



# daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL WILL PARTICIPATE IN SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE WEST BANK DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF THE PLO

UNITED NATIONS, March 21 (JTA)--Israel will participate in the Security Council debate on the West Bank scheduled to begin tomorrow morning despite the presence of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Israel's planned participation was announced by its Ambassador to the United Nations, Chaim Herzog, after Libya and Pakistan at the behest of the PLO, requested that the debate be held on the recent unrest on the West Bank. (See separate story on West Bank.)

The Israeli Embassy in Washington stressed today that Israel's participation in the debate "does not represent a change of attitude toward the PLO." Embassy spokesman Avi Pazner declared that "Israel will participate in Security Council debates whenever the need arises."

Pazner's statement came in response to queries why Israel was prepared to enter tomorrow's debate with the PLO as a participant when it boycotted the Security Council's debate on the Mideast in January because of the PLO presence.

Israeli sources in Washington told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Israel did not take part in the January debate because the Council was dealing with the Middle East problem and the Palestinian question as a whole. The sources also said that the debate was a clear attempt by Syria, acting at the behest of the Soviet Union, to transfer the scene of the Mideast negotiations from the Geneva Conference to the Security Council. The refusal of Israel to participate was meant to underline Israel's opposition to such a move.

This time, the sources noted, Israel is participating to defend itself against false allegations regarding Jerusalem and the occupied territory.

### Pakistan, Libya Requested Meeting

Pakistan and Libya requested the Council meeting after a meeting of the Islamic countries here which scored a decision by a Jerusalem magistrate which released several young Jews who had been arrested for praying on the Temple Mount. Despite the ruling the Israeli government is still enforcing the ban, approved by the Israeli Supreme Court, on Jews praying on the Temple Mount which houses two Moslem mosques.

The Pakistan-Libya request said the Magistrate's ruling "must be seen, along with recent expropriations of Arab-owned land in Jerusalem and the establishment of Jewish settlements in Arab areas, as part of a policy of absorbing occupied Jerusalem into Israel and changing its cultural and demographic character."

The Temple Mount incident sparked weeks of demonstrations, sometimes violent, by Arab youths in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim issued a statement Friday calling the West Bank incidents dangerous. He said they underlined the "urgent need" for increased efforts for Arab-Israel peace.

### Scranton Ready to Work with Arab Nations

Tomorrow's Security Council debate marks the UN debut for the new American Ambassador,

William Scranton, who presented his credentials to Waldheim Friday. Scranton told a press conference that the United States was unalterably opposed to last year's General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism. Nevertheless, the U.S. wanted to work well with the Arab countries, he said. "I think you will find I am very open and ready to work with the Arab countries, as I have always been."

Scranton said he was a strong believer in his predecessor, Daniel P. Moynihan, and a supporter of Moynihan's enthusiasms. "I am not the same kind of person and I do not pretend to be," he said, "but it does not mean we have disagreements about basic American policy. I feel very strongly that when America is attacked at the UN or anywhere else, it should be defended strongly. I intend to do that." Scranton then added, "At the same time, I do not think there is a basic underlying reason for a confrontation between the U.S. and the Third World."

## 5 KILLED, 40 INJURED IN FIRE THAT SWEEPED THROUGH A HOTEL IN NETANYA

JERUSALEM, March 21 (JTA)--Five persons were killed in a pre-dawn fire that swept through the Park Hotel in Netanya yesterday and 40 others were injured, among them six American tourists from Miami, Fla. who were staying at the hotel. Police believe the blaze was a case of arson related to the protection racket that has been plaguing Israeli hotels, restaurants and other business. Several suspects have been arrested.

A U.S. Consular official who went to Netanya to help the American victims who had lost their possessions said one of the Miami group, Mrs. Ree Brown, was very seriously burned. The other Americans whose injuries ranged from moderate to serious, were identified as Mrs. Tina Lieb, Mrs. Burt Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Darman and Joe Rubin, all members of Temple Menorah in Miami Beach.

Three of the five dead were identified as tourists. They were Abraham and Marcelle Cohen, aged about 65 and Gertrud Somerstaadt, 67, of Norway. The names of the two other fatalities were withheld by the authorities.

