



# daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL HOPES TO LEARN CHARGES AGAINST 5 JAILED WZO EMISSARIES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 28 (JTA)--Israeli officials continued to wait today to learn the nature of charges brought against five World Zionist Organization emissaries arrested in Cordoba, Argentina last Thursday. Informed sources said the Argentine government promised to reply to Israel's request for information "within 24 hours."

The Argentine military authorities acknowledged, meanwhile, that two of the detainees, Yitzhak and Clara Estrugo of Kibbutz Bagan, are being held in military custody. That fact was unofficially reported here at the time of the arrests. Its confirmation by the Argentine military today was described by officials here as a "positive" development in the perplexing case. The Estrugos reportedly hold dual Israeli and Argentine citizenship. The three other shlichim arrested with them are Israeli nationals. Two local employees of the WZO were arrested in Cordoba at the same time.

Yosef Almog, chairman of the WZO, and top Foreign Ministry officials briefed Israeli media editors this morning but the briefing was "off the record." They reportedly urged the media to avoid linking the detention of the shlichim with the arrests of two Israeli bank officials in Buenos Aires several weeks ago. The officials, identified as the managers of the Buenos Aires branches of Bank Leumi and the Israel Discount Bank, are being held on suspicion of currency violations.

## STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS U.S. HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH PLO FOR 'SOME TIME'

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, July 28 (JTA)--The State Department revealed yesterday that dealing with the Palestine Liberation Organization for the safety of foreigners who were evacuated from Lebanon yesterday was not the first U.S. official contact with the terrorist organization.

The security officer at the American Embassy in Beirut has been in contact with them "for some time," said State Department spokesman Robert Funseth. The disclosure came when a reporter asked whether the American presence in Beirut is by "the grace and good will" of the PLO. The U.S. Embassy is in an area of Beirut occupied by PLO gunmen.

"I don't have that kind of detailed information on the security situation but I do know that Palestine groups have exercised for some time the security function in that section of Beirut."

Funseth said. He added that the security officer's contacts were not related to yesterday's evacuation. The official is a U.S. foreign service officer, Funseth said.

## DINITZ SAYS ISRAEL'S STRENGTH IS IN THE UNITY BETWEEN THAT NATION AND JEWS ALL OVER THE WORLD

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., July 28 (JTA)--Simcha Dinitz, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, said here last night that the greatest source of Israel's strength, aside from its indom-

itable will to survive, is in the unity between that nation and the Jewish people everywhere. Addressing the 47th annual convention of the National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs, an organization of 375 brotherhoods affiliated with Conservative synagogues in the U.S. and Canada, Dinitz declared:

"Let us not kid ourselves. Our strength lies in the unity that exists between us and the Jewish people throughout the world and especially in the great Jewish communities of the United States and Canada. This is the source of our strength. If one were to judge us by the sheer physical characteristics of 3 1/2 million people with a few thousand square miles, surrounded by 100 million people with 1 1/2 million square miles, with oil resources and money--then our place will dwindle into insignificance."

Referring to the rescue of hostages at Entebbe Airport, Dinitz said that following this incident, tens of thousands of letters, phone calls and gifts poured into the Israeli Embassy in Washington from Americans in all parts of the country, Jews as well as non-Jews. The Ambassador added: "I say to you, in all candor, that if this (Entebbe) was needed to awaken world consciousness, then something is rotten in human mentality. After receiving all of these communications, I asked myself, where were they before and will they be with us tomorrow?"

Dinitz expressed gratitude for the flow of economic and military assistance from the United States and added that his nation has no need for American soldiers. "If that day ever came, we would lose the right to exist," he said. "Just give us the tools and we can do the job." The National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs is a constituent body of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the United Synagogue.

## ISRAEL INTENDS TO LOW-KEY ITS COMPLAINTS ON U.S.-PLO CONTACTS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 28 (JTA)--The Israeli Embassy in Washington has "voiced Israel's regret" to the U.S. government at America's contact with the PLO in connection with the evacuation of civilians from Beirut, a Foreign Ministry spokesman here reported today. But within hours, Premier Yitzhak Rabin, speaking in the Knesset, made it clear that Israel intended to keep its protest low-keyed.

