after the liberation of Europe, he returned to the continent to continue his work in DP camps in the British Occupation Zone and also took up work again for ORT in Scandinavia. He was awarded the Danish Liberation Medal for exceptional services.

Mr. Grossman lived in Geneva for the past 22 years where he continued to write for major Yiddish language newspapers in France, the U.S. and Argentina and continued his close association with the World ORT Union. The third volume of his major work on world Jewry and world politics, "Old and New Problems," was published in Paris in the fall of 1975.

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT SEEKS TO LIBERALIZE PRESENT ABORTION LAWS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA)--The Knesset was immersed in heated debate today over a proposed amendment that would substantially liberalize Israel's present abortion laws. The amendment, introduced by Chaike Grossman, of Mapam, was supported by most women MKs and by the few men who participated in the debate. Only the Orthodox MKs rallied against the measure, terming it degenerate and national suicide.

The amendment would make abortion legal if approved on either medical or social grounds by a committee of two professionals who may consist of a doctor, a gynecologist, a public health nurse or social worker. The criteria for permissible abortion would be danger to the life of the mother

which is grounds for abortion under existing laws; danger to the life of the fetus; and "danger of serious damage to mother or children because of family circumstances" meaning large families on the poverty level.

The amendment would permit abortions within the first three months of pregnancy and only in approved medical institutions. Abortions would also be justified in cases of pregnancy out of wedlock or resulting from rape or incestuous union or in cases where the mother is a minor.

### Debate Flares Up

Marcia Freedman of the new Social Democratic Party, welcomed the amendment but said it did not go far enough. She said some 60,000 abortions are performed in Israel each year, only 15,000 of them legally. Akiva Nof, of Likud, one of the few men who joined the debate, said the issue was whether abortions would continue to be performed furtively under unsanitary conditions at extortionist prices or safely by licensed medical personnel.

Ora Namir, of the Labor Party, said the amendment was especially important for women in the poorer levels of society who were not familiar or comfortable with birth control methods. Shulamit Aloni, of the Yaad faction, supported the amendment on grounds that women have the sole right to control their own bodies and should not be forced to bear unwanted children.

The only woman law-maker opposed to the amendment was Geula Cohen, of Likud, who claimed the measure was too loosely drafted and therefore would have the effect of abolishing all restrictions on abortion. Predictably, the Orthodox factions, which include no women in the Knesset, were outraged. Kalman Kahane, of Poalei Aguda, said the amendment would have Israel follow the course of other "degenerate" countries. Other Orthodox MKs claimed abortion was national suicide at a time when aliya was down and Israel needed to increase its population.

### RABIN: ISRAEL WILL STAND FIRM AGAINST ILLUSIONS OF A SO-CALLED PEACE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin of Israel reiterated today that his nation was "more than willing to go more than half way" to achieve peace in the Middle East. "We are willing to take all risks" for a real peace but we are "going to stand firm against illusions of a so-called peace," Rabin told an overflow audience at the National Press Club. His strong statement on this issue was regarded as significant, coming as it did after three meetings with President Ford.

In both his formal presentation, which he delivered for the most part extemporaneously and in reply to questions from the media representatives, Rabin re-stated what he had told a joint session of Congress yesterday. He said that Israel recognized the existence of a Palestinian issue which "can and must" be resolved "in the context of a Jordanian-Palestinian solution"; that Israel distinguished between the Palestinians and the terrorist organizations; and that Israel will not, under any circumstances deal with "the so-called PLO."

The Israeli Premier said that "when Arab leaders conclude Israel is viable, this issue can be settled and the Palestinians will find their identity and boundaries will be agreed upon in the process of negotiations." He said that after

Israel concluded its Sinai accord with Egypt last year he hoped this would encourage other countries in the diplomatic process. "But we find at least one country--I mean Syria--decided to do the opposite," Rabin said.

### Main Purpose Of U.S. Aid

He said "The extreme position of Syria, using the terrorist organization called PLO--backed by a major power--not only blocks the prospects of peace but undermines all that has been agreed to by the international community for nearly seven years." He said, in that connection, that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 "are now put under question."

Rabin said the situation in Lebanon was a reminder of "what might be the fate of a minority in a sea of Arab countries that does not maintain a country of its own and the independence to master its present and future."

When Rabin was asked, in connection with the U.S. military aid program for Israel for fiscal 1977, "what went wrong," the Premier replied, "Nothing went wrong." He said the main purpose of U.S. aid to Israel was to strengthen it and thereby deter war and strengthen the prospects of peace. "Israel will continue its efforts to achieve real peace.... We have not lost confidence that peace will be achieved and we will not lose it. We look to the future with confidence that we can overcome," the Premier said.

