



# daily news bulletin

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## **FORD REAFFIRMS THERE WILL BE NO EROSION IN U.S.-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP**

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 16 (JTA)--President Ford personally and publicly has reaffirmed that "there has not and will not be any erosion of American-Israel friendship" and emphasized that "our role in supporting Israel honors our own heritage." In issuing this reassurance during an address to some 1000 persons attending the American Jewish Committee's 70th annual meeting here last Thursday night, the President also declared:

"While America must and will pursue friendship with all nations, this will never be done at the expense of America's commitment to Israel." This statement evoked the loudest applause during his address. Ford affirmed that "Our commitment to Israel will meet the test of American steadfastness and resolve. My Administration will not be found wanting." He also stressed that America "will remain the ultimate guarantor of Israel's freedom."

Ford's address, at the AJ Committee's annual dinner, confirmed in effect the pledges made to Israel by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in the Chizuk Amuno Synagogue in Baltimore five nights before. The President, who received four standing ovations, was the second Chief Executive to appear at an AJ Committee function. President Lyndon B. Johnson attended the AJ Committee's 60th anniversary meeting in 1966.

### **To Press For Israeli Withdrawal**

While he emphasized his support to Israel, Ford also indicated his Administration would continue to press for Israeli withdrawal from territories it occupied in the Six-Day War as a means to achieve a peace settlement and that he does not favor funds for Israel beyond the \$4.4 billion he has recommended for the 27-month period ending Sept. 30, 1977.

Israel's supporters in Congress believe the funds should be increased by a half billion dollars to take into account the three months between the end of the current fiscal year and the start of fiscal 1977. Legislation on the long-overdue foreign aid is facing another showdown in Congress this week.

"We appreciate Israel's dilemma in moving towards peace," Ford said with reference to the administered areas. "Israel is asked to relinquish territory--a concrete and essentially irreversible step--in return for basically intangible political measures but it is only willingness to dare the exchange of the tangible for the intangible that hostility can be ended and peace attained."

On the funding, he said he favors aid to Israel of more than \$4 billion in the two budgets he has submitted to Congress "because it is so clearly in the national security interest of the United States and so essential to preserve and promote peace in the Middle East."

### **Dinitz Outlines Israel's Policy**

Following the President to the rostrum, Israel Ambassador Simcha Dinitz, after thanking Ford, Congress and the American people for their con-

tinuing support of Israel, pointedly alluded to two pillars of Israeli policy.

With the President listening intently, a few feet away, Dinitz observed that Israel's independence began in the hills of Judaea and the streets of Jerusalem 4000 years ago, apparently in reference to Israel's insistence on some territorial security and Jerusalem as its capital.

After four wars and 28 years of statehood, Israel "has not won peace because the Arabs have not acquiesced to the thesis of an independent existence of the Jewish State," Dinitz emphasized. "This is the heart of the problem and the core of the issue," he said, to applause.

### **Warmest Presidential Address**

Ford's appearance and speech were widely considered in and out of the media as having national political overtones in view of the taut Presidential primaries taking place and the national election to come. But a highly-placed Israeli Embassy officer, when asked for his opinion, declared that his feeling was only that the address was "the warmest a President has ever made about Israel."

The President was introduced by Max Fisher, the Detroit industrialist who is honorary chairman of the AJ Committee's National Executive Council and an intimate friend and counselor to the President. Lawrence Cardinal Sheehan, Archbishop of Baltimore, and Clarence Mitchell, director of the Washington bureau of the NAACP, were other speakers. The guests included ambassadors and leaders of a dozen foreign countries and high officials of the U.S. government.

### **MEIR TO MEET WITH FORD**

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA)--Local newspapers reported today that former Premier Golda Meir would meet with President Ford when she visits the U.S. at the end of this month as the guest of the AFL-CIO. She is also scheduled to meet with Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller and leading members of Congress, the reports said. Mrs. Meir was invited by the trade union's president, George Meany. She will receive the AFL-CIO "Person of the Year" award.

