



# 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

Monday, April 12, 1976

No. 71

## SOME 88,500 WEST BANK ARABS TO VOTE MONDAY IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Peres Says Pro-PLO Candidates Will Be Allowed To Take Office If Elected

TEL AVIV, April 11 (JTA)--An estimated 88,500 West Bank Arabs are expected to go to the polls tomorrow to elect Municipal Councils in 24 localities in Judaea and Samaria. The election is being held in accordance with Jordanian law except that for the first time women and non-property owners are eligible to vote. In 1972, the last time a municipal election was held on the West Bank, there were only 31,746 persons registered to vote. There are 538 candidates running for the 205 seats at stake, including four women. (See special background report P. 4.)

Defense Minister Shimon Peres told a press conference Friday that Israel would allow pro-Palestinian Liberation Organization candidates to take office as mayors of West Bank towns if they are elected. He noted that some of the present mayors hold radical opinions. He guaranteed freedom of campaigning as long as the candidates stick to municipal issues. He said Israel will see to it that the election is conducted without any hindrance.

A break-down of the candidates shows that 10 percent are between 25 and 30 years old; 60 percent between 30 and 50, and the remaining 30 percent over 50. About 15 percent of the candidates are professionals, 25 percent businessmen and 15 percent farmers.

At his news conference, Peres said that the gross national product of the administered territories increased 18 percent last year and 124 percent since the 1967 Six-Day War. He noted that during the same period Israel's annual growth in GNP was 7 percent; Egypt's, 2 percent; Syria, 6 percent; Lebanon, 4 percent, and Iraq, 3 percent. He added that there is no unemployment in the area and that persons on welfare dropped from 312,000 in 1968 to 55,000 in 1974.

## MILITARY SOURCES SAY SOME 600-800 SYRIAN TROOPS HAVE ENTERED LEBANON

TEL AVIV, April 11 (JTA)--Israeli military sources confirmed last night reports that some 600-800 Syrian troops have entered Lebanon and have taken up positions at three sites along the Damascus-Beirut road near the Syrian border.

The Syrian force, which is not disguised as Al Saiga terrorists as previously, is made up mostly of infantry men along with armored troops and mortar carriers. Reports by foreign news agencies that Syrian tanks took up positions in Lebanon and then returned to Syria could not be confirmed here.

Israeli sources also said that other Syrian units have been concentrated near the Lebanese border should the present pressure on Moslem leftists to maintain the cease-fire be insufficient. Ninety members of the Lebanese Parliament met yesterday and approved an amendment to the Constitution making possible the selection of a successor to President Suleiman Franjeh.

While Israeli sources admit that entry of the Syrian army troops into Lebanon has escalated the situation, they stress that there is no reason

as yet for Israeli intervention, but a close watch is being kept on events on the northern border. They note the Syrian force is small and is not in any area near the Israeli border. Israeli sources credit this to Syria's fear of Israeli intervention.

## PLO OFFICIAL DELAYS AUSTRIA VISIT

VIENNA, April 11 (JTA)--Farouq Khadumi, the unofficial "foreign minister" of the Palestine Liberation Organization postponed a visit to Austria, maintaining that he had other pressing problems, a government spokesman said yesterday.

However, the spokesman added: "We believe Khadumi cancelled his visit because he did not want to come to Vienna only a few days before the arrival of Egypt's President Anwar Sadat." Khadumi's visit was originally scheduled for April 5-8. Sadat arrived here yesterday from Yugoslavia.

Government sources said a new date for Khadumi's visit will be fixed after the Easter holidays. Khadumi is to meet Austrian officials to discuss details concerning the expected opening of a PLO bureau in Vienna.

## TOON UNDER FIRE FOR ACCUSING ISRAEL OF PLAYING 'DIRTY POOL'

By David Landau and Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, April 11 (JTA)--U.S. Ambassador Malcolm Toon was under fire here for his remarks last week, attributed to "a Western diplomatic source" in which he accused Israel of playing "dirty pool" by allegedly going behind the back of the Ford Administration to convince Congress to allocate an additional \$550 million for Israel to cover the transitional quarter between fiscal years 1976 and 1977. The Israeli Broadcasting Authority, meanwhile, was blasted by the Foreign Press Association in Israel for blowing Toon's "cover" in a television commentary Friday.