According to officials, the fire started at 4:40 a.m. in the hotel's nightclub known as "One Up" where a singing group, "The Platters," had performed earlier. The nightclub closed at 3:30 a.m. The suspects being held on suspicion of arson include several hotel employees. Police said they suspect that the night club manager was intending to sell the concession because he was unable to pay IL 15,000 a month allegedly demanded by extortionists. The Park was a Four Star hotel, a luxury class rating. The recently built eight-story building was severely damaged by the fire.

## HOPES EXPRESSED U.S. WILL VETO ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION EXPECTED TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 21 (JTA)--Political sources here were hopeful but by no means certain today that the United States will exercise its veto power to quash an anti-Israel resolution expected to be introduced in the UN Security Council tomorrow.

row. The Council has been called into special session by the Islamic nations to debate the escalating unrest on the West Bank.

A draft resolution circulated by Libya and Pakistan condemns Israel for alleged "repressive measures" against the inhabitants of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, alleged "desecration" of Moslem-holy places and "expropriation of Arab lands" for the "establishment of Jewish settlements" thereon. Sources here said Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Chaim Herzog, has been instructed to take an active part in the debate and that he would be among the first speakers.

There was a noticeable diminution of violence on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem over the weekend as Israeli army units and police patrolled potential trouble spots. Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Defense Minister Shimon Peres were said to have been at odds over what course to follow in those areas.

At a meeting of ministers last week, Rabin reportedly advocated a tough stance backed up by re-enforced military patrols while the usually hawkish Peres advocated a low profile on the part of Israeli forces. Rabin's views prevailed and sources here credited the Premier for the de-escalation over the weekend although tension continues to run high.

#### El-Jabaari Threatens To Resign

Meanwhile, the political situation on the West Bank deteriorated from Israel's point of view when Sheikh Mohammed Ali el-Jabaari, the Mayor of Hebron, announced yesterday that he would resign to protest the forcible entry of Israeli troops into his Town Hall in pursuit of Arab rioters.

If he carries out his intention, he will be the eighth West Bank mayor to resign within the past two weeks. Such a move by el-Jabaari, in advance of the West Bank municipal elections to be held next month, would be a serious blow to Israel's policy of cultivating moderates among the West Bank leadership as a counter-force to the PLO militants.

The Hebron mayor, who is close to King Hussein of Jordan, is regarded as one of the most moderate and reasonable leaders on the West Bank. He has frequently participated in friendly dialogues with Israeli officials in an atmosphere of mutual respect and has helped ease frictions that have developed between Hebron Arabs and the Jewish settlers of adjacent Kiryat Arba.

Some observers of West Bank affairs said today that el-Jabaari's threat to quit was intended to consolidate his position in the upcoming elections. They noted that he said he would not stand for re-election "under the circumstances," leaving the door open for a change of mind should the "circumstances" change.

Nevertheless, el-Jabaari has sharply criticized Israeli authorities for failing to clarify immediately their position on Jewish prayer services on the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem, site of two Islamic shrines, the El-Aksa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. The recent ruling by a Jerusalem magistrate that Jews had a right to pray there was one of the factors that touched off riots and protest strikes on the West bank and East Jerusalem. The government has appealed the ruling to the District Court and has announced that it would continue to enforce the ban on Jewish prayer at the site.

But el-Jabaari claimed the Israeli authorities acted too late and with insufficient vigor. Signifi-

cantly, the Hebron mayor was joined in his condemnation by Jerusalem's Deputy Mayor Yehoshua Matza of Likud who sided with Mayor Teddy Kollek of the Labor Party against two Likud City Council members, Rabbi Louis Rabinowitz and Gershon Solomon. Solomon was the leader of a Jewish group that tried to hold prayer services on the Temple Mount last week but was dispersed by police.

#### Soldier Held For Wounding 3 Arab Youths

In a related development, an Israeli soldier has been remanded in custody for allegedly firing shots that wounded three Arab youngsters, one of them critically, in an incident on the Jerusalem-Jericho road last week. Bezalel Dehaan, a reserve soldier, was jailed for 15 days pending an investigation of the shooting incident which occurred Wednesday when Arab youths set up a roadblock and allegedly stoned a private vehicle in which several Israeli soldiers were riding.

