



# daily news bulletin

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## Eye-Witness Report:

### UNREST ON THE WEST BANK

By Gil Sedan

NABLUS, March 15 (JTA)--Arab students hurled rocks at Israeli soldiers in Bethlehem today and raised the Palestinian flag over the local college building. The demonstration, the first in years in that normally peaceful West Bank town, was the latest manifestation of unrest and militant nationalism that has been escalating all over the West Bank during the past ten days involving mainly high school and college-age youths.

Until now, Israeli authorities have tended to minimize the seriousness of these disorders despite several violent clashes between students and soldiers. Military patrols have been increased in strength, especially in Nablus, which this reporter visited to obtain a first-hand account of recent events. Nablus, the largest West Bank town with a population of 50,000, is a hotbed of pro-PLO sentiment.

But student demonstrations have also occurred in Ramallah, El Bireh, Tulkarem, Jenin, Jericho and in East Jerusalem. Arab youths roamed the markets intimidating shopkeepers to close. In some towns, schools shut down. In others, they remained open but students stayed away from classes with the tacit assent of their teachers who reported for work. The immediate cause of the disturbances was a ruling by a Jerusalem magistrate a month ago that Jews could not be barred from prayers on the Temple Mount. (See related story P. 4.)

The Arabs were further inflamed by the seemingly equivocal attitude of the government toward illegal Jewish settlers on the West Bank. A group of the militantly Orthodox Gush Emunim has been permitted to remain in the Samaria region under army protection and there are severe pressures on the Rabin government from religious and right-wing nationalist quarters to open the West Bank to Jewish settlement.

The reaction of the West Bank Arabs to the Temple Mount conflict and the settlement issue is believed to have begun as a spontaneous protest. But pro-PLO and other Arab nationalist elements have seized on the situation to agitate for increased resistance to the Israeli administration.

### Resignations In West Bank Towns

Last week the mayors and town councils of Nablus and other West Bank towns--El Bireh, Ramallah, Bir Zeit and Silwad--resigned in a gesture of political protest. The Military Government refused to accept the resignations and declared flatly that the local municipalities would continue to function, noting that such gestures were not uncommon in the past. But Mayor Maazuz Almasri of Nablus, declared he and his colleagues would not withdraw their resignations unless the Israeli authorities complied with certain conditions.

These were to stop Jewish prayer services on the Temple Mount; to cease alleged harassment of West Bank citizens; prevent Israeli soldiers from entering schools; commute fines and prison terms imposed on rioting students; and to end Jewish settlement on the West Bank.

The action of the West Bank Arab political

leaders was, in a way, more serious than the sporadic outbursts of student unrest. It came less than a month before municipal elections are to be held throughout the West Bank. Israeli authorities hoped that the elections would be held in a peaceful atmosphere and would result in the election of moderate leaders, in effect repudiating the PLO and its claim to represent the West Bank populace. If the present unrest continues, the chances increase that militants and extremists might be elected to office in key West Bank towns.

### Not Business As Usual

This reporter walked through the narrow streets and alleyways of Nablus' old quarter this week. The atmosphere was calm but tense. The visible presence of strong Israeli army units discouraged violence. But it was not "business as usual." Many shops were closed in the morning obviously because of threats by gangs of Arab youths. But some reopened in the afternoon and the shopkeepers stood at their doors looking for customers.

Israeli soldiers passed by. The soldiers and shopkeepers stared at each other with curiosity rather than hostility. The local merchants did not relish the presence of Israeli troops in their streets and the soldiers obviously would have preferred to be elsewhere.

Suddenly, a platoon of soldiers raced at double time to a part of the old quarter. Grade school students had massed there and as the soldiers approached, rocks flew from street level and roof tops. The soldiers avoided the barrage and as the youngsters began to run in all directions, the platoon halted, apparently deciding that it was not worth the trouble to chase them.

More serious clashes occurred last week when a squad of Israeli soldiers invaded a Nablus school after a stone-throwing incident and allegedly dragged some students out and beat them before arresting them. Today, police imposed a curfew on Ramallah--usually a quiet town--in order to cool the spirits of young nationalist demonstrators.