### **NEW WEST BANK DISTURBANCES**

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 16 (JTA)--New disturbances flared on the West Bank over the weekend and a strike by Arab merchants in East Jerusalem was thwarted by Israeli security forces. A 17-year-old Arab girl, Lina Nabulsi, was fatally wounded today during a clash between Israeli soldiers and rioting students in Nablus and two Arab youths were wounded during a subsequent demonstration over the girl's death.

Two opposing versions of the Nablus shooting were given. Israeli soldiers said they fired into the air to disperse rioters and that the girl was accidentally hit by a ricocheting bullet. Local Arabs insisted that the girl was shot point-blank by soldiers who pursued her into an apartment building where she died in the flat of a friend.

Mayor Bassam Al-Shaq'a of Nablus and the local town council reportedly sent a cable to United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim

urging him to send a committee of inquiry to the West Bank to investigate the Israeli occupation.

### Investigation Of Shooting Ordered

Military authorities ordered an investigation of the shooting. The girl, the daughter of a prominent Nablus merchant, was reportedly not involved in the disturbances. The Military Governor visited Nablus to offer his personal condolences to her family.

One Arab was wounded in the leg by Israeli soldiers during disturbances yesterday in Jenin. A curfew was imposed on the town. Arab students erected roadblocks and burned piles of rubber tires in many parts of the West Bank yesterday. Israeli soldiers and re-enforced border police removed the obstacles.

The latest eruptions of unrest on the West Bank and East Jerusalem were apparently occasioned by the 28th anniversary of Israel's independence which occurred on May 15, according to the Gregorian calendar. Merchants in Nablus and East Jerusalem closed their shops. Security forces ordered them re-opened and warned that they would break the locks. Within a short time, the shops were opened by their owners. But East Jerusalem and West Bank schools were closed as students boycotted classes.

An explosive charge detonated today in an empty bus that had just brought Arab laborers from Kalkilya to Kfar Saba. The vehicle was damaged but no casualties were reported. About 70 Kalkilya workers were detained for questioning. Arab villagers in Galilee held memorial meetings Friday for six Arabs killed there in clashes with Israeli troops last March 30. Anti-Israel speeches were delivered but the meetings were orderly.

### IL 1.25 BILLION TO BE SPENT DURING NEXT FIVE YEARS IN SEARCH FOR OIL By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, May 16 (JTA)--The Israeli government will spend IL 1.25 billion in a search for oil during the next five years. The results will determine once and for all whether or not there is oil in Israel. Dr. Tzvi Dinstein, the government's advisor on energy matters, said here.

Dinstein made his remarks in connection with the discovery of traces of oil at a drilling site near Ashdod last week. Laboratory tests made so far showed the sample to be of good, light quality with low sulphur content. Further tests are expected to indicate whether the oil exists in commercially exploitable quantities.

The Ashdod well is being drilled by the government-owned Hana Co. A core sample taken from a strata of dolomite rock at a depth of 2880 meters--nearly three kilometers--was promising. The announcement of the find sent the stock of oil prospecting and marketing companies soaring on the Tel Aviv stock exchange. But despite the high prices offered, owners of oil shares were sitting tight in the expectation of an even greater boom.

Dinstein said that future drilling will probe depths up to six kilometers in contrast to a maximum of four kilometers tapped so far. He said that one day's drilling costs IL 500,000. The overall operation requires a high measure of expertise and capital and it is therefore desirable to have foreign companies join in the effort, Dinstein said. It was learned, meanwhile, that two foreign oil prospecting firms are seeking to end their operations in Israel because of the Arab boycott.

### STATE DEPT. ARAB STUDENT VISA POLICY TO BE TERMINATED IN SIX MONTHS By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 16 (JTA)--The State Department's 20-year policy of granting diplomatic visas to students from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait wishing to study in the United States is to be terminated within six months, Rep. Joshua A. Eilberg (D.Pa.) announced.

Eilberg, chairman of the House subcommittee on immigration, citizenship and international law, said he has received "personal assurances" to this effect in a letter from Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger following Eilberg's discussions with State Department senior officials. The Kissinger letter was not disclosed.