If the U.S.-PLO contacts developed into proper diplomatic ties, Rabin said, this would be a serious matter. However, that was not the case at the present time, and it was misguided for MKs or the media here to misrepresent the situation or deliberately inflate it, Rabin warned. The Premier referred to official U.S. statements explaining that the contacts with the PLO denoted no change in policy but were to be seen strictly in the context of the evacuation.

The Foreign Ministry statement also sought to put the American clarification on record. Israel had "noted," the statement said, that the U.S. government had informed her that these contacts were purely in a humanitarian context and out of humanitarian motivation, and did not

represent any change at all in the U.S. position regarding the PLO. Officials here are reacting cautiously to reports from Lebanon and Syria during the past 24 hours that the PLO and Syria have reached agreement over the Lebanese crisis.

According to these reports, the PLO, apparently having been badly mauled in the fighting, and fearing further Syrian pressure, has agreed to the reinstatement of a sovereign Lebanese government under the newly elected President Sarkis and has agreed also to abide by the "Cairo agreement" which limits PLO freedom of movement inside Lebanon. The new agreement also reportedly limits the PLO to camps in the northeastern part of Lebanon, along the Syrian border.

But officials here were not prepared today to hail the reported agreement as necessarily marking the end of the 16-month bloodbath in Lebanon. They noted that the agreement, though extensively reported in Arab media, had not been officially announced nor had any joint Syrian-PLO statement been issued, as would normally be expected. They preferred, therefore, to await developments before making a definitive analysis of this latest event.

#### TWO DROWN IN STORMY SEA

TEL AVIV, July 28 (JTA)--Two summer camp instructors drowned early yesterday morning as they and eight other campers were caught in the stormy sea off the coast of Ashkelon during a pre-dawn swim. The two were identified as Rachel Bochrin, 17, of Moshav Zimrat, and Shlomo Nagar, a 20-year-old soldier, of Beth Hagedi. The tragedy occurred at the conclusion of a picnic that marked the end of the summer camp.

According to reports, some 40 camp instructors ranging in ages from 17 to 23 decided to celebrate the end of the region's children summer camp with a picnic at the Ashkelon National Park. After dancing and singing and holding a barbecue, 10 instructors decided to take a swim in the nearby sea. Not realizing that the sea was stormy, they dived in and were soon covered by six-foot waves.

Two managed to swim back to shore and called for help. The others continued to struggle in the raging sea. Police, firemen and dock workers rushed to the scene and managed to save all but Bochrin and Nagar who were washed ashore later. They were pronounced dead at a local hospital.

#### ALL EYES (AYES) ON MISS UNIVERSE

JERUSALEM, July 28 (JTA)--Miss Universe descended on the Knesset today and with dazzling smile and fluttering eye-lashes put a swift end to an abrasive floor fight that had been going on over the Palestinian question. The shouting faded to a whisper as the predominantly male chamber craned necks toward the visitor's gallery to glimpse 20-year-old Rina (Mor) Messinger, the Israeli beauty queen who won the Miss Universe title at Hong Kong earlier this month.

Ms. Messinger arrived as the guest of Knesset Speaker Israel Yeshayahu, who escorted her accompanied by an entourage of reporters and photographers popping flash bulbs. The voluble Meir Payil of Moked who had the floor at the time was dumb-struck. His political antagonist, Likud leader Menachem Begin remarked, "We weren't listening to you anyway, as usual, Payil."

Pinhas Scheinman, of the National Religious Party, Acting Speaker for the day, was clearly

embarrassed. "It's not a sin to look," one MK called out in response to his pleas for order. The Orthodox MK agreed that as long as "it is from a distance, it's okay." But Scheinman rejected a motion for a five-minute recess to enable his colleagues to feast their eyes-untroubled by more mundane matters.

Later, in the Knesset lobbies, Miss Universe greeted 75-year-old Yohanan Bader, of Herut, senior member of the House in terms of age, with a smacking kiss. The old man seemed abashed but Begin eased his discomfort by courteously kissing Miss Universe's hand.

