



# daily news bulletin

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## **RABIN ACCUSES U.S. OF HEATING UP THE ARMS RACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

**Charge Follows Announcement That The U.S. Will Sell Arms To Egypt By Yitzhak Shargil**

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin angrily accused the United States today of serving as a "catalyst" in the Middle East arms race. Referring to the Ford Administration's efforts to lift the American embargo on arms sales to Egypt and its recently announced \$1.2 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia, Rabin said that since the U.S. is committed to maintain the balance of military power in the Middle East, it would have to honor that commitment by supplying greater quantities of arms to Israel and would thus become "a moving force in the Middle East arms race." (See related story P. 3.)

The Premier said that "Israel's policy is to try to persuade nations with whom it has ties not to sell weapons to nations hostile to Israel" and specifically, that Israel would make every effort to block the American sale of six giant Hercules C-130 transports to Egypt.

(Israel's Ambassador to Washington, Simcha Dinlitz, lodged a strong protest over the projected sale of C-130s, sophisticated electronic equipment, trucks and jeeps to Egypt at a meeting Monday with Undersecretary of State Joseph J. Sisco.)

Rabin made his remarks in an address to eighth grade pupils of the Kibbutz Hameuchad High Schools at a seminar held at Kibbutz Ef Al. He said Israel regarded the American intention to sell arms to Egypt as most grave and a cause of deep anxiety. It was the second time this week that the Premier publicly expressed Israel's displeasure over American arms sales to the Arabs.

Addressing the Knesset Monday night, Rabin said the government would do all in its power to persuade the Americans not to go through with their massive arms deal with Saudi Arabia. He warned that American weapons sold to that country could easily find their way to the "confrontation states." At least 5000 Saudi Arabian troops are reportedly now stationed in Jordan and a like number in Syria, presumably armed with American weapons.

### **Shocked By Mounting Campaign**

Israeli circles were shocked by the Ford Administration's mounting campaign to get Congressional approval of the arms sales to the Saudis and removal of the arms embargo against Egypt. The Administration's intention to sell six C-130s to Egypt was mentioned to Rabin by Ford and Kissinger when Rabin was in Washington last month. The projected deal with Saudi Arabia was not disclosed until after the Israeli leader's departure.

Circles here were particularly disturbed that the American announcement was made without prior consultation with Israel. The U.S. had pledged to inform and consult with Israel before making any major moves, diplomatically or militarily in the Middle East. Moreover, it is believed here that the C-130s represent only the first of a wide variety of military equipment the U.S. intends to sell to Egypt.

When Egyptian President Anwar Sadat visited

Washington last Oct. he is known to have asked for a variety of weapons systems including anti-aircraft missiles, anti-tank missiles and F-5E jet fighters. Gen. (res.) Mordechai Hod, former commander of the Israel Air Force, said last week that the U.S. planned to sell Egypt F-79 jet engines--the same that power American Phantoms--which the Egyptians would install in their Soviet-built MIG-21 interceptors. The U.S. State Department subsequently denied that there was any intention to sell the F-79 engines to Egypt.

Heretofore, Israel's armed forces have benefited from the general superiority of American weapons over their Soviet counterparts in the Arab arsenals. But this advantage would be lost, military sources pointed out, if the Egyptians are armed with American equipment, allowing them in effect to enjoy the best of both Western and Soviet technology. Israel would be forced to invest enormous sums and effort to create counter-weapons to the Western equipment in Arab hands. Some sources here questioned today whether the latest developments represented a turning point in U.S.-Israeli relations or, at best, a serious erosion in those relations.

### **Presidential Primaries A Factor**

Circles here said Israel is limited in the way it can respond. It can lobby against the arms sales to Egypt and Saudi Arabia in both houses of the U.S. Congress; it can appeal to American public opinion over the head of the Administration and it can, especially, call on American Jewry for support in this election year.

However, political observers here feel that President Ford, having won the New Hampshire primary over his rival, former Gov. Ronald Reagan of California, albeit by a slim margin, and Tuesday's Massachusetts primary by an overwhelming majority, is now confident of the Republican Presidential nomination. He has therefore embarked on a strategy of arming Egypt in order to widen the gap between Cairo and Moscow.