### U.S. PRAISES ROLE OF SYRIA IN LEBANON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA)--The United States said today that it "recognizes the constructive role the government of Syria is playing" in Lebanon and "it is encouraged at the progress being made in that strife-ridden country."

The remarks approving Syria's participation in the Lebanese conflict were made to reporters by State Department spokesman John Tattner only two hours after Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin had charged in a National Press Club address that Syria posed a threat to Middle East peace prospects and that the situation in Lebanon endangered Israel and minorities in the Moslem world.

Asked by a reporter if there were differences between the U.S. and Israel over Lebanon, Tattner said "We are in touch with all the parties" and would not discuss how any other country regarded the situation in Lebanon.

Tattner made his remarks on Syria in response to questions about a report from Damascus today that the U.S. had approved the entry into Lebanon of the Syrian-sponsored Palestine Liberation Army, an arm of the PLO, which has been credited with tipping the balance against Christian groups in that country. Tattner said he had no direct comment on that report but observed that the U.S. position has been consistent through the period of fighting in Lebanon.

"We have called for an end to the fighting and a political accommodation acceptable to all Lebanese," the State Department official said. He added, "We are encouraged by the efforts to that end that appear to have a chance of success and we are encouraged progress is being made currently."

Asked if the "constructive role" the U.S. was approving covered the entire period of Syrian intervention in Lebanon or only recent developments, Tattner replied, "We recognize the constructive role of Syria without reference to what has happened in the past." He said that with a cease-fire apparently taking hold we hope "a basic domestic political accord will be developed in Lebanon."

# ORT CONCLAVE TO DEAL WITH THE GAP BETWEEN THE "TWO ISRAELS"

NEW YORK, Jan. 29 (JTA)--Elements of what was described as a "social revolution" by Joseph Harmatz, director of ORT Israel, were the focal points of a report prepared for presentation to the more than 750 delegates expected at the three-day national conference of the American ORT Federation this weekend at the Hotel Americana.

The gap between the "two Israels," those of Western and those of non-European origin, continues to be one of the most anguished sores on the social fabric of Israel, the report noted. Harmatz noted that over 60 percent of the youth being trained in contemporary occupational skills in the ORT schools throughout Israel, come from families that originated in North Africa, Iran, Yemen, and similar pre-industrial countries.

While this effort is not a solution to what remains the single most aggravating problem on Israel's "home front," Harmatz described the presence of "tens of thousands of poverty and near-poverty level youth in the ORT schools as one of the great hopes that this youth generation will assume quite a different place in Israel than could their fathers."

## Will Need \$25 Million In 1976

Contrary to the American and European pattern, Harmatz reported that "last year at least one out of two adolescents of high school age were studying in vocational and technical high schools rather than academic. This is one of the best ways we have of steering this most viable and energetic segment of the population into productive segments of the economy. Our schools are refineries, converting raw, still only partly formed youth into the finished product, skilled manpower."

Harmatz stated that ORT Israel graduated 12,135 students last year. Somewhat more will complete their specialized technical training this year, he predicted. Thus far, ORT Israel "has sent into the Israel economy" over 125,000 persons, forming "a major segment of the nation's qualified technical corp," he averred.

Looking ahead, Harmatz reported that ORT Israel will require over \$25 million during 1976 to provide educational and training services to a student body numbering some 50,000, who will be studying in 84 ORT schools throughout the country. He announced that ORT now contains seven technical colleges within its network and this spring will open the ORT School of Engineering, at the college level, in conjunction with the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

## B'NAI B'RITH SAYS IT HAS MADE NO DECISION TO RENEW TOURS TO MEXICO

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA)--B'naï B'rith said today that, "contrary to published statements," it has made no decision to reinstitute group tours to Mexico. B'naï B'rith President David M. Blumberg said that his organization plans no formal action to resume such tours until a poll of some 2000 of its local leaders, soliciting their views and reactions, is completed.

Blumberg said it was "unfortunate" that the recommendations of a special committee of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, proposing that the American Jewish community's relations with Mexico be "fully normalized," had been publicly disseminated Monday "before any of its constituent organizations had a chance to act of them." This has

created implications of a change in B'naï B'rith's policy on tourism that is, at this time, unwarranted," Blumberg declared.

He said that his organization was "very much encouraged" by recent moves of the Mexican government "which appear to disavow" its vote supporting the UN resolution that equated Zionism with racism. "But the statement by the Presidents Conference tended to prejudice improperly the views and actions of B'naï B'rith members regarding tourism," Blumberg said.