At a press conference that followed, the "most beautiful girl in the universe" assured reporters that she was still "the girl next door" that she always was. She said she would resume her normal life in Israel after her year of glory ends. But until then she pledged to do her bit to aid Israel's information drive around the world and correct erroneous images of life in the Jewish State. (By David Landau)

#### COMMERCE DEPARTMENT CANCELS ITS PARTICIPATION IN TRADE CONFERENCE By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, July 28 (JTA)--The Department of Commerce disclosed yesterday that it has cancelled its participation in the University of Maine's on-campus "Joint Mideast-American Business Conference" Aug. 2-6. Department officials informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that it has withdrawn the services of field offices in Portland and Boston which were to have provided information to conference participants related to international trade.

The cancellation was prompted by the conference authorities scheduling a discussion by which Americans would be shown how to be "de-listed" from the Arab boycott blacklist of companies doing business with Israel, Department officials told JTA.

According to the Department, a major subject at the conference is "the legal framework of the Arab boycott of Israel." In this section a panel of Arab officials and attorneys are to "candidly discuss" the Arab blacklist and "the panelists will detail the required procedures to follow for companies wishing to become de-listed." The conference director, John Brown Jr., had said several weeks ago that no one would be excluded from the conference, Department officials said, but they became "quite alarmed" when they learned how the conference would handle the Arab boycott.

The State and Commerce Departments had assisted the conference officials in setting up the five-day meeting by aiding in travel arrangements and alerting American Embassies about it. A dozen Middle East countries, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait and Egypt are said to have accepted invitations and about 200 representatives were to come for the sessions. "A fair number" of American companies also accepted invitations, it was said, for the conference, which was described as being "geared for opportunities spawned from oil money."

#### Cancellation Follows Complaint

The cancellation by the Commerce Department followed a protest to the State and Commerce Departments by Rep. Sidney R. Yates (D.Ill.), who said he felt it was "discriminating" against Israel and companies doing business with Israel. Responding to his letter, Charles W.

Hostler, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce, said that neither State nor Commerce is acting as a co-sponsor of the conference and the only Commerce participation would be the presence of two field service officers. Now these have been withdrawn.

Israel expressed some concern about the appropriateness of U.S. official participation in the conference which may recommend policy actions contrary to stated U.S. policy. Treatment of the Arab boycott was of special concern. Israel, after Iran, is America's best trading partner in the Middle East if the sale of American weapons is excluded from the totals.

#### ADL CHARGES AGNEW HAS ACQUIRED TAX-EXEMPT FOUNDATION TO DISSEMINATE HIS ANTI-ISRAEL, PRO-ARAB VIEWS

NEW YORK, July 28 (JTA)--The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith today charged that "the disgraced Spiro Agnew, a convicted felon who has been engaging in classical anti-Semitism," has taken control of a tax exempt educational foundation, "Education for Democracy," for the purpose of organizing a movement to reflect his anti-Israel, pro-Arab views.

According to Arnold Forster, ADL's general counsel, the foundation has been converted into a membership organization and has begun publication of a newsletter, "Memoranda," which features anti-Israel propaganda, as well as attacks on the American news media.

Forster said a nationwide mailing is now being conducted by Agnew, enclosing the newsletter and membership application and subscription forms offering a patron membership for a minimum of \$500. For lesser sums, Agnew is offering other types of memberships.

#### Charges Typical Agnew Distortions

Lawrence Peirez, chairman of ADL's civil rights committee, which is conducting continuing research into the new Agnew operation, reported: "Agnew, in a foreword in the first issue of 'Memoranda,' calls on Americans to regard their news media 'with the same suspicion and distrust that they...focus on public officials or large corporations.' Yet, while Agnew says there is a need to bring 'the vital facts to the people,' the lead article, entitled 'Mideast Time Bomb,' consists of nothing more than typical Agnew distortions and misrepresentations of facts.

"What Agnew continues to spew out," Peirez went on, "are his usual twisted half-truths--pro-Arab, anti-Israel, anti-news media."