Meanwhile, roads all over the West Bank were blocked by piles of old rubber tires burning. They were set afire by student protestors. They made poor roadblocks and were easily removed. But the smoke signals they sent up were a warning of possible worse trouble ahead.

### SADAT'S MOVE SEEN AS EFFORT TO INFLUENCE U.S. PUBLIC OPINION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 15 (JTA)--President Anwar Sadat's announcement last night that he was abrogating the Soviet-Egyptian friendship treaty of 1971, was seen by observers here as motivated, in part at least, by his desire to sway U.S. opinion in favor of American-Egyptian arms deals.

These observers pointed out that the Soviet pact had been, in effect, emptied of much of its meaningful content years ago. In 1972, Sadat drove out the 20,000 Soviet advisors then stationed in Egypt and that single act marked a sharp deterioration in ties with Russia which have proceeded fitfully ever since.

The Egyptian President's speech yesterday,

therefore, had a good deal of dramatic and demonstrative significance, but much less practical meaning according to these observers. Similarly dramatic and exaggerated, the observers said, was Sadat's assertion that unless he received Soviet spare parts his arms would be "junk" within 18 months.

Firstly, the observers pointed out, Egypt is still getting Soviet spare parts and supplies, though admittedly not in the same abundance as in past years. Secondly, Sadat and his aides are actively shopping around for weapons and Egypt is altogether unlikely to remain defenseless.

Both the dramatization of the treatment of Moscow and of the arms supply prospect were intended, therefore, the observers said, to influence U.S. opinion which is currently divided over the Administration's plan to launch an "arms supply relationship" with Cairo. Official sources in Israel have not as yet commented on Sadat's speech.

(In Washington, the State Department said today it had no comment or reaction to Sadat's announcement. Department spokesman Robert Funches said he was not aware that the United States government had been informed in advance by Cairo of Sadat's proposal.)

#### Statement Viewed With Skepticism

(In New York, two Zionist leaders greeted Sadat's statement with skepticism. Mrs. Faye Schenk, chairman of the American Zionist Federation, stated: "The timing of this latest act is too close to the scheduled United States Administration request for arms sales to Egypt not to be viewed as an Egyptian attempt to involve itself in American politics for military gain."

(Mrs. Schenk noted that Egypt has several times in the past publicly proclaimed its independence from the USSR but during the Yom Kippur War, Egypt attacked Israel "with Soviet weaponry, Soviet personnel and Soviet technology and know-how." Since then, she noted, Soviet equipment continued to pour into Egyptian ports. "Should there be another Israel-Arab war in the future, Egyptians will be quick to ask for and the Soviets quick to offer military aid."

(Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance, said that despite Sadat's announcement, the situation remains the same as far as Israel is concerned regarding a re-armed Egypt. "The United States should not be a replacement for the Soviet Union in the supply of arms to Egypt that could be turned against Israel," he stated.

(The LZA, Dr. Shapiro added, "supports every form of improvement in the quality of life of the Arab population, but vigorously protests the supply of arms to Egypt and any other country in the Middle East who have not declared their intention to pursue a policy of peace with Israel.")

(Moscow Radio, in an Arabic language broadcast monitored in Washington, warned that those who are seeking to abrogate the Egyptian-Soviet treaty "bear a grave responsibility for its consequences." The broadcast did not mention Sadat by name.)

#### CONCERN ABOUT JEWS IN GALILEE

JERUSALEM, March 15 (JTA)--Moshe Rivlin, director general of the Jewish Agency, expressed serious concern last night that the Jewish population in Galilee may remain a minority because the Agency was unable to provide the industrial plants and educational facilities necessary to im-

crease Jewish settlement there because of lack of funds.

Rivlin, addressing members of a United Jewish Appeal study mission headed by Leonard Strelitz, of Norfolk, Va., said the Agency was currently unable to meet those needs because last year's fund-raising goals in the U.S. were not reached while prices in Israel continued to soar.

He said it was impossible for the government to assume the Jewish Agency's responsibilities because the government was already spending a third of Israel's gross national product on defense, a proportion unequalled even by Britain at the peak of the German blitz in World War II. "If you don't raise the money there is nobody else to give it," Rivlin told the 150 UJA mission members.