Afani Ali, 11, was reported in a critical condition at Hadassah Hospital following surgery for removal of a bullet from his head. Hospital officials said the boy's life was still in danger and that a team of doctors was treating him around the clock.

The Defense Ministry announced today that it would continue its policy of ensuring security and essential civilian services on the West Bank but would not interfere in strikes if they were conducted peacefully. "We will guarantee water supplies and garbage collection, but if the local people want to close their shops or schools that is their affair," a Ministry source said.

#### HIGH COURT RECONFIRMS GOVERNMENT JUSTIFIED IN BARRING JEWS FROM PRAYING ON THE TEMPLE MOUNT

JERUSALEM, March 21 (JTA)--The Supreme Court today reconfirmed that the government is justified by law in barring Jews from praying on Jerusalem's Temple Mount, site of the El-Aksa Mosque. The decision by a three-man bench came on the eve of the Security Council debate on the West Bank, called by the Moslem states following weeks of rioting on the West Bank against an earlier, contrary, court decision by a Jerusalem magistrate.

Today's decision was not handed down in the same case as the magistrate's ruling of Jan. 14. The latter has been appealed by the state to the District Court where it will be heard shortly. The Supreme Court decision referred to an application by a Danish tourist who was stopped by police from praying on the Temple Mount on Feb. 14. The court issued a temporary order Feb. 22 and the three-man bench heard the case today.

Attorney General Aharon Barak angrily rejected any suggestions today that the legal process had in any way been speeded up to get a verdict before the Security Council debate. Barak said the natural course of judicial procedure had been followed throughout.

Meanwhile, Rabbi Moshe Levinger was ordered by the Military Government to stay away from Machpela, the Patriarch's Tomb in Hebron, until further notice. Levinger had last week exhorted the residents of Kiryat Arba, all of whom are licensed to carry weapons, to "shoot to kill" if they were menaced by Arabs. Barak said Levinger could be prosecuted if it was determined that his remarks constituted an incitement to violence. The Machpela Cave is a holy place to Moslems and Orthodox Jews. Both are permitted to pray there but at different times to avoid clashes.

**WICK OUT FROM ROTARY NOMINATION**

EVANSTON, Ill., March 21 (JTA)--Wolfgang Wick, an Austrian industrialist who has been accused of having been a member of the Nazi Party and the SS, has responded to mounting pressures against his nomination as president of Rotary International by withdrawing, the current Rotary president said here Friday.

Ernesto Imbassaby De Mello of Brazil told a news conference that Wick had withdrawn for "personal reasons." The nomination would have made him president for the 1977-78 term. Describing Wick as "an old Rotarian," the Brazilian said Wick resigned on "his own initiative." De Mello conceded that the Rotary had been "relieved" by Wick's decision.

Despite De Mello's assurance that Wick resigned voluntarily, Wick initially rejected the nomination after initial protests and was selected again by the nominating committee. He then said he was determined to remain a candidate. De Mello said W. Jack Davis, a Bermuda businessman, had been nominated in Wick's place. De Mello said that he had received more than 1000 letters and telephone calls over Wick's candidacy and that most were "not favorable."

**ISRAEL BUILDING ELECTRONIC EARLY WARNING SYSTEM EXTENDING FROM MT. HERMON TO POINTS SOUTH OF JERUSALEM**

JERUSALEM, March 21 (JTA)--Defense Minister Shimon Peres disclosed today that Israel was building an electronic early warning system extending from Mt. Hermon on the Golan Heights to points south of Jerusalem so that it will not be "caught napping" as in the Yom Kippur War. He told members of the Engineers Club at their weekly meeting that Israel's neighbors were erecting a similar "electronic wall."

Peres said that the qualitative advantage that Israel has enjoyed in its past conflicts with the Arabs may be nullified by the very advanced nature of modern weaponry in enemy hands. He said the quantitative ratio of 3-1 in favor of the Arab armed forces against Israel should not be regarded as a "normal" starting position from which an Israeli victory in a new war was certain.

Peres said Israel was ready to talk with any of its neighbors interested in reducing tensions. But, he declared, "this state cannot be confined to a strait-jacket ten miles wide," a reference to the pre-June, 1967 borders. There must be settlement "north, south and east," he said.

