



## SPAIN AUTHORIZES FIRST INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF JEWRY SINCE INQUISITION

PARIS, Nov. 30 (JTA)--The World Jewish Congress office here said today that Spain has authorized the first international meeting of Jewry since the expulsion of the Jewish community in 1492 at the height of the Spanish Inquisition. About 80 delegates from all over Western and Eastern Europe--with the exception of the Soviet Union--will attend a two-day session organized in Madrid this weekend by Spain's 12,000-strong Jewish community.

King Juan Carlos, who will receive WJC President Nahum Goldmann during the meeting, appears to be anxious to create closer ties with Israel. But fears of an Arab oil boycott and restrictions on Spanish trade with Arab countries are likely to delay the establishment of diplomatic relations by Spain with the Jewish State.

## SWITZERLAND'S TRADE WITH EGYPT TO DOUBLE WITHIN TWO YEARS

GENEVA, Nov. 30 (JTA)--Swiss Minister for Economic Affairs Ernst Brugger said here today that Switzerland's trade with Egypt will practically double within two years. Brugger told the Swiss Federal Council, the government, that economic exchanges between the two countries will top 200 million Swiss francs (about \$80 million) by 1977.

Brugger, who has just returned from an official visit to Egypt, called on Swiss banks to grant long-term, low-interest credits to Egypt as a condition for a trade expansion between the two countries.

He also said Switzerland and Jordan will sign next month an agreement providing for economic and technical cooperation. The minister told the Council Jordan is interested in Swiss aid in the area of electronics, telecommunications, tourism and construction.

## DENY KNOWLEDGE OF ANY ACCORD HAVING BEEN REACHED WITH SYRIA

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 30 (JTA)--Officials here said today that they had no knowledge of any agreement having been reached with respect to southern Lebanon. They were responding to reports from Washington that Syria has agreed not to send its troops into southern Lebanon which would be handed over to Lebanese units, possibly with token reinforcements from other Arab countries.

The officials said they believed American sources were drawing conclusions from contacts in the region and were prematurely projecting them into the future. But they agreed that there was a good chance of some arrangement materializing since the situation in southern Lebanon has not changed and neither Syrian nor terrorist units are known to have entered that region. They said contacts aimed at a settlement were being continued through the U.S. Israeli officials believe the U.S. supports Israel's position that Lebanese troops should be in charge of southern Lebanon.

A close reading of the Israeli position indicates that Jerusalem would probably agree to

small numbers of troops from the inter-Arab peace-keeping force in southern Lebanon to help maintain law and order. But Israel insists that Lebanese units must be the dominant factor there and that the number of other Arab soldiers be restricted to a level that would not endanger Israel's security.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials expect that the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights will be extended tonight despite a last minute snag. The mandate expires today. Syria announced 10 days ago that it would agree to a six-month extension. But yesterday it demanded that the Security Council's resolution renewing UNDOF include a statement calling for immediate political moves in the Middle East.

Israeli sources explained that this was not a substantive problem because Israel is always ready for peace moves. Israel would not object to a statement by the Security Council to that effect but it will not play into the hands of Syrian propaganda, the sources said.

## TEKOA'H ON THE SOVIET DROPOUT ISSUE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 30 (JTA)--Yosef Tekoa'h, president of Ben Gurion University in Beersheba and Israel's former Ambassador to the United Nations, reacted to former Foreign Minister Abba Eban on the problem of Soviet Jewish dropouts. Writing today in the Jerusalem Post, Tekoa'h was critical of the way the dropout problem was being handled and rejected Eban's contention, that however they may be deplored, Jewish tradition and humanitarian concerns demanded that dropouts be helped.

Eban had expressed his views in an article written exclusively for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Nov. 23 and subsequently re-published in the Jerusalem Post.

Tekoa'h wrote: "Israel and the entire Jewish people are deeply concerned about the freedom and welfare of Soviet Jews, whether they desire to leave for Israel, emigrate to other countries, or remain in the Soviet Union. That is not at issue. The problem is what should be the attitude to those who instead of asking for an exit permit to the U.S. or another Western country, leave the Soviet Union ostensibly for Israel, and then drop out on the way and end up elsewhere.