Reports from Washington today said the Ford Administration has already informed key members of Congress that it seeks to encourage Egypt on the path of moderation--meaning away from the Soviet camp--by lifting the arms embargo.

### **VATICAN, JEWISH JOINT STATEMENT CALLS FOR ACTIONS TO COUNTERACT ANTI-ISRAEL, ANTI-JEWISH CAMPAIGNS**

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA)--The first Catholic-Jewish dialogue ever held in Jerusalem ended last night with the issuance of a joint statement by the representatives of both faiths expressing "profound concern over the campaign to defame the State of Israel and the Jewish people and to isolate them from the international community."

The statement, by the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, headed by Rabbi Joseph Lookstein, Chancellor of Bar Ilan University, and a visiting Vatican delegation headed by Bishop Ramon Torrella, declared that action must be taken to counteract the anti-Israel campaign. (See related story P. 4.)

The joint statement said that both parties to

the dialogue were satisfied with the rejection by "various authorities in the Catholic Church" of the anti-Zionist resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly last year. The statement also expressed "deep joy" over "the historical and religious significance of the fact that they met for the first time in the Holy City of Jerusalem."

#### Source Of Satisfaction

The statement was the source of considerable satisfaction in Israeli circles, especially since it referred specifically to "the State of Israel." The Vatican has never recognized Israel and the visiting delegation from the Holy See did not respond to urgings by Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren that formal recognition be extended.

The visiting Catholic leaders decided, apparently on instructions from Rome, not to meet officially with Religious Affairs Minister Yitzhak Raphael. But Bishop Torrella and Father Pierre de Cotenson, secretary of the Catholic delegation, held informal talks with the Minister before the dialogue opened officially on Monday.

These developments, and the language of the joint statement, indicated to observers here that a closer understanding has been reached between Israel and the Vatican. The three days of discussion covered past Jewish-Catholic relations and their possible broadening in the future.

The joint statement said that both faiths agreed to "examine further the issues of missions and witness"—meaning Catholic efforts to propagate their faith by conversions, a very sensitive issue in Israel. The statement said that matter would be taken up at the next dialogue which is expected to take place at the end of the year or early 1977, in Holland.

#### NEW FLARE-UP ALONG LEBANESE BORDER

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA)--Terrorist rockets exploded near Manera last night and Israeli artillery retaliated in a new flare-up along the Lebanese border which had been quiet for sometime. The shooting followed a search-and-destroy mission by Israeli units who entered the Lebanese village of Mis-a-Djabel about a half mile inside the border to blow up a building used by terrorists and their collaborators. No Israeli casualties were reported and no damage was caused by the Katyusha rockets fired later at Manera which is some two miles from Mis-a-Djabel.

That hamlet, inhabited by about 2500 Arabs of the Methusalian sect, has been the target of several Israeli army strikes against terrorist bases. Informed sources said that Soviet-type bazookas have been fired at Israeli patrols in the vicinity and Israeli artillery has returned the fire.

Defense Minister Shimon Peres, who held an impromptu press conference at Kibbutz Hanita near the border today, said it was still unclear who controls southern Lebanon. He said Lebanese army regulars still have not returned to the positions they abandoned during the recent civil war in Lebanon but Palestinian units apparently have not taken over the positions. Peres said the main threat to peace is Syria which has increased its influence in Lebanon and is trying to turn that country into a confrontation state against Israel.

#### FRANCO-BAHRAIN STATEMENT EYES PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, IGNORES RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO SECURE FRONTIERS

PARIS, March 4 (JTA)--France today joined Bahrain in calling for a Middle East peace set-

tlement which would enable "the Palestinian people to fulfill their aspirations," but without reaffirming Israel's right to secure frontiers.

The call came in a statement by French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Bahrain's Emir Sheikh Isa Bin Sulman al-Khalifa who has just ended a four-day official visit here. Although the communique was interpreted in some quarters as reflecting a hardening of France's attitude towards Israel, French and Israeli officials did not share this view.

But the communique was noteworthy for the absence of any reference to the need for safe borders in the Middle East. This appears regularly in French statements on the area and was reaffirmed by Giscard d'Estaing on Tuesday when he toasted the Bahraini Emir at a state banquet.