**FORD TERMS END OF EGYPT-SOVIET TREATY A 'DIVIDEND' OF THE TRUST ISRAEL, ARABS HAVE FOR THE U.S.**

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 21 (JTA)--President Ford said Friday that a "dividend" of "the trust that Israel and the Arabs have in the United States" was the decision of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to abrogate the Egyptian-Soviet friendship treaty and he added the action would be "responded to by the United States economically and otherwise."

Ford defended his foreign policy at a meeting at the White House with a group of newspaper editors. He did not explain what he meant by "otherwise" but he is seeking Congressional approval for the sale to Egypt of six C-130 transport planes. The plan has evoked strong opposition from Israel, Israeli supporters in Congress and by American Jewish organizations. The op-

position is not to the transfer of the transport planes but over fears that it is a first step towards a U.S. policy of supplying weapons to Egypt.

The President's comments during a question-and-answer session with members of the National Newspaper Association were his first in public on Sadat's move to renounce the 1971 treaty with the USSR, for 20 years Egypt's chief arms supplier.

Declaring that the U.S. "has played a very major role in the Middle East," Ford said, "we achieved--working with Israel on the one hand and with Egypt on the other--a great breakthrough" with the second Sinai Interim agreement. He said this was "the second step in trying to hold peace in that area, a very volatile, complex, complicated area."

Ford said the effect of the Sadat action was that Sadat "is no longer dependent on the Soviet Union for any military hardware. That is a tremendous change for the better, in our opinion, and we have, of course, hope and trust that the move of cutting off relations, in effect, with the Soviet Union will be responded to by the United States government in any efforts that we can make, economically and otherwise."

**Means Of Soothing Israel**

No action is expected by the Ford Administration toward starting a weapons supply program for Egypt until after the Senate votes on the foreign aid appropriations bill and until a Senate-House conference acts on the authorization measures for foreign aid which include funding for the transitional quarter between June 30 and Oct. 1 of 25 percent of appropriations for all countries receiving aid, including Israel and Egypt.

Observers here said the net effect of Congressional action in approving the transitional funding would be to give the Ford Administration a means of soothing Israel by Ford not vetoing the expanded aid bill and for supporters of Israel in Congress to approve the start of a military supply relationship between the U.S. and Egypt.

The observers said that goal would be initiated by Congress dropping its opposition to the transfer of the transport planes to Egypt on a government-to-government basis. There have been suggestions in Congress that the transfer be made on a purely commercial basis by the manufacturer selling the transport planes to Egypt without government involvement.

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LONDON (JTA)--The Polish Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association has sent a protest to the Polish government over the decision to permit the Palestine Liberation Organization to open an office in Warsaw. The letter, addressed to the Polish Prime Minister, stressed that the PLO is dedicated to the destruction of Israel, a member of the United Nations whose independence was originally supported by Poland. The news about the PLO's office in Warsaw coincided with a visit to the Polish capital by Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--More than 10,000 people are expected to gather at Temple Amanu-El on April 25, to pay tribute to the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and the six million Jewish martyrs. Ceremonies marking the 33rd anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising are to be held under the auspices of the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization (WAGRO) in conjunction with other major Jewish organizations.

# AJCOMMITTEE SAYS LATEST CBS-TV SHOW ON SYRIAN JEWS BETTER BALANCED BUT STILL GIVES TOO POSITIVE A SLANT

NEW YORK, March 21 (JTA)--The picture of Syrian Jewry presented by Mike Wallace on tonight's telecast of "60 Minutes" on the CBS-TV network, although more accurate and better balanced than his broadcast a year ago on the same subject, still gives a somewhat more positive slant to the story than was warranted, according to the American Jewish Committee which previewed the show prior to the telecast.

Tonight's presentation was the long-awaited second look at the situation of the Jews in Syria that Wallace promised to take in response to the storm of critical comment that was provoked by the first program Feb. 16, 1975, the AJCommittee noted. At that time numerous Jewish organizations attacked the telecast and thousands of viewers objected to the assessment that life was getting better for Jews in Syria.