"The present service arrangements for dropouts in Vienna, sponsored by HIAS and the Joint (Joint Distribution Committee), with the cooperation of the Israel government and the Jewish Agency, are such as to encourage, legitimize, and increase the flow of dropouts to America. From six percent three years ago, the proportion of dropouts has now reached 60 percent, and it is continuing to move upwards. The full implications of this situation must be examined.

## Assesses Soviet Attitude

"The Soviet Union has never changed its fundamental attitude toward the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate. Under international pressure it has merely allowed a small number of Jews to leave for the Jewish State. Yet their number has been considerably greater than the trickle of non-Jewish Soviet citizens permitted to move to the

West. The reason for the difference is obvious. An exception was being made of Jews because they were going to their Jewish State and not just fleeing Soviet society for the capitalist world.

"Since the beginning of aliyah from the USSR, I have warned repeatedly that the Soviet government would seize every opportunity to free itself from the necessity to permit Jewish emigration. It has already done so by alleging that the immigrants' absorption difficulties in Israel have resulted in a decrease in the number of requests to leave for Israel. This allegation is being made despite the fact that there are today at least 180,000 such requests that have been submitted to the Soviet government by Jewish citizens and have not yet been approved.

"With the increase in the number of dropouts, the Soviet authorities have begun to give publicity to this new development and to emphasize that Soviet Jews do not in fact want to go to Israel. Indeed, the Soviet authorities, when granting exit permits for Israel, have been openly giving preference to potential dropouts. The objective is clear. If Moscow can create the impression that Jews do not seek to emigrate to Israel but simply to leave the USSR, there will be no reason to treat their problem differently from the treatment meted out to requests for emigration by Russians, Ukrainians, or Lithuanians.

#### Save The Soviet Jewish Masses

"Every dropout who has left the USSR on a visa for Israel has taken the place of another Jew who longs to go to the Jewish State and is being denied this right because the quota of exit permits for Israel is limited and is being continuously diminished.

"To ignore these facts and call for support of the dropouts instead of concentrating all efforts on the elimination of this dangerous phenomenon is to disregard the interests of Soviet Jewry. This cannot be explained away by invoking abstruse principles.

"We must not sacrifice the Jewish masses of the Soviet Union for the sake of a few who think nothing of improving their personal lot at the expense of so many others and thus serve as tools in the hands of the Soviet authorities who strive to undermine aliyah. We in Israel can only hope that American Jewry's judgement will be a judgement to save the Soviet Jewish masses."

#### MEMO RELEASED ON MEETING BETWEEN JEWS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF PLO

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30 (JTA)--A B'nai B'rith official's 1500-word memorandum on a secret meeting here Nov. 15 between two Palestine Liberation Organization representatives and five Washington Jews reports that the terrorist organization's present aims envision its takeover of Jordan and inducing the American Jewish community to move the Israeli government into agreeing to Palestinian and Jewish states "in Palestine."

According to a copy of the memorandum obtained by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency yesterday, it was prepared on the day after the meeting by Herman Edelsberg, recently retired director of B'nai B'rith's International Council and now a consultant to it, who was one of those present at the meeting. Edelsberg confirmed to JTA that he wrote the paper. Copies are understood to have been provided to the State Department, the Israel Embassy, the American Jewish Commit-

tee and top B'nai B'rith officials.

The meeting here and those by seven or eight Jews with the same PLO representatives in New York and by other PLO officials with non-official Israelis in Paris have been criticized as lending both respectability and credibility to the terrorist organization. The critics pointed out that the Israeli government will not deal with the PLO under any circumstances while the U.S. official position is refusal to have "substantive" contacts with it until it agrees to recognize Israel's existence, and abides by UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

#### Identify Those At Meeting

The Edelsberg memorandum identified the eight present at the Washington meeting as B. Tarrt Bell, director of the International Affairs Seminars of the American Friends Service Committee at whose office-residence the meeting was held; Dr. Issa Sartawi and Sabri Jiryis, both of the PLO in Beirut; Arthur Waskow, Institute for Policy Studies; Max Tickin, of Bretra; Olya Margolin, National Council of Jewish Women; David Gorin, American Jewish Congress; and Edelsberg.