The final communique said: "The two parties expressed their common conviction that the search must be hastened for a lasting peace settlement which will conform to the principles of law, justice and equity, particularly in permitting the Palestinian people to fulfill their aspirations and exercise their legitimate rights."

The communique praised the growth of French business investment in Bahrain and the prospects for expanding economic cooperation between the two countries.

#### MILES SHEROVER DEAD AT 80

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA)--Funeral services for Miles M. Sherover, a leading industrialist in Venezuela and Israel, will be held tomorrow at the Jerusalem Theater which he founded. He died yesterday at the age of 80. Born in Krakow, Poland on Oct. 16, 1896, Mr. Sherover was brought to New York's Lower East Side as a child. He attended City College.

After World War I he travelled widely through Asia as a freelance journalist and was fluent in Japanese and Chinese. He then became the first underwriter of Soviet bonds in the United States and acted as the official purchasing agent of the Spanish Republican government in the U.S. Mr. Sherover concentrated his business activities in Venezuela after World War II, founding Sivena, the Venezuelan Steel Corporation in 1949. Since the 1960s he had divided his time between Caracas and Jerusalem.

Mr. Sherover met his Latvian-born wife, Gitta, on a visit here in 1953. He founded the Jerusalem Theater five years ago and built a beautiful modern home next to the theater. The Sherovers helped bring many international artists to the Jerusalem concert and opera stage. In 1974 he was honored as a "Worthy of Jerusalem."

#### HOUSE AUTHORIZES FOREIGN AID PACKAGE

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 4 (JTA)--The House yesterday authorized by a vote of 240-169 a ceiling of \$4.8 billion in foreign aid for the current fiscal year ending June 30 and also approved an additional 25 percent or \$1.2 billion for the transitional period between the end of the current fiscal year and the new fiscal year which starts Oct. 1. But the fate of the special funding is far from decided.

The House late today takes up the appropriation bill for the program that makes no mention of the funding for the transitional quarter and the likelihood is that it will not include the money in its measure. The Senate, which has already authorized a program approximately equal to the House authorization, has not begun to act on appropriations legislation. The Senate Appropriation-

Committee is waiting for the results from the House, as is traditional, before it begins its considerations possibly next week.

At about the same time, a Senate-House conference will probably begin work on ironing out the differences in the authorization measures to provide a uniform bill for further vote in both chambers and then submission to President Ford for his signature. Authorization measures set the policy and money ceilings but the actual funding is done by a separate appropriations bill.

The House authorization bill provides \$2.55 billion for Israel including \$1.5 billion in military credits of which up to half can be forgiven by the President. The bill also includes \$750 million for Egypt in economic aid; \$90 million for Syria and \$225 million for Jordan, including \$145 million in military grants and credits. The Senate version provides slightly smaller sums for all the countries including \$30 million less for Israel in economic support.

#### Opposition From Conservatives

The House adopted the authorization program with party lines broken. The opposition came mainly from conservatives. Among those who argued against the amount of assistance to Israel was Rep. Clement Zablocki (D.Wis.), who, based on seniority, will take over the chairmanship of the House International Relations Committee when Rep. Thomas Morgan (D.Pa.) retires from Congress at the end of this year. Zablocki contended that the military funding for Israel was extensive, noting that it was only \$300 million in the previous fiscal year.

Voting for the authorization was Rep. Otto Passman (D.La.), head of the House Appropriations Committee, although he and others on that panel have refused to include a transitional quarter fund because the Ford Administration had not asked for it. Capitol Hill sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that international and domestic politics are involved in the foreign aid funding strategy both in the Administration and the Congress.

The Administration, they said, desires to pin responsibility on the transitional quarter funding on Congress in view of domestic problems such as unemployment and social programs and also to use it as leverage in dealing with the Middle East. The House may seek to put the responsibility both on the Administration and the Senate, largely for domestic reasons this election year. Thus the Senate's decision on appropriations is expected to determine the outcome on the funding.