In the article, Agnew sought to use statements by The Social Action Commission of Reform Judaism and Rabbi Henry Siegman, executive director of the Synagogue Council of America, to support the Agnew argument that prominent Jews and respectable Jewish organizations are critical of alleged "Israeli imperialism," Peirez said.

Rabbi Siegman, however, has told the ADE that "the views Agnew attributes to me are a total fabrication." The Social Action Commission of Reform Judaism has told the League that statements critical of Israel which were attributed to it by Agnew were distorted and taken out of context of a resolution "that is supportive of Israel."

#### Former Admirer Disgusted With Agnew

Forster said an ADL inquiry about Education for Democracy, Inc., shows that it was initially incorporated in Indiana on Sept. 16, 1971, with the

alleged purpose of educating persons without regard to race, religion, color or creed for future community leadership.

Control of the organization passed through a number of persons until Nov. 19, 1975, when articles of amendment were filed with the Secretary of State of Indiana, changing the resident agent and the principal office and listing Agnew as president of Education for Democracy. Mary Ellen Warner, who has been Agnew's secretary, is listed as the organization's corporate secretary.

Forster said that John A. Von Kannon, a magazine publisher in Bloomington, Indiana, told the ADL that he was the previous president and resident agent for the organization. Von Kannon added that when Agnew took over the organization last November, it was "just a paper, shell organization," which had retained its tax exemption. The publisher, who said he has been an admirer of Agnew but is now "disgusted" with Agnew's views on Israel, declared that the former Vice-President had told him he planned to use the organization to hold conferences and publish books and a newsletter.

Prior to the current nationwide mailing, Forster said, Agnew sent out 250 letters to a private list to seek contributions to supplement what Agnew claimed was a "substantial contribution" he had made to the organization for the purpose of disseminating "to opinion leaders and other citizens information now routinely supplied by the national-impact media."

#### DECISION ON ENTEBBE COIN STALLED

JERUSALEM, July 28 (JTA)--A decision whether to mint a coin or medal commemorating Israel's rescue operation at Entebbe Airport, Uganda July 3 is not expected until later this week. Yitzhak Avni, director general of the government's coin and medals corporation who is a strong advocate of some kind of commemorative issue, had "no comment" yesterday when asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to clarify the matter.

Emerging from a meeting of the corporation's board of directors, Avni would say only that a detailed statement would be issued to the press when the time comes. Informed sources believe a decision will be forthcoming before the end of the week.

The corporation had originally proposed issuing a gold coin. The idea was opposed by Moshe Sanbar, Governor of the Bank of Israel, which must approve the minting of any legal tender. The coin would be intended mainly as a collector's item. Sanbar argued that the time lag between the proposal and the appearance of the coin, which he estimated at about a year, would depreciate its value because by then interest in the Entebbe operation will have waned.

Avni insisted it was the government's duty to commemorate noteworthy events in the country's history. He suggested that instead of a coin, the State issue a medal which would not require Bank of Israel approval. He claimed that medals in gold, silver and bronze could be ready in two months "and we could time it to appear at about the same time as the premiers of several films on Entebbe that are already being produced," he said. Sources here said that Sanbar's opposition to a commemorative coin stemmed from the failure of the two latest gold coins issued by Israel--the Ben Gurion and Israel Bond commemoratives.

## UNIQUE GROUP OF ISRAELI EMISSARIES HOSTED BY PITTSBURGH JEWISH FAMILIES

PITTSBURGH, July 28 (JTA)--Jewish families in Pittsburgh played host this month to a unique group of emissaries from Israel who, in their own way, may have accomplished more to strengthen bonds and increase understanding between American Jews and the Jewish State than an army of official "shlichim."

The visitors were members of the Disabled Veterans Organization of Israel, all former soldiers who fought in Israel's wars and suffered permanent disability. They say, with conviction, that theirs is the only Jewish organization in the world that does not want new members. In fact, they pray fervently that their ranks will not be increased.