The meeting in New York, held in a private home on Nov. 1, is understood to have been sponsored by a peace group of Vietnam War origin. One of those present was Dr. George Gruen, who specializes in Middle East affairs for the American Jewish Committee in New York. He said the "ground rules" for the meeting included a ban on disclosure of the names of those attending. He stressed, as had others in Washington, that he attended not as an official of his organization but as an individual.

"Dr. Sartawi, fashionably dressed and poised, was the obvious leader of the two-man delegation," the Edelsberg paper said. "He declined to say what his official position is, but he said he had interned in Cleveland and Columbus hospitals in the sixties. The State Department advises he is a member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council. Jiryis, a graduate of Hebrew University and chief of the American Department of the PLO research office in Beirut, participated substantially."

According to the Edelsberg paper, "Bell had told us that the PLO representatives were in Washington to explore the advisability of opening an office, but Sartawi said vaguely at the end of the conversation that they already had an office--representative?--in Washington and in other cities as well as the office in New York."

#### Seeking Support For PLO Efforts

Sartawi said he and Jiryis "had come to the United States to seek support for the PLO's present peace efforts," the memorandum continued. "The PLO, he said, accepts 'the principle of a Jewish State in Palestine' alongside a Palestinian state composed of the West Bank, Gaza, and some small pieces of land now held by Syria and Egypt."

When asked why the PLO doesn't make public this "official policy," the memorandum said "Sartawi replied that the recognition of Israel was the PLO's trump card, and it would not give it up without getting something in return. The PLO was prepared to implement this policy at the bargaining table."

"I said recognition of Israel was not a trump card; it did not even warrant any Israeli concessions," Edelsberg quoted himself in his memo-

random. "The real PLO trump card would be the conduct of a future Palestinian entity--would it live in peace or become a revanchist force, first moving against Jordan and then against Israel. Sartawi and Jiryis both made no bones about their purpose to take over Jordan, Sartawi interrupting to say 'of course Jordan.'"

When the conversation centered on the October meeting in Paris, the memorandum noted, Sartawi said "the PLO has no hope that Israeli doves can influence their government; the hawks are in full control. His hope is that the American Jewish community will do it." A suggestion that a public declaration by the PLO would help Israeli doves in their campaign "did not seem to impress the Palestinians," Edelsberg observed.

"Sartawi made an extended statement about the PLO's desire for peace and the urgent need for peace; otherwise there will be another war," the memorandum reported. It then said Sartawi added that "the next war will see the introduction of weapons that neither side is prepared for--just as in the (1973) October war, Israel was overwhelmed by new weapons the Egyptians had for which Israel had no defense. 'Some of my friends who are Israeli officers' have admitted that to me,' and the war after that will probably be an atomic war. Israel already has 14 to 16 atomic bombs."

When Sartawi was interrupted with the question "Are you threatening another war?" the memorandum continued, "Sartawi replied coolly, 'I am not threatening anything. I am analyzing the situation.'"

Sartawi suggested as the meeting was breaking up that "he had not found the cooperation he had sought in our meeting," that "he had had a better meeting in New York with a Jewish group. He was sorry if anything he had said had 'raised blood pressures.'" Edelsberg, concluding his memorandum, stated "I looked around the room and the only one who seemed to be tense was Sartawi."

#### SITUATION ALONG LEBANESE BORDER

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Nov. 30 (JTA)--The demonstrative massing of Israeli forces along the Lebanese border during the past week has resulted in a visible easing of tension in that region. But while the possibility of clashes with Syrian or terrorist units in southern Lebanon has been reduced for the present, the massive presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon may create, in the long run, a serious new military situation for Israel, sources here said today.

Israel's strong position has kept Syrian troops out of southern Lebanon and away from Israel's border. But tens of thousands of Syrian troops, supported by hundreds of tanks and other armored vehicles and artillery are in virtual occupation of the rest of that country. Israel has no say as to the size of the Syrian forces or how long they will remain in Lebanon; nor can Israel ignore the possible consequences of the Syrian presence, the sources said. The danger is that eventually Lebanon may become another confrontation state.