He said the future of Galilee was an especially serious problem because the settlers there, particularly those in the 37 settlements along the Lebanese border, are "worried" by current events in Lebanon that "could effect their lives tomorrow." So far, shellings and terrorist infiltration have not caused the Galilee settlers to pack up and leave, Rivlin said, but Israel's goal is to create a Jewish majority in that region and that can only be done by providing jobs, schools and security.

#### ORTHODOX RABBIS CONDEMN RECENT INTER-FAITH DIALOGUE IN JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, March 15 (JTA)--Two leading Orthodox rabbis have condemned the recent inter-faith dialogue held in Jerusalem between a Vatican delegation and the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, which is headed by another prominent Orthodox rabbi, Rabbi Joseph Lookstein, Chancellor of Bar Ilan University.

In a statement issued here, Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, president of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, charged that the dialogue was "chilul hashem" (disgrace of God's name) and said he was amazed that rabbis in Israel "instead of voicing a strong protest against the bringing of a new idolatry in the Holy Land, met personally with the delegation from the Vatican."

Rabbi Feinstein's view was supported by Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, of Boston, who said he was deeply disappointed that the dialogue with the Vatican group was welcomed in Israel with great "enthusiasm."

#### Critical Of Brussels II

The Union of Orthodox Rabbis also issued a statement explaining why it refused to participate in the second World Conference on Soviet Jewry held in Brussels last month. The chief reason given was that the organization does "not participate in such public international conferences where the Torah word does not dominate." The Brussels conference, they said, was "dominated by a secular spirit." But the statement implied the view that the Brussels conference may not have been the correct means to attack the problem of Soviet Jewry.

It said in part: "The Jewish problem in Soviet Russia is extremely complicated. Any careless action, in whichever form it may be, by not taking in consideration the various aspects and further consequences, is a question of life or death for millions of Jews. It does not necessarily mean that a method of rescue which proves effective in one country, can also be effective in Soviet Russia.... Sometimes the rescue lies in strong protests and sometimes in silence...."

The statement also stressed that "Not once

have we appealed to the leadership of Soviet Russia, and we reiterate our humanitarian and warm request: to permit the opening of yeshivos and Hebrew schools, thereby enabling a religious education for the Jews in Russia. We demand free emigration for every Jew in Russia who wants to emigrate, to whichever country it may be."

#### CIA HEAD DOES NOT DENY REPORT THAT ISRAEL HAS 10-20 NUCLEAR WEAPONS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 15 (JTA)--Central Intelligence Agency Director George Bush deplored but did not deny today a statement attributed to "senior" CIA officials that Israel is estimated to have 10 to 20 nuclear weapons "ready and available for use."

According to Arthur Kranish, a Washington science writer, "no further details were given" about Israel's nuclear capability by the officials at a "rare" and "nonclassified" briefing by the CIA at its headquarters in Virginia March 11. Kranish, editor of the newsletter "Science Trends" who attended the briefing and wrote about it for the Washington Post, said that the briefing was attended by some 150 persons and was held for members of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Asked today by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency about his article, Kranish said the CIA officials had asserted that in advance of the Syrian and Egyptian attacks on Israel on Yom Kippur, 1973, the CIA had at least one report of the certainty of the attack and other reports that were less certain it would take place. The report of the certainty was discarded because of the disbelief that Egypt and Syria could coordinate their attacks as they did, Kranish said he heard the CIA officials say.

In a telephone statement read by a CIA official to the JTA, Bush said "We have no comment on any of the substantive information in the Post article one way or the other. To the degree that any classified information might have been mentioned, I accept full responsibility. I am determined it will not happen again."

#### Was Not For Publication

Kranish said that those attending were told not to bring cameras or take notes and not to talk to the press. But he noted there were several reporters, including himself, present. Bush, in his statement, said "there was a clear understanding beforehand that the discussion was private and not for publication or for further dissemination."

In his article, Kranish recalled that last summer there were press reports that Israel had about 10 nuclear weapons. He said last week's briefing was apparently the first time that CIA officials "made a public estimate of Israel's nuclear capability."