Twelve of the vets just completed two weeks as the guests of Jewish families here who, in the words of one host, welcomed them as they would their own sons returned from war. The people-to-people project, now in its second year, owes its inception to Mrs. Sylvia Robinson, currently a vice-president of the Women's Division and secretary of the Board of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. Her husband is Donald M. Robinson, a well-known philanthropist and civic leader in the Jewish and general community. He is a national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, a member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency, and the chairman of the Global Budget Committee and vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee.

The idea of bringing disabled Israeli war vets to spend time in American Jewish homes came to Mrs. Robinson while she and her husband were attending a JDC budget committee meeting in Geneva in 1974. She established the project the following year with the aid of the Pittsburgh UJF.

The visits are not funded by the UJF, however, but by monies raised separately and specifically for the Israeli veterans program. This year Mrs. Robinson encouraged the communities of Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia to undertake similar programs of their own and she offers advice to other interested communities throughout the U.S.

### Instilled Pride And Identity

"We here in Pittsburgh are the real beneficiaries of this program," Mrs. Robinson said, "for we are now more fully aware of the real cost in human terms of Israel's struggle to exist. Getting to know these men and their experiences and the difficulties they have overcome has enriched our lives. They have provided us, and even more importantly, our children, with a greater pride in our Jewishness and a stronger identification with our people in Israel," she said.

Scores of Pittsburgh families volunteered to serve as hosts for the Israeli visitors, opening their homes to them. This summer's program included tours of Pittsburgh landmarks, a visit to Washington where the former soldiers and their hosts were greeted by Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz and a tour to Niagara Falls, N.Y., where, one of the vets remarked, "Israel could use just a little of that water."

According to Mrs. Robinson and other hosts, "These men did not invite pity; their open attitudes and lack of self-consciousness invited true acceptance and boundless affection which they returned as would a loving son." Mrs. Robinson reported that "The men laughed a lot and complained about gaining weight under the watchful

eyes of their new Jewish mothers."

### Frank In Their Impressions

They were frank in their impressions of America, of Jewish family life here. One vet remarked "In the United States children are more educated to sports. You are losing children here religiously only because there is not enough education." Another enjoyed America's Bicentennial celebration, but observed "On Yom Haatzmaut (Israel's independence day) we have dancing in the streets. Fireworks are much better in Tel Aviv."

The guests urged their hosts and other American Jews to return their visit. "We see your factories here. Please come to Israel, build something that can produce and sell products out of the country so it will bring money to Israel," one said. Another noted that Americans come to Israel to work on kibbutzim. "We want you to come to the border towns, the development towns, with poor people, not well educated, with economic problems. You can help them make better workers so they can teach their sons better, and a higher level of life," he said.

The men were asked if they would want to return to Pittsburgh. They replied, "We love our adopted families here. We feel very close. Pittsburgh is very wonderful. But to come back to Israel is to come back to."

### Like One Family

Yaacov Meoz, a 31-year-old native Israeli who was wounded in the Yom Kippur War and is now the general secretary of the Tel Aviv branch of Zahal, the Israeli defense force, was the group leader. He said what impressed the group most were the families with whom they stayed. "Each of us knows how American Jews help Israel, but it's more than that. After an hour together we are like one family. For years. Perhaps forever."

Meoz related that there are 21,000 Israeli disabled veterans and there are more than 13,000 widows and families. "And we are only 28 years," he remarked. "Our country, with five wars and wars in between wars, and we couldn't see the end of this." Furthermore, he said, "More than 90 percent of the Zahal membership is living with a disability. We have a saying: 'You have to learn how to live with your disability and not as a disabled.' If you are living this way, then you are a completely normal man." The ages of the Israeli visitors ranged from 25 to 42.

## HUNGARIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ATTACKS HUNGARIAN TELEVISION NETWORK

BUDAPEST, July 28 (JTA)--For the first time in its history the Hungarian Jewish community paper "Uj Elet" has attacked a State organ, namely, the State-controlled Hungarian television network.

The Jewish paper, rapped the TV for having portrayed a former SS member of Hungarian origin as "a poor victim of circumstances." The TV program depicted the man's life and how he eventually found himself an SS member and repented after the war. The Jewish paper deplored the 20-minute program and asked: "How is it possible that a former SS member could obtain favorable publicity in a Socialist state?"