The government so far has refrained from any official comment on the matter though a sharp but presumably unofficial rebuke was administered to the American envoy by Foreign Minister Yigal Allon in a speech at Kibbutz Givat Brenner. Toon's remarks were "an unfortunate utterance," Allon declared. "Since when," he asked, "has an Israeli's meeting with a U.S. Congressman been considered an attempt to go behind anybody's back?"

Noting that both Israel and the U.S. were open societies, Allon said "I have never regarded a meeting between a foreign ambassador and a Knesset member as an attempt to go behind the back of our government."

Sources here speculated as to whether Allon's remarks would be the last word by a government official on the matter. The fact that Toon spoke off the record and not for attribution at an informal press briefing in Tel Aviv Thursday obviated the need for an official Israeli diplomatic response.

On the other hand, there is a deep sense of indignation in government circles and among the public at large. The Foreign Minister could summon Toon to a meeting or he could contact State Department officials in Washington for "clarification" of the Ambassador's remarks. A formal note of protest to the State Department is ruled out, however, sources said.

The TV correspondent who revealed Tgon to have been the "Western diplomatic source" did not attend the briefing but learned of Toon's remarks from a newsmen who did. He contended that since he was not invited he was under no obligation to observe the cover.

#### Unethical Journalism Charged

But Steve Delany, chairman of the Foreign Press Association, thought otherwise. In a sharp telegram to Yitzhak Livni, director general of the Broadcast Authority, he called the report on Toon's briefing "a classic example of unethical journalism" and said "it will be a long time before a representative of the Broadcasting Authority is admitted to any news function organized by the FPA."

The fate of the \$550 million for the transitional quarter is hanging in the air. It was disclosed today that a delegation of Israeli economic experts is in Washington to submit further information to U.S. budgetary authorities in hope of reversing the Administration's opposition to the additional funding.

#### Passman Warns Israel

Meanwhile, a key member of Congress, has urged Israel to forego the extra money. The newspaper Davar published an exclusive interview Friday with Rep. Otto Passman (D, La.), chairman of the House subcommittee on foreign aid, who warned that Israel's insistence on the sum was short-sighted and would be detrimental to Israel's long-term interests. Israel might win this particular battle but it is doing itself a grave disservice, Passman was quoted as saying.

His remarks were similar to Toon's. The U.S. envoy had said that Israel was "exaggerating" the effects of its probable failure to obtain the desired funding. He also chided Israeli leaders for drafting a national budget on the basis of monies not yet received or approved. (See P. 3 for related story from Washington.)

#### VORSTER: SOUTH AFRICA-ISRAEL RELATIONS BETTER THAN EVER

By Tuvia Mendelson and David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 11 (JTA)--Visiting Prime Minister John Vorster of South Africa was quoted by Israel Radio as saying that his country's "relations with Israel have never been so good" and he did not think his trip here would harm South Africa's relations with its Arab oil suppliers.

Vorster made his remarks during a visit to Sharm el-Sheikh. He has been sightseeing, visiting holy places in Jerusalem and Galilee and has met with Premier Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Yigal Allon and Defense Minister Shimon Peres since he arrived at Ben Gurion Airport shortly before midnight Thursday, accompanied by Mrs. Vorster and South African Foreign Minister Hilgarde Muller.

The main working talks between Vorster and Israeli leaders are scheduled to take place here tomorrow. Meanwhile, Israeli sources have been reluctant to label Vorster's visit as "official" or "semi-official," though it is obviously not a "private" visit. This reflects the sensitivity felt here over playing host to the leader of an apartheid regime which has been condemned by much of the world. On the other hand, relations between Israel and South Africa have been solid on the diplomatic and commercial levels since the Yom Kippur War.

#### Speculation About Vorster's Visit

There has been speculation as to the reason for Vorster's visit at this time. When it was announced a week ago by Rabin, it was characterized by some sources as a "pilgrimage" to the holy places. There have been no comments here on reports from Pretoria that Vorster is interested in buying Israel-made arms or that he will solicit Israeli support for an "anti-Communist front" in southern Africa.