Describing the practice as illegal, Eilberg has been seeking an end to it since last October in his official capacity by communicating with the Departments of State and Justice and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. In a personal action to terminate it, the Congressman prepared documentation as a citizen to request a federal court injunction to stop the State Department from issuing such visas with their special privileges to students.

When he asked for termination, a statement issued by Eilberg said, "the State Department responded that the people and governments involved would be offended so nothing could be done." According to State Department estimates, Eilberg said, some 5000 persons now in the United States would be affected by the termination. They now have A-2 visas which should only be given, Eilberg said, "to official representatives of foreign governments such as middle grade embassy employees and members of trade and military missions."

### Visa Changes Outlined

Under the Kissinger letter, these students will have their visas converted to the "F-2" (foreign student) and "E-J" (cultural exchange student) classifications which cover the other 80,000 foreign students in the United States, Eilberg said. "This means they will have to follow the rules and regulations which govern the activities of all other foreign students and they will not have the privileges accorded them by their present status," he said.

The students from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will now have to prove, Eilberg said, they have been accepted by an accredited school in the United States, attend classes regularly, maintain a passing grade average and file required forms from the Immigration and Naturalization Service and report their presence annually.

The State Department will issue A-2 visas to students who have already applied for them until Aug. 31, Eilberg said, but they and those who already have them, will be required to exchange them for F and J visas by Oct. 31. Extensions will be granted where a student can show that he filled out the proper forms but faced delays beyond his control, Eilberg said. But he warned that the immigration service will monitor the change-over to insure compliance and those failing to make the visa change would be faced with immediate deportation.

### RABIN-PERES FEUD HEATS UP PERES DELIVERS BLISTERING ATTACK By David Landau and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA)--The Labor Party's leadership is urgently trying to dampen the

long simmering feud between Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Defense Minister Shimon Peres which flared openly at a Labor Alignment leadership meeting in Tel Aviv last Thursday night. Peres delivered what political sources described as the most bitter and unrestrained attack ever made on the Premier by a party colleague.

Labor Party Secretary General Meir Zarmi reportedly has been meeting with the two ministers over the weekend in an effort to bring them together to iron out their differences. But most observers believe the conflict is too wide and deep to respond to meditation efforts and the best that can be expected is temporary papering over of the dispute.

#### Basis For Peres' Attack

Peres was incensed by remarks attributed to "an inside source very close to Rabin" published by Haaretz columnist, Yoel Marcus. The Defense Minister accused Rabin of trying to set himself up as a quasi-autocratic ruler without regard to the views of other ministers or of important sections of his own Labor Party.

A "source close to Rabin" told newsmen Friday the Premier felt that Peres had cited "out-of-context" statements from the Haaretz article and had made a tendentious and emotional attack. According to the source, that was all Rabin intended to say in reply to Peres and he hoped the incident would now be closed.

Peres was affronted by a number of personal and political remarks attributed to Rabin. These included the alleged assertion by the Premier that he was not dominated by his Defense Minister as he claimed former Premier Golda Meir had been dominated by Moshe Dayan during her administration. Rabin also reportedly expressed the wish that the Premier be empowered to fire a Cabinet minister. Under present Israeli law this cannot be done.

Peres retorted that Rabin could fire his ministers by resigning himself, thereby dissolving the government. Peres also took angry issue with Rabin's reported belief that the Rafi wing of the Labor Party--of which Peres and his predecessor, Dayan are leaders--is not as strong as it once was.

#### Rabin's West Bank Policies Scored

But the Defense Minister aimed his sharpest attack on Rabin's policies with regard to Jewish settlement on the West Bank. He demanded to know what right Rabin had to say that Kiryat Arba was a mistake and, by implication, that Upper Nazareth was a mistake. Kiryat Arba is a Jewish enclave adjacent to the Arab town of Hebron established by Orthodox nationalists some years ago. Upper Nazareth is a Jewish town adjacent to Nazareth, in Galilee, the largest Arab town in Israel.

Rabin had told a meeting of key members of the Labor Party's moshavim section last week that the money and effort the government had expended on Kiryat Arba could have been used to better advantage in the Gush Etzion area midway between Jerusalem and Hebron. The Premier noted that a large number of flats were vacant in Kiryat Arba and there was no apparent desire by Israelis to move into the enclave. He asserted that Kiryat Arba's failure proved that it had been a mistake to develop Jewish appendages to major Arab population centers.