#### U.S. PLANS ARMS SALE TO EGYPT WHETHER ISRAEL APPROVES OR NOT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 4 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger acknowledged today that the U.S. plans to sell six Hercules C-130 military transports to Egypt, indicated that this could be the forerunner of a broad program of large-scale American military sales to that country and stated in effect that the C-130 sale was in the United States' interest whether Israel approved or not. Kissinger's statements before the House International Relations Committee were later confirmed in substance by State Department spokesman Robert Funseth.

The issue of arms sales to Egypt was raised by Rep. Lee Hamilton (D.Ind.) during the course of Kissinger's report on his recent Latin American trip to the committee this morning. He said,

under questioning by Hamilton, that the Ford Administration had agreed to sell Egypt the C-130s "to symbolize to Egypt that it has some Western connections." The Secretary added, "But of course, we cannot be the principal arms supplier of Egypt."

Asked about Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin's protest over the sale, Kissinger noted that he had told Rabin when the latter was in Washington that the Administration intended to sell C-130s to Egypt. Kissinger said, "You can't expect Israel to give formal approval or give any approval to this sale, but I think we have to do what we think is in our national interest."

Kissinger also remarked, with obvious sarcasm, "I don't have the impression that he (Rabin) is planning to run his electoral campaign on the basis of supporting that (C-130) decision."

#### Justifies Sale To Egypt

Kissinger justified the sale to Egypt by saying that "Egypt is in a very complicated position. It has interrupted its military relations with the Soviet Union. It is getting no new arms from the Soviet Union and is being pressed with respect to spare parts. This has been a very courageous decision on the part of President Sadat to ease tensions in the area and to move it toward peace."

Kissinger told the committee that he does not "anticipate" other purchases by Egypt in the "next few months." However, he added, "We have given a general briefing to a number of Congressmen about our philosophy" with respect to the sale of weapons to Egypt. The Secretary pointed out that Congress will have the opportunity to pass on "any significant sale" to Egypt.

State Department spokesman Robert Funseth, responding to reporters' questions about Kissinger's remarks to the committee, specifically about additional arms sales to Egypt, said the Administration is "not ruling out future military sales to Egypt but the C-130s are the only item now." Pressed about the possibility of a much broader series of weapons requests from Egypt, Funseth said "That's a fair interpretation of what he (Kissinger) said to the committee this morning."

#### MAPAM DEBATING ALIGNMENT FUTURE

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA)--Mapam, which is in the throes of a debate over the future of the Labor Alignment of which it is a member; was urged today by its veteran leader Yacov Hazan to carefully discuss with the Labor Party the need to find a common line in order to continue the alignment. He cautioned that if the alignment breaks up it might also lead to the splintering of Mapam.

Over the past few months a growing number of Mapam members have been urging the leadership to break with the alignment and to run an independent slate of candidates in the next national elections. Their feeling is that Mapam is losing its identity and independence by remaining in the alignment. Hazan also urged a peace policy "as if peace depends only on us" (Israel), but at the same time to prepare for war and be ready.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Tourist arrivals in the first six weeks of 1976 show a significant increase over the corresponding period in 1975. Statistics up to mid-February showed 52,600 arrivals, a 35% hike over a similar span in 1975, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of Tourism.

**NO ANTI-SEMITISM IN URUGUAY**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA)--There is no anti-Semitism in Uruguay, according to Yosef Yerosalimski, who edits a Jewish weekly in Spanish and runs a daily two-hour Yiddish radio program in Montevideo. He said that unlike in neighboring Argentina, to call someone an anti-Semite in Uruguay is considered an insult. The authorities bend over backwards to avoid any taint of anti-Semitism, he said.

Addressing a luncheon meeting of the Jerusalem branch of the World Union of Jewish Journalists, Yerosalimski said that Jewish life in Uruguay has not been affected by the government's swing to the right. He said that his country supports Israel, but along with many of Israel's other friends in Latin America it is abstaining on United Nations votes concerning Israel.

Yerosalimski said Palestinian propaganda in Uruguay and throughout Latin America is highly effective, playing upon such traditional "Zionist" themes as exile, homeland and natural rights. He said he finds that the Israeli media presents a wholly negative picture of Israel and this image of Israel when depicted abroad might be one of the reasons for the fall-off in aliya from Latin America. He called on national figures and newsmen in Israel to try and reflect some of the more positive sides of Israeli life.