Israeli sources said today that Vorster's meetings with government leaders so far have been devoted to a survey of the Middle East situation and a briefing by the South African Prime Minister and his Foreign Minister on recent events in the southern portion of the African continent.

Security arrangements for Vorster's visit are unusually tight. He and Muller and their wives were greeted at the airport by Premier and Mrs. Rabin and Foreign Minister and Mrs. Allon. They were surrounded by large numbers of security men and Israeli and foreign reporters were not permitted to approach the El Al plane that brought Vorster and his party. There are 14 South African newsmen and a number of officials accompanying the South African leader.

On Friday he spent considerable time at the Yad Vashem memorial for Holocaust victims where he laid a wreath. Later he paid a courtesy call on President Ephraim Katzir, visited the Israel Museum, the Western Wall and Christian shrines in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. He also visited the Israel Aircraft Industries plant and has toured Galilee, the Golan Heights and Sinai since his arrival. He was honored at a banquet given by Rabin and reciprocated with one for the Israeli Premier.

#### Visit Defended...

The Jerusalem Post in an editorial said the visit "puts an end to the long dilemma posed by the need to respond to South Africa's outstretched hand of friendship and support." The newspaper noted that Israel is opposed to apartheid but said there was no reason to "make common cause with the hypocrites of the world who have sought to turn South Africa into a pariah state." The Post said Israel and South Africa share interests "which should be developed despite the ideological differences which continue to exist."

The Histadrut newspaper Davar said that the hostility of radical elements in the Third World and Communist countries have enhanced the mutual understanding between Israel and South Africa despite the many differences between them.

#### ...And Criticized

(Meanwhile, in New York, the American board of Givat Haviva Educational Foundation, an organization supporting the Givat Haviva Institute in Israel which is affiliated with Kibbutz Haartzit, denounced Vorster's visit. In a telegram to Rabin, 17 members and friends of the Foundation expressed shock and dismay at Vorster's visit "for the reported purpose of arranging a major sale of Israeli arms to the South African government. Nothing would contribute more to heightening the damage done by the reprehensible UN resolution on Zionism than for Israel to emerge in open alliance with the racist South African regime. As Zionists, we strongly urge you to reconsider.")

**FOREIGN AID FLURRY CONTINUES**

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 11 (JTA)--The House of Representatives postponed Friday for the second time in a week its decision on foreign aid appropriations for the current fiscal year and the transition quarter preceding the new fiscal year that starts Oct. 1. The House is now planning to face the issue late this month after it returns from its Easter recess on April 26.

The ultimate extent of the appropriations, however, may not be determined until late May, only a few weeks before the current fiscal year ends June 30, since both the Senate and House must approve the legislation and it must be signed by the President before going into effect.

The postponement of the House vote by Rep. Otto Passman (D.La.), chairman of the House subcommittee on foreign aid, came after he conferred with the House leadership and President Ford. Passman indicated to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the President continued to be opposed to the transition quarter funding which would bring an additional half billion dollars for Israel but that he welcomed the delay in House action.

"We will all have the opportunity to think this thing through and have a meeting of the minds," Passman told JTA. "I predict that in the end all will be well and all friends will be reunited." Passman, however, declined to discuss any possibility of a compromise and said the President is "adamant" against additional funding for Israel. Passman said the House would sustain a veto.

**A Warning And A Promise**

The President's supporters are mixing his veto threat with a warning and a promise. The warning is that Israel stands to lose more than \$1.5 billion if the controversy is prolonged as a veto would. They say that since the current fiscal year will have only two months left when Congress again takes up the bill, many members will feel that the year is about over and kill the legislation.

In its place they would seek to vote a resolution that would extend the 1975 level of funding through the 1976 year. In 1975 Israel was provided with \$624 million in military aid and economic supporting assistance. The current legislation before Congress provides Israel with \$2.2 billion.

The promise is that Congress is preparing a new bill that will earmark Israel for \$1.8 billion for the fiscal year 1977. This bill, which is to go before the House subcommittee for a vote May 6, would give Israel \$4 billion over a 27-month period between July, 1975 and Sept. 30, 1977.