This would force Israel to adopt an entirely new and costly strategy on the Lebanese border. Whereas up to now Israel's deployment has been tactical, geared to the relatively easy task of preventing terrorist assaults from Lebanese bases or terrorist incursions into Israel, the situation created by powerful Syrian forces in Lebanon

would require Israel to build a full-scale military front in the north. It would require the construction of elaborate fortifications costing millions of Pounds and the permanent stationing of large concentrations of Israeli troops in the area.

Should a new war break out, the Lebanese front, dormant in all past wars, would be engulfed in battle, posing major defense and logistics problems for Israel, assuming it would have to fight on other fronts as well.

A new war is not considered a possibility in the immediate future. Israeli sources say it will take the Syrians considerable time to consolidate their positions in Lebanon and while doing this, Damascus is expected to exercise restraint over the terrorists. But once the Syrians feel strong enough, they may unleash the terrorists and precipitate a confrontation with Israel, the sources said.

#### ANTI-ISRAEL SENTIMENT AT MEETING OF BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION IN MUNICH

By Haskell Cohen

NEW YORK, Nov. 30 (JTA)--Anti-Israel sentiment in sport, once again, reared its ugly head over the weekend at the meeting of the Federation of International Basketball Associations conducted at Munich, Germany to determine sites and dates for the final European Cup playoffs involving six teams, including Maccabi Tel Aviv.

At the sessions in Munich the six teams in attendance, comprised of CSK of the Soviet Union, Real Madrid of Spain, Mobil Girgi of Italy, Maccabi Tel Aviv, Spartak Brno of Czechoslovakia and Racing Malleines of Belgium, conferred to complete arrangements for the Cup finals.

When it came to a discussion of sites, the CSK and Spartak Brno teams immediately protested playing Israel in Tel Aviv and instead forfeited their respective games to the Israeli five. The return games between Israel and these Soviet and Czechoslovak quintets will be played Feb. 15 and 19 in Antwerp, Belgium, an unusual procedure.

In former years, when a team reaching the finals in European Cup play refused to go through with a home-and-home game commitment, the team was immediately dropped from the competition and furthermore was suspended from European Cup participation the following year. Apparently the new executive secretary, Boris Stan-kovic of Yugoslavia, a friend of this writer who is sympathetic to Israel, was fearful of repercussions back home in the event he arbitrarily suspended the Soviet and Czechoslovakian fives from Cup play next year.

It will be interesting to note the reaction of the International Olympic Committee concerning the stand taken by the Iron Curtain basketball teams in view of the fact that the 1980 World Olympics are slated for the USSR.

VIENNA (JTA)--Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky said Monday "the time was ripe for direct Jewish-Arab contacts" in a new effort to settle the Middle East conflict. Speaking at a news conference, Kreisky said he discussed the problem with Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin last weekend at the Socialist conference in Geneva. "Rabin told me he welcomed any Jewish-Arab contacts with the exception of contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization." Kreisky expressed confidence that there is a chance to settle the conflict between Israel and Egypt and between Israel and Syria "if the right timing can be found."

### STRONG REACTIONS CONTINUE DESPITE BRONFMAN'S RETRACTION OF STATEMENT ON MEANING OF SEPARATIST VICTORY

By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, Nov. 30 (JTA)--Charles Bronfman, president of the Seagram Co., one of the world's largest distilleries, aroused strong reactions when he told a group of 400 businessmen on the eve of the Nov. 15 provincial elections that a victory for the separatist Parti Québécois would "mean the end of the country and the destruction of the Jewish community." He vowed that in such an event he would pull Seagram out of Québec and with it the Montreal Expos baseball team in which he has a 40 percent interest.

The Parti Québécois won the elections and Bronfman, a strong supporter of defeated Liberal Party Premier Robert Bourassa, issued a retraction. He explained that his remarks had been made impulsively in the heat of the campaign.

But the reverberations continued. At a general meeting of Seagram shareholders held three days after the elections, a spokesman for the St. Jean Baptiste Society of Montreal which owns 50 shares presented a motion of censure against Bronfman. It was rejected after Seagram director Phillip Veinberg stressed the Bronfman family's loyalty to Montreal and Quebec and pledged that Seagram would cooperate fully with the new government.