At the State Department, spokesman Robert Funseth noted that the Israeli government had said "and I believe has reaffirmed" that Israel will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons in the Middle East. He also recalled that Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin, on a television program last September, said that Israel is a non-nuclear country.

#### REPORT SPAIN PLANS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 15 (JTA)--A delegation of the World Sephardi Federation, who met with King Juan Carlos I in Madrid last week, reported today

that the Spanish government plans soon to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. The Federation expressed hope for a swift implementation of this move and noted it would be especially welcomed by Sephardi Jews as well as contribute to developing Spanish language and culture in Israel.

Juan Carlos accepted a rare copy of the Ferrara Bible in Old Spanish from the library of the Sephardi Community in Amsterdam; the WSF reported. The King was informed that at a recent meeting in Torremolinos, the representatives of the Jewish communities of Spain and the leaders of the WSF decided to open a branch of the Federation in Spain. The Federation's aims are to preserve the Judeo-Spanish traditions of the past centuries and the Spanish tongue and culture. It tends to focus its assistance to the Sephardic communities world-wide and particularly to those of its brethren who have settled in Israel.

The delegates made known to Juan Carlos that the Ministry of Education and Culture in Israel recently introduced the Spanish language in the high school programs on the same level as French and/or Arabic. The King questioned the members of the delegation about the life and problems of Sephardi communities throughout the world and the delegation submitted a memorandum outlining the importance of cooperation to preserve the Sephardic heritage. Reference was also made to the development of the Jewish communities of Spain itself which now number nearly 10,000.

The members of the delegation were Nessim D. Gaon, president of the World Sephardi Federation; Dr. Solomon Gaon; Solomon A. Seruya, member of the Israel Executive of the WSF; Albert Benatar, president of the WSF branch in France; Daniel da Silva Solis, member of the Amsterdam Sephardi community board; David Ventura, president of the Barcelona community; and Philip Halfoua, president of the Madrid community.

#### ALMOGI TO REMAIN IN KNESSET

JERUSALEM, March 15 (JTA)--Yosef Almogi, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and acting chairman of the Jewish Agency, said yesterday he sees no reason to give up his Knesset seat. Commenting on a report that several Labor Party members have said that he should resign from the Knesset, Almogi noted that his predecessor as chairman of the WZO/Jewish Agency, the late Pinhas Sapir, did not resign his Knesset seat. But he said if there is a demand that he quit, "I will not stick to my chair in the Knesset."

Almogi told reporters he has been "well-received" in the Jewish Agency and the WZO despite his intentions to make changes in the Jewish Agency. Almogi, who just returned from a short visit to Costa Rica, said he intends to go abroad less and spend more time running "the business" from its "center." Among top priorities of the WZO, Almogi mentioned aliya, Jewish education in the diaspora and information. He also announced that he intends to thoroughly examine the question of schlichim throughout the world.

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WASHINGTON (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress, in a letter delivered to the Syrian Embassy, called upon Syrian President Hafez Assad "to restore the full rights of the Jews of Syria, including the right of free emigration." A first step in this direction, the letter said, would be to allow Syrian Jews to be reunited with their families in the U.S.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

## THE TEMPLE MOUNT CASE

By Uzi Benziman and David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 15 (JTA)--A recent spate of stormy demonstrations in East Jerusalem and the West Bank were the direct consequence of a decision handed down by the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court acquitting eight Jews charged with disturbing public order by praying on the Temple Mount. The court ruling in effect challenged the status quo on the Mount which was established back in June 1967 and has been in force ever since.

A few days after Israel took East Jerusalem in the Six-Day War, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan arranged with local Moslem leaders that Israeli security forces would guard the walls surrounding the site while the Moslem leaders would be free to administer the area of the Temple Mount itself, including the two famous mosques: the Dome of the Rock and El Aksa.

Visitors--including Jews--would, however, have free access to the site, Dayan stressed. In order to ensure this, the key of the Mugrabi Gate, one of the main entrances to the Temple Mount was taken from the Moslem notables and kept by the Israeli authorities.