According to the preview, Wallace notes in tonight's telecast that the critics felt he had been had and their views were summed up by the American Jewish Congress which called the initial report inaccurate and distorted. Wallace reiterates that life for Syria's Jews is "better than in years past," that "it is getting better under President (Hafez) Assad" for all Syrians, "Syrian Jews among them. To deny that is to deny what we have seen." These are roughly the remarks that touched off the earlier storm.

In a detailed analysis of tonight's program, George E. Gruen, the AJCommittee's director of Israel and Middle East Affairs, commended Wallace for correcting the erroneous impression left by some of his previous comments, but also pointed out that Wallace still did not fully convey the sense of insecurity felt by Syrian Jews, despite the recent economic improvement and easing of certain internal restrictions.

## Situation Remains Precarious

"Even if one shares Mr. Wallace's impression that life has been getting somewhat better for Jews in Syria under President Assad's rule and that there are no apparent signs of blatant physical persecution at present, we believe that their situation remains precarious, since it is dependent upon the good will of the rulers and is not yet firmly based in a legal tradition respecting human rights," Gruen stated.

On the plus side, the AJCommittee expressed approval of the fact that Wallace identified Syria as a "police state," calling it "a poor country by our standards--difficult, totalitarian--and for Jews it is more difficult than for the others."

Gruen also noted favorably that Wallace had included an interview with a young Jewish doctor who had escaped from Syria. This was in contrast to last year's program, in which the only interviews with Jews had been filmed in Syria under the watchful eyes of Syrian secret police. The interview with the doctor, who now lives in the United States, Wallace notes in the program, had come about through the assistance of the AJCommittee.

"We have been in frequent contact with Mr. Wallace over the past year to provide him with background information, suggest leads he might wish to follow up on, and share our assessment of changing developments affecting Syrian Jewry," Gruen stated.

In his criticism of the program, Gruen noted that "the factual information" presented in to-

night's program "In general corresponds to the latest information we have received from other sources, although one may differ with Wallace's report in some matters of interpretation and nuances."

## Criticism Of Several Aspects

Gruen also regretted the fact, for instance, that the program was concerned primarily with "Jews who are successful in business or the professions," and did not deal with "any of the estimated 200 Jewish families in Damascus who reportedly live close to or below the poverty line" even though the program noted that "the average per capita income for all Syrians is less than \$10 a week."

Similarly, on the question of Jewish students at the University of Damascus, "it is true that the number of 35 Jewish students currently enrolled in relation to total student enrollment corresponds to the proportion of Jews within Syria's population as a whole," Gruen stated, "but the program does not take into account the fact that since Jews live in urban centers and tend toward middle-class professions, they are likely to have a higher percentage of children who wish to go on to college than do Syrians who live in rural areas."

Gruen also regretted the fact that tonight's program did not directly retract a statement in the previous program which claimed that "four young Syrian Jews were executed for espionage in 1969." The AJCommittee, he stated, "pointed out that this alleged incident was unknown to any of our reliable sources and that even the Syrian ambassador in Washington had categorically denied that any Syrian Jews had been tried or executed for espionage."

## Spotlight Helps To Bring About Improvement

As in its criticism of the earlier program, the AJCommittee challenged Wallace's assumption that the comments he elicited from the Syrian Jews he interviewed were candid because he had been "permitted to talk to anyone we wanted, many of them in private."

People who have experienced totalitarian government have pointed out, Gruen stated, that "Americans, such as Mike Wallace and his CBS colleagues, who have lived their entire lives in freedom, cannot really appreciate the sense of insecurity and fear that is second nature to a person who has grown up in a police state and which, therefore, colors his every action and conversation."

He noted that the "continuing spotlight of public attention that has been focussed on the problem of Syrian Jewry by responsible persons with a humanitarian concern for their plight and by representatives of the media, such as CBS, have helped bring about the measure of improvement reported by Mr. Wallace."

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--Each week some 60 Jews from France arrive in Israel to take part in Keren Hayesod study missions. Altogether the program, named "Pilgrimage" and run by the Appel Juif Unifié de France (United Jewish Appeal of France), will bring over 1100 French Jews here until the end of April. Shimshon Kreutner, KH director-general, pointed out that mission members on the "Pilgrimage" program are by no means all from higher-income brackets. Many are people of modest means. The program is in line with the Jewish Solidarity Conference resolution of last December urging pilgrimages to Israel in 1976.