Earlier, Allan Bronfman, Charles Bronfman's 82-year-old uncle, declared on French television that "none of us Bronfmans intend to leave Quebec. Whatever government we get we'll move with it."

#### Explanation Of Initial Statement

In his post-election statement, Charles Bronfman said: "It was incumbent upon those of us who dearly love Canada and who believe in Québec as a viable and important force within the Confederation to bend every effort to ensure the strengthening of our country and our province. I felt then as I do now, most passionately, that Canada is one of the great and blessed nations of the world. And to face the specter of separatism which could tear our country apart was a prospect so shattering that what I said truly reflected my mood and my feelings of the moment."

Nevertheless, Bronfman's pre-election remarks drew a strong reaction from radio and television commentators and readers of the French language press. Several large circulation dailies published letters to the editor urging Quebecers to boycott Seagram products. The English-language Montreal Star reported that it had received calls from readers who said they were organizing a boycott campaign.

The Allied Jewish Community Services found it necessary to publish a denial of any connections whatsoever with a pre-election political meeting opposing the Parti Québécois allegedly held on its premises. The disavowal appeared in the AJCS bulletin "Your Community News."

In the same issue, AJCS president Joe Ain addressed an open letter to Premier-elect René Lévesque pledging "full cooperation in achieving the common aims of all who wish to live in a progressive and enlightened society." Ain wrote that the "AJCS will continue to work closely with the government in the fields of health, welfare and education and can be counted on to respond to human needs as we have always done in the past."

#### Lessons Of The Election

Meanwhile, Prof. Irwin Cotler, a McGill University expert on constitutional law, discussed with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency the implications of the elections for Quebec and its Jewish community. He said, "Just as the corruptibility of the Liberal Party brought about a PQ victory, so may a PQ victory ultimately result in a restored but authentic federalist party, 'liberal or other....' If Quebecers, including Quebec Jews, have been taught anything by recent events it is that politics is not a linear course. But if Quebec Jews wish the 'dialectic' to emerge, they must be more than enraged. They must be engaged."

Cotler charged that "certain Jewish leaders purveying the Liberal Party line" were "as much victims as agents" and "had become imprisoned by fear. But the politics of fear was not only ill-considered and ill-advised, it betrayed a lack of faith in democracy."

#### 20% OF HEBREW U. STUDENTS SEEK TO STUDY ABROAD, 90% OF THEM IN THE U.S.

JERUSALEM, Nov. 30 (JTA)--A survey ordered by the Jewish Agency's immigration department has shown that 20 percent of the graduates of the Hebrew University intend to pursue post-graduate studies abroad--90 percent of them in the United States. Dr. Amos Drori of the Hebrew University, who conducted the survey, said it could be assumed that a certain number of these students are "potential emigrants."

Dr. Drori said that most of those planning to study in the U.S. said their decision was not prompted by any difficulties in Israel and that they would return after earning advanced degrees. But he cautioned that a long stay abroad could create "temptations" for many who would remain abroad permanently. He said he did not recommend any steps to prevent students from studying in foreign countries but that regular channels of contact should be maintained between them and Israel.

The survey indicated that one-third of those who intend to study abroad will leave next year. Most of them said they would be away for 2-3 years.

#### PHILIP ALSTAT DEAD AT 85

NEW YORK, Nov. 30 (JTA)--Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Rabbi Philip R. Alstat, a columnist for the Jewish Week and former chaplain of the Manhattan House of Correction. He died yesterday at the age of 85. Alstat was chaplain at the House of Correction for 30 years until his retirement in 1974. He also served as chaplain at Jewish Memorial and Sydenham Hospitals and recently at Williams Memorial Residence, operated by the Salvation Army.

For the last four decades, Alstat lived at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, serving as unofficial rabbi to the students. Born in Lithuania, he came to the United States in 1896. After his ordination at the seminary, he served as rabbi at several synagogues, the last being Temple B'nai Israel-Shearith Judah of Washington Heights section of Manhattan.

NEW YORK (JTA)--The National Conference on Soviet Jewry has learned that the Leningrad Soviet Jewish activist, Yevgeny Abezgauz, has been granted an exit permit to emigrate to Israel.