Rabin also told the same meeting that his government generally adhered to the settlement

policies of Mrs. Meir's government which are based on a fundamental readiness for territorial concessions. Peres angrily demanded to know by what right the Premier could speak of Israel's readiness for large-scale withdrawals from the West Bank.

Peres claimed that the Rabin government was, in fact, going beyond the settlement policy of the Meir government. He said that in addition to Jewish settlements in the Jordan Valley, the present regime supports Jewish settlements, for security reasons, on the easternmost ridge of the Samaritan highlands. This, he said, meant that the government is irrevocably opposed to ceding territory west of the Jordan River to any foreign government.

Peres maintained that in the interests of security, Israel should in fact permanently retain the entire Samaria region. Rabin has said that to do so would deprive Israel of its credibility as a negotiating partner in future peace talks with the Arabs. Rabin also accused the Likud opposition of hypocrisy in supporting the Gush Emunim squatters at Kadum. He pointed out that Likud's predecessor, Gahal, a member of Premier Meir's national unity coalition of 1967-70, had supported settlement policies that excluded the Arab populated Samaritan highlands.

#### Mrs. Meir Feels Insulted

Peres' broadside against Rabin prompted Likud to submit an urgent motion in the Knesset calling for the resignation of the government on grounds that it could not function with the Premier and Defense Minister constantly at odds. The Labor Party leadership is obviously cognizant of the perils of continued disunity within party ranks.

Mrs. Meir, who was invited to come out of retirement last year to participate in top Labor Party leadership forums as a "new face" and unifying influence, reportedly felt insulted by Rabin's alleged remark that she had deferred to her Defense Minister. She was said to have told close associates over the weekend that she would no longer attend party meetings. She was unexpectedly absent from Thursday night's Labor Alignment meeting.

It had been called as part of the continuing discussion between Labor and Mapam over whether the latter would remain in the Alignment. That matter, vital to the Alignment's future, was all but drowned out by Peres' attack on Rabin. The Defense Minister refused pleas by Zarmi to "stick to the agenda."

Political observers here believe that Rabin is deliberately seeking a show-down with Peres. The Defense Minister has picked up the gauntlet and no amount of persuasion and appeals for party unity can avert a fight to the finish between the two ministers, they said.

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--Israel is to continue to fight for a fitting tribute to be held at the Montreal Olympics in memory of the 11 Israeli athletes killed at the Munich games four years ago. Foreign Minister Yigal Allon and Education Minister Aharon Yadin met Sunday with leaders of the Israeli Olympic Committee and decided to continue pressure upon friendly governments on this issue. Israel is demanding that the memory of the massacred athletes be marked during the Montreal opening ceremony.

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--A disaster was averted in the Mahane Yehuda market when an explosive charge was discovered and removed by police Sunday during the shopping rush before it exploded.

# B'NAI B'RITH URGES REPUBLICANS, DEMOCRATS TO SUPPORT FEDERAL ANTI-BOYCOTT MEASURES IN THEIR PLATFORMS

PHILADELPHIA, May 16 (JTA)--The B'nai B'rith will ask the Democratic and Republican parties to give "forthright and unambiguous" support in their 1976 Presidential platforms to federal legislation that would make it illegal for American firms to comply with the Arab boycott against Israel, the B'nai B'rith's administrative committee announced at its semi-annual meeting here last night. The action was one of a series of proposals on foreign and domestic issues in which B'nai B'rith will seek bi-partisan support during this election year.

David M. Blumberg, president of B'nai B'rith, said that "a strong and enforceable" anti-boycott law is needed "to put a damper on Arab economic warfare which has coerced American corporations and banks into flouting U.S. policies and interests." Blumberg added that the "foreign policy plans by either party which call for Middle East peace measures but ignore the Arab boycott's subversion of American national interests would be self-weakening and open to challenge."