The veto threat, meanwhile, is seen as not altogether feasible for the Administration to use. While it is directed openly at Israel, it will hurt some 50 other countries, including Egypt, Jordan and Syria. Foreign aid is a bulwark of the Administration's foreign policy and if the bill is vetoed, financial chaos would result for other governments that depend on it apart from Israel.

**JDL TO DEFY SCRANTON'S WARNING;  
ACLU TO DEFEND JDL'S RIGHTS**

NEW YORK, April 11 (JTA)--The Jewish Defense League has announced that it will defy a warning by UN Ambassador William Scranton that legal action may be taken by U.S. authorities against anti-Soviet demonstrators who harass or

intimidate foreign mission employees. At the same time, the JDL said it has received written assurances that the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) would act to defend the JDL against any action by Scranton affecting the JDL's First Amendment rights.

This development followed a statement by Scranton last week at a meeting of the UN Committee on Relations With the United States as the Host Country that he was "outraged" by the "act of ugly violence" April 2 when shots were fired into the Soviet Mission to the UN. He assured the committee that there will be "energetic" investigation by federal and New York authorities to apprehend those responsible for harassing and attacking Soviet officials here.

Dov Fisch, associate director of the JDL, said demonstrations would be stepped up in front of the Soviet Mission and "we will carry the most outrageously inflammatory warnings yet to have been used in the campaign to unnerve the persecutors of Soviet Jewry." He said his group intends to "escalate its near-violent confrontations with the Soviets" here and charged that emigration of Jews from the USSR has slowed down considerably as a result of the detente policies of the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Last Thursday night Fisch and seven other JDL members were arrested after staging a peaceful demonstration in front of the Soviet Mission. They were booked on charges of disorderly conduct and released for hearings on May 11.

**ACLU Position Stated**

Melvin L. Wulf, legal director of the ACLU, said Scranton "has publicly threatened to initiate legal action against anti-Soviet demonstrators who use placards and signs advocating violence or involving threats of kidnapping."

He added: "The Ambassador may not be aware of the constitutional limits under the First Amendment which forbid government action which invades the right of free speech. The Supreme Court has made clear that abstract advocacy of any action--including violence or kidnapping--is protected under the First Amendment. Speech can be suppressed only if the government can show that it is a direct incitement to illegal action."

Wulf also said, in his statement, "The placards to which Ambassador Scranton refers could not meet that test by any stretch of the imagination. As expressions of strongly held political beliefs, they are clearly protected by the First Amendment, and the ACLU will provide counsel to the Jewish Defense League or any other organization should the United States attempt to suppress the League's First Amendment activities."

**COLLUSION WITH SYRIA REPORT DENIED**

JERUSALEM, April 11 (JTA)--Officials here denied a "Washington Star" report today that the U.S. was effectively mediating between Syria and Israel with a view to enabling limited Syrian intervention in Lebanon without incurring Israeli military reaction. The paper said this had been going on since January and that Syria's steps were in effect coordinated with Israel through the U.S. embassies in Tel Aviv and Damascus.

(In Washington, U.S. officials had no immediate comment today on the Washington Star story. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said Friday that about 1000 Syrian troops have advanced a few miles in Lebanon "to keep the lid on," according to the Washington Star.)

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION THE WEST BANK ELECTIONS

NEW YORK, April 11 (JTA)--The Consulate General of Israel has released the following information background on the West Bank elections to be held tomorrow:

On April 12, municipal elections will be held in Judeaea and Samaria--the area also known as the West Bank. Most of the political and social strength of the area, as well as the most significant public and economic activities, are concentrated within its 24 municipalities. For this reason, considerable importance is being attributed to the elections being held in these 24 municipalities, for the second time since 1967. (The first elections were held in the municipalities of Samaria on March 28, 1972, and of Judeaea on May 2, 1972.)

The elections will be held in accordance with the Jordanian Municipality Law No. 29, of 1955, which determines the period of office for a Municipal Council as four years, with the number of council members (between seven and twelve) to be determined by the Jordanian Ministry of the Interior. In effect, during Jordanian rule, a criterion had been determined which linked the number of council members to the size of the local population.