Dayan's arrangement later approved by the whole Cabinet, was a sincere attempt at compromise between the conflicting aims and interests of Moslems and Jews with regard to the Temple Mount. It left the administration of the site itself in the hands of the Moslems, but deprived them of exclusive control and assured the Jews free access. The Dayan arrangement specifically forbade Jews from praying on the Temple Mount.

While the arrangement was by and large accepted among Jews, there were always a few who believed that it prejudiced their rights. A number of rightist nationalists formed an organization named "The National Circles" and applied to the courts in 1968 for an order nisi instructing the Police Minister to show cause why he refused to allow Jews to pray on the Mount.

## Unanimous Supreme Court Ruling

Five of the most senior justices of the Israeli Supreme Court heard the case. The various proceedings lasted almost two years. Eventually, the Supreme Court held unanimously that while the Temple Mount was a holy place for Jews as well as for Moslems, and while the site had certainly been a place of prayer for Jews in ancient times, nevertheless the government had been entitled to introduce its arrangement regarding the management of the site, including the instruction to the police to prevent Jews from praying there.

The Supreme Court ruling effectively defused a potentially explosive issue threatening the already complicated relations between Jews and Moslems in Jerusalem.

However, a tiny nationalistic group has continued periodically to attempt to pray on the Temple Mount. On May 8, 1975, eight young members of this group, while ostensibly touring the site, began to pray. They were almost through with their praying when an elderly Moslem noticed them and summoned his friends. A crowd of Moslems soon gathered and altercations broke out. The policemen (most of them Arabs) on duty at the police post on the Temple Mount were called in to stop the clash. They detained the young Jews, who were subsequently brought to court.

## Ongoing Cause Of Tension

Magistrate Ruth Or, in her verdict issued Jan. 28, held that the instructions given to the policemen--to prevent Jews from praying on the Mount--were illegal, in that the law establishes the basic right of all believers to pray at their holy places. The magistrate criticized the Minister of Religious Affairs for not having established a praying procedure for both Jews and Moslems at the Temple Mount.

The government had introduced such arrangements for the common use of the Machpella Cave in Hebron by Moslems and Jews, the magistrate noted, but had refrained from doing so on the Temple Mount.

(The magistrate did not appear to take account of the fact that the Halacha--the Jewish Law--forbids Jews from praying on the Mount--and the Chief Rabbinate has specifically banned such prayer.)

The State Attorney has appealed the ruling to District Court--which may well reinstate the Supreme Court ruling of 1970. Meanwhile, the magistrate's verdict is an ongoing cause of tension in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. The police continue to bar would-be Jewish worshippers from the Mount, but Moslem anger will apparently only be assuaged if the magistrate's decision is overruled.

## RUDOLF CALLMAN DEAD AT 83

NEW YORK, March 15 (JTA)--Dr. Rudolf Callman, vice-president and a member of the executive committee of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, died Friday at his home at the age of 83. Dr. Callman, a lawyer and author, was a specialist in unfair competition, trademark copyright and anti-trust laws. His best known work was "Unfair Competition, Trademarks and Monopolies" in five volumes.

Born on Sept. 29, 1892, he was educated at the universities of Berlin, Freiburg and Bonn. He was an honorary professor of law at the University of Cologne and practiced law in Cologne from 1922-1936. Dr. Callman came to the United States in 1936 and became a research fellow and student at Harvard from which he received a law degree in 1939.

Dr. Callman was a former president of the Claims Conference, board chairman of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, a member of the presidium of the Council of Jews from Germany, and a member of the executive of the Leo Baeck Institute.

## BANK WINDOWS BROKEN

NEW YORK, March 15 (JTA)--Windows at 10 bank branches in Brooklyn and Queens were smashed early yesterday in an apparent protest against the banks' alleged compliance with the Arab boycott of Israel. A man called a news agency later and said that a group to which he belonged, Save Our Israel Land (SOIL) had committed the act because the banks were "collaborating with the Arabs."

The banks were branches of Chase Manhattan Bank, First National City Bank, Chemical Bank and Bankers Trust who were among 25 banks cited last week by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith as participating in the Arab boycott. Meanwhile, a spokesman for a group of SOIL members who were picketing Chase Manhattan Sunday denied the group had broken windows at the 10 banks earlier in the day but said they "applauded" the action.