## JNF BICENTENNIAL FILM SHOWN IN SENATE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29 (JTA)--The new Jewish National Fund film, "From Every Mountainside," was screened in the Senate yesterday to acquaint Congressmen with the JNF's current project, the American Bicentennial National Park in Israel. The screening, which was followed by a reception, was co-sponsored by Sen. Richard Schweiker (D., Pa.) and Sen. Gale McGee (D., Wyo.).

In addition to Congressmen, representatives of the Israel Embassy, American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, and leading members of the Washington and Baltimore Jewish communities also attended.

The film surveys a region in the vicinity of Jerusalem which has been a wilderness since Biblical times, which will be converted into a national park including roads, recreation and picnic areas, new forests, observation posts, and an observation tower atop the highest peak in the southern Judean mountain chain.

The project, which was initiated last year by the JNF of America, will provide an ecological and forestry infrastructure for an entire network of settlements with the township of Beit Shemesh as its center. The park, which will take three years to complete, will be dedicated on July 4 by a delegation of hundreds of American Jewish leaders and top representatives of the U.S. and Israel governments.

Dr. Maurice S. Sage, JNF national president, Meyer Pesin, past president, and Abram Salomon, executive vice-president, addressed the Senate reception, in addition to Schweiker and McGee.

## LEBANESE WAR REFUGEE IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Jan. 29 (JTA)--Hella Josin, a 15-year-old Lebanese Christian girl, was treated for shotgun wounds in Israel yesterday. The youngster was the first victim of the Lebanese civil war to find haven in Israel since the borders were opened to war refugees Monday.

The youngster was escorted across the border near Metullah by Israeli soldiers and was given first aid treatment at an army field hospital. Later she was transferred to a hospital in Safad where surgery was performed to remove shotgun pellets from her legs. The girl's injuries were not serious but gangrene was beginning to set in by the time she was hospitalized. She said she had been unable to get medical treatment in Lebanon because the hospitals are jammed with wounded people.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--Sen. William Brock (R. Tenn.) called upon the U.S. to use its economic resources, including food, as a means of supporting its moral principles in the world. Addressing 500 Orthodox rabbis at the bicentennial Torah Convocation of the Rabbinical Council of America, Brock said the U.S. has not upheld its moral commitment to Israel in "dealing with Arab potentates." Rabbi Israel Miller was honored by the Council for his efforts on behalf of Israel.





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#### VLADIMIR GROSSMAN DEAD AT 92

GENEVA, Jan. 29 (JTA)--Vladimir Grossman, well-known Jewish activist, journalist and historian, died here on Jan. 22 after a short illness. He was 92 years old. Mr. Grossman was born in Temruk in the North Caucasus in 1884. After finishing studies in Agronomy at the University of Berlin and Law at the University of St. Petersburg, he took over the publication "The Jewish Immigrant," sponsored by the Jewish Colonization Association. He left Russia in 1915 to represent the Jewish Defense Committee of St. Petersburg in Copenhagen. It was at that time that he established his lifelong friendship with the leaders of the Scandinavian Social Democratic movement and also became a correspondent for the Danish daily newspaper "Politiken." At the end of World War I, Mr. Grossman moved to Paris where he wrote for the Yiddish newspaper "Haint" and headed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in France.

At the beginning of World War II, he went to Canada as delegate of the World ORT Union and in this role he developed an important retraining program for European refugees. Immediately after the liberation of Europe, he returned to the continent to continue his work in DP camps in the British Occupation Zone and also took up work again for ORT in Scandinavia. He was awarded the Danish Liberation Medal for exceptional services.

Mr. Grossman lived in Geneva for the past 22 years where he continued to write for major Yiddish language newspapers in France, the U.S. and Argentina and continued his close association with the World ORT Union. The third volume of his major work on world Jewry and world politics, "Old and New Problems," was published in Paris in the fall of 1975.

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT SEEKS TO LIBERALIZE PRESENT ABORTION LAWS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 29 (JTA)--The Knesset was immersed in heated debate today over a proposed amendment that would substantially liberalize Israel's present abortion laws. The amendment, introduced by Chaike Grossman, of Mapam, was supported by most women MKs and by the few men who participated in the debate. Only the Orthodox MKs rallied against the measure, terming it degenerate and national suicide.

The amendment would make abortion legal if approved on either medical or social grounds by a committee of two professionals who may consist of a doctor, a gynecologist, a public health nurse or social worker. The criteria for permissible abortion would be danger to the life of the mother