### Expansion Of Electorate

Under Jordanian law, the right to vote is limited to males; 21 and over, who have been residents of the municipality in which the elections are being held for at least one full year prior to the elections and who have paid at least one dinar in local taxes (real estate taxes, education taxes, license fees for industry and commerce). Since this area has come under Israeli administration, there has been a notable democratization of the process, due in part to improved economic conditions and in part to Israel's decision to extend the voting right to women.

The rise in the standards of living in Judeaea and Samaria during the last few years, as evidenced by the increase of municipal income from taxes and by the imposition of new taxes, particularly the annual tax for sanitation services, has led to an increase in the number of voters and has made possible the participation of groups and strata of people who were previously denied a say in deciding who would be their elected officials.

Whereas in 1972 there were 32,000 voters, there will be 86,000 in 1976, of whom about 36% will be women. In three Moslem towns, there will be more women voters than men. The elections are personal, and the ballot is secret. The mayor himself is not chosen by the municipal council, but is appointed by the Council of Ministers, on the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior. Jordanian law empowers the authorities to appoint two additional members to a municipal council and even to appoint one of them mayor.

### Israeli Intervention At A Minimum

The Israeli authorities have never taken advantage of this right, granted them by the law, to appoint additional members to the councils or to select mayors. In effect, the government has accepted the recommendations of the councils themselves with regard to the designation of mayors. It has, of its own free will, minimized its involvement in matters of local rule and has increased the measure of autonomy and self-representation.

The organizing of elections, both in 1972 and this year--from the preparation of voters' lists to

the providing of police protection at the polls--was and will be carried out by the local residents themselves. (The Israel Ministry of the Interior provides one Israeli expert to advise on organizational matters.) Precise arrangements for the review and supervision of the elections ensure that they are conducted in an honest manner.

The 1972 elections were held in strict conformance to Jordanian law. In preparation for the 1976 elections, however, a number of regulations restricting the right to vote, and to be elected, to males only were rescinded by Edict No. 627, dated Dec. 28, 1975, issued by the Governor of Judeaea and Samaria, which dropped the words of "male gender" from the Jordanian law. Since 1973, a trend to broaden the voting base and to grant suffrage to women can be discerned in Jordan itself.

Therefore, the new regulations introduced this year do not contradict Jordanian legislation. The fact that there has been a large registration of women to vote is a clear indication of the positive response of the population to this new approach.

### Lessons Of The 1972 Elections

The experience of the 1972 elections may be recalled to gain a better understanding of the attitudes of the residents of the Israel-administered areas.

To begin with, a goodly measure of political and electoral maturity was exhibited by the residents, as evidenced by the large number of candidates who ran for office, by the high percentage of voter participation (83.9% in Samaria and 87.8% in Judeaea, as compared with 75% under Jordanian rule), by the orderly conduct of the election campaigns and by a high level of organization--all of which resulted in the election of balanced councils in which both conservative and liberal elements were represented. Immediately after the 1972 elections, the Jordanian government recognized the newly-elected councils and their mayors.

Moreover, despite extensive propaganda efforts and threats, the PLO did not succeed in its efforts to intimidate the residents and to cause a breakdown of the electoral process. This failure exposed the weakness of the terrorists in the Israel-administered areas and the clear preference of the inhabitants of these areas for the democratic process over the perpetual terrorism propounded by the PLO, and for an elected rather than an imposed leadership....

There are also other indications that the population appreciates this new freedom of speech, freedom of movement and freedom of social, religious and cultural expression. One such indication is the flow of hundreds of thousands of Arabs coming to visit Israel each year from across the cease-fire lines--an unprecedented phenomenon in this area. Again, the economic progress that has been registered in the Israel-administered areas (an average annual growth of 10% in GNP), which is manifest everywhere, is a more powerful fact of life than all the propaganda of the PLO.

Economic and social progress, massive tourism, freedom of movement and press and democratic elections can exist only in a liberal atmosphere, and with general acceptance of the principle of co-existence.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--The World Bank announced Friday it is lending Egypt \$45 million to help it rehabilitate and modernize its main port, Alexandria. The port of Alexandria, the World Bank said, handled about 90% of Egypt's total overseas port traffic in 1975. The traffic consists of about 2700 cargo-ships a year.