## JDC DONATES \$25,000 TO AID ITALY'S EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS...

NEW YORK, May 16 (JTA)--A check for \$25,000 to aid earthquake victims in the northern section of Italy has been presented by Jack D. Weiler, chairman of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and Ralph I. Goldman executive vice-chairman to Consul General Vieri Traxler at the Italian Consulate here. Weiler has also offered to send JDC welfare specialists as volunteers to work in the stricken area.

In accepting the check last Thursday, Traxler said "I wish to express to the JDC board our very sincere gratitude. The only silver lining in tragedies such as this is that they bring out the best in most human beings and the Jewish community is demonstrating once more its dedication to international brotherhood."

When informed of the gift and offer of volunteers, Roberto Gaja, Italy's Ambassador to the United States, said: "I am touched and grateful to the Jewish community for the gesture and it is appreciated by my government. I shall convey this to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and to the President of the Republic."

In making the presentation, Weiler said: "We join with the Italian people and people everywhere in mourning the death of over 900 people and the terrible destruction that has made over 100,000 people homeless in the city of Udine and the surrounding area. This gift is a token of the deep sympathy of the American Jewish community for the victims and its friendship for the Italian people." There were no reports of any Jewish casualties.

## ISRAEL'S RED MOGEN DAVID SENDS 4 TONS OF SUPPLIES TO HELP VICTIMS

TEL AVIV, May 16 (JTA)--Israel's Red Mogen David dispatched four tons of emergency supplies for the earthquake victims in northern Italy over the weekend. Prof. Moshe Many, chairman of the Red Mogen David, said additional supplies would be sent when the Italian Red Cross determines what is needed.

The first relief shipment, consigned to the

Italian Red Cross, consisted of tents, cots and blankets, items given top priority by the Italian authorities. The Red Mogen David has offered medical equipment and blood plasma. Last year the Red Mogen David sent relief supplies to disaster areas in Turkey, Thailand and Guatemala.

## FORD MOTOR CO. AFFIRMS IT WON'T HONOR ARAB BOYCOTT AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO BUSINESS WITH ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 16 (JTA)--The Ford Motor Company has assured the American Jewish Congress that it will "continue doing business in Israel" and will refuse to certify the Arab boycott status of its suppliers, despite company plans for a joint venture in Egypt to build engines and assemble trucks and tractors.

As a result, the AJ Congress has withdrawn a resolution calling for disclosure of company policy toward the Arab boycott that would have been presented at the annual shareholder meeting of the Ford Motor Co. in Detroit last Thursday. The assurances were contained in a letter from Henry Ford II to Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the AJ Congress, which was made public Thursday.

In his letter, Ford noted that in 1966, despite repeated Arab requests to the contrary, Ford Motor Co. authorized the Palestine Automobile Corporation in Israel to assemble and distribute certain Ford vehicles in that country. As a result of that action, Ford was placed on the Arab boycott list where it remains to this day.

"Our company has not in any way reduced the scope of this arrangement in the intervening years, nor would it accede to pressures of any kind to eliminate or undermine the arrangement," Ford's letter stated. "We intend to continue doing business in Israel as we have done for some 40 years. I reaffirmed this policy at the annual meeting of Ford stockholders in 1975 and in a number of communications to organizations and individuals since that time. At the same time, we would, of course, like to restore normal trade relations with Arab countries."

Ford added that, "We have not received any Arab requests which would require us to discriminate against any American firm because of its Jewish directors, stockholders, officers, or employees; neither have we received any request relating to the boycott status of marine insurance carriers. If any such requests were to be received, we would not honor them."

## SHARGIL NAMED AS PHOTO JUDGE

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA)--Yitzhak Shargil, senior night editor of "Yediot Achronot" and long-time Tel Aviv correspondent for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, has been named a judge in a nationwide photographic competition. The competition is organized jointly by the government press office and the National Journalists' Association in memory of Jonathan Adam Kamner, infant son of press photographer Eliahu Kamner. The child was killed in an air crash in the U.S. in 1972. His father has established a memorial fund in the U.S. which is sponsoring the competition. First prize is IL 2500.

The competition's aims are: "to create a framework for the advancement and exhibition of the work of Israeli press photographers as a medium of expression of human relations, for the furtherance of better understanding between men."