The Montevideo journalist cited the example of World Zionist Organization Treasurer Leon Dulzin as the type of Israeli visitor needed. He said Dulzin had gone back to the basics of Zionist ideology and endeavors in his talks in Uruguay. He said that when Dulzin appeared on his radio show he sounded so sincere and moving that even a non-Jewish technician at the station was moved to tears.

Yerosalimski said that Uruguay's Jewish population of 45,000, almost all of whom live in Montevideo, has three Jewish dailies, one of which is a Yiddish Communist newspaper which is the only Communist paper that has not been shut down by the government.

**USSR CHALLENGED ON TIEMKIN CLAIM**

NEW YORK, March 4 (JTA)--The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry has challenged the Soviet Union to allow 16-year-old Marina Tiemkin to speak to her father "on neutral ground," to test the truthfulness of their claim that she does not want to be reunited with him.

Malcolm Hoenlein, Conference executive director, noted that the Soviet Mission to the UN issued a statement Tuesday in which it said that Marina does not wish to join her father. Dr. Alexander Tiemkin, in Israel. The Soviet statement claimed that Marina "is preparing for university studies and has no intention to go to Israel."

Hoenlein said the Conference has wired the Soviet Mission to demand that Marina, who has not seen her father for three years, be granted the right to speak with her father without duress from a neutral place, such as the U.S. Embassy or an American news agency.

"We are convinced that if allowed to speak with Dr. Tiemkin, Marina will reiterate her long-held desire to leave the USSR, a desire which was reaffirmed to us by people who met and spoke with her last August, and to join him in Israel."

Hoenlein added: "This claim that Marina wishes to remain in the USSR is yet another ex-

ample of the Soviets' propaganda campaign that seeks to at once discredit the Soviet Jewry movement, and to convince the free world that there is no such thing as a Jewish emigration problem."

**WJCONGRESS SETS UP YOUTH COMMISSION**

NEW YORK, March 4 (JTA)--In a statement issued here today, Philip M. Klutznick, chairman of the Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress, said a decision was made at the meeting of the Board in Paris (Feb. 22-24) to establish a permanent commission on youth and a youth advisory committee in each of the four regional branches of the WJC--North America, Europe, Latin America and Israel.

The permanent commission, Klutznick said, would represent the various perspectives of the younger generation. A majority of its members would be young people, nominated by the four regional branches of the WJC. It would include, however, a number of experts on youth affairs and lay leaders of the WJC, so as to foster a productive exchange of ideas between the younger and the older generations. The commission would consist of 15 young people and would in general meet in conjunction with meetings of the WJC Governing Board.

"The establishment of a youth commission and of youth advisory committees is a serious attempt," Klutznick said, "to involve in the activities and the decision-making processes of the WJC young people representing a broad spectrum of viewpoints. Given the way leadership usually emerges in national Jewish organizations and agencies, it is exceptional to find young people being delegated to represent these bodies at the meetings of an international umbrella organization."

**VATICAN SAID TO SUPPORT RIGHT OF JEWS TO SECURE, INDEPENDENT STATE**

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA)--A leading member of the Vatican delegation visiting Israel this week said that the Vatican supported the right of Jews to a secure and independent state. But Father De Cotensson, secretary of the Roman Catholic group here for a dialogue with the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, made no response to Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren's appeal for the Vatican to formally recognize Israel.

Goren, who met with the group, said he was amazed at the Vatican's failure to recognize Israel and expressed hope that normal relations would be established. He also insisted that cooperation between Jews and Christians must be on a humanitarian rather than a religious level and that efforts must be made to end hatred between all religious groups. Father De Cotensson affirmed that the Vatican opposed the anti-Zionist declaration made at the recent Christian-Muslim meeting in Tripoli, Libya at which the Vatican was represented.

Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef met separately with several members of the International Jewish Committee to discuss the situation of Jews in the Soviet Union and in Syria. Rabbi Joseph Lookstein, Chancellor of Bar Ilan University and chairman of the Jewish Committee defined the dialogue with the Vatican delegation as fraternal. It was the first time that an official body of the Vatican agreed to hold interfaith discussions in Jerusalem.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--The Senate Wednesday without dissent confirmed by a voice vote William Scranton as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.