



# daily news bulletin

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## PERES ON WAY TO WASHINGTON FOR MEETING WITH RUMSFELD; WILL SEEK CLARIFICATION ON U.S. ARMS ITEMS By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Dec. 1 (JTA)--Defense Minister Shimon Peres left for Washington today for a meeting with U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Israel's military needs. He told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport that there have been no delays in the delivery of arms supplies from the U.S. but that there are certain items that needed clarification and re-checking. Israel's interest in purchasing the new F-16 jet interceptor is expected to be one of the subjects Peres will raise with Rumsfeld.

The Defense Minister said that he would seek means to finance Israel's military purchases which will amount to hundreds of millions of dollars. He hinted that he may meet with aides to President-elect Jimmy Carter on increased U.S. financial assistance to Israel after the new Administration takes office.

Peres had a closed meeting with Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur before leaving. Asked if his visit to the U.S. at this time meant that he expected no serious changes in the situation on Israel's northern border, Peres replied that anything was possible. He said the situation in southern Lebanon indicated that the population there remained friendly to Israel and that southern Lebanon is presently the most peaceful area of that country. Peres attributed this to Israel's show of strength and determination not to allow Syrian or PLO forces to enter the region. The Syrians took the hint, he said.

## CABINET APPROVES NATIONAL BUDGET OF IL 122.5 BILLION FOR FISCAL 1977-78

By Gil-Sedan and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Dec. 1 (JTA)--The Cabinet approved an IL 122.5 billion national budget for the fiscal year 1977-78 last night without the endorsement of Histadrut and with defense spending still undecided. The new budget is one percent less than the current budget and IL 4.5 billion under the originally proposed budget for the new fiscal year.

It is called an anti-inflationary budget and is predicated on the assumption that the government will be able to hold the line on spending within its own departments and persuade labor and management to maintain wage-price stability. An inflation rate not exceeding 25 percent is projected. The budget was approved unanimously with one abstention by Absorption Minister Shlomo Rosen of Mapam.

The Cabinet did not deal with the Defense Ministry's demand for an additional IL 500 million to meet its minimal needs next year. A special committee consisting of Premier Yitzhak Rabin, Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz and Defense Minister Shimon Peres will meet shortly to try to reach a compromise. Government sources said the defense budget will remain within the limits of the approved budget.

## Government's Hardest Task

The government's hardest task will be to gain

the cooperation of Histadrut on the wage front.

The trade union federation's initial reaction to the new budget indicated that tough negotiations are in prospect, especially over the government's decision to reduce cost-of-living allowances. According to Histadrut sources, "even if the government manages to keep inflation at 22 percent Israel will have record high inflation and the proper compensation must be paid."

The government apparently intends to use a carrot-and-stick formula in dealing with Histadrut. If the latter cooperates, labor would be rewarded by a general price freeze, at least until April, after which prices would remain under strict controls. If not, the penalty would be an increase in the value added tax. The original budget proposals called for a 5 percent hike in the VAT, but that was eliminated in the final draft. The VAT, established this year, is currently 8 percent.

## Economic Measures Linked To Budget

Other economic measures linked to the new budget include a maximum 30 percent rise in the prices of basic commodities instead of the 40 percent rise originally anticipated and a maximum 25 percent hike in telephone, electric and water rates. This would hold down the overall cost of living index increase to 25 percent. Interest rates on loans to industry, housing and agriculture would rise by 2-3 percent. Government bonds linkage to the cost of living will be held at 80 percent.

Allowances for children, a fixed sum paid monthly by the National Insurance Institute for each child, and credit points for tax purposes would be held to 70 percent of the c.o.l. index instead of the present 100 percent. Companies will not be allowed to pay dividends in excess of those paid in 1976. Finally, the budget calls for a 20 percent devaluation of the Pound during fiscal 1977-78 instead of the 25 percent originally planned.

## TZUR WARNS AGAINST RUMORS FROM SYRIA THAT JEWS THERE ARE NO LONGER TARGETS OF PERSECUTION By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Dec. 1 (JTA)--Yaacov Tzur, newly installed chairman of the Council for Jews in Arab Countries, said here tonight that Jewish leaders in the U.S., Mexico and other countries have fallen into the trap of rumors propagated by Damascus that Syria's Jews are no longer the targets of persecution and discrimination. Addressing the first meeting of the Council under his leadership, Tzur said it was necessary to bring the pressure of world public opinion to bear against the intolerable conditions of Syrian Jews.

He said that while it is true that President Hafez Assad of Syria has ended the torture that was the lot of Syrian Jews until 1973, they are still discriminated against with respect to employment and their movements inside Syria are severely restricted. He said that any Jew who wants to travel more than three kilometers from the Damascus ghetto must get a special permit from the authorities. Even worse is the total ban on Jewish emigration from Syria, Tzur said. "Rarely have the Syrian authorities allowed

Jews to leave the country for commercial or medical reasons" and when they did allow it, the authorities kept their children hostage until the traveller returned to the ghetto, he said.

Tzur noted that some 4500 Jews presently live in Syria, confined to three ghettos, mainly in Damascus. Syria is actually a prison for Jews and "it is our task to call upon the Syrian authorities to open the gates and let the Jews out of that country," he said. Tzur stated that he was not suggesting at the moment to permit the Jewish population to emigrate to Israel, "though this might be the most simple solution." But, he said, "What we demand is freedom to leave the country to any place in the world." He added that this was not a political demand.

President Ephraim Katzir of Israel congratulated the Council and expressed hope that it would succeed in its difficult mission.

#### **UNDOF MANDATE FORMALLY APPROVED** By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 1 (JTA)--The Security Council approved last night a resolution extending the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights for another six-month period. The vote was 12 to 0. China, Libya and Benin did not participate. The renewal of the mandate was postponed several times in the last two days as a result of a Syrian attempt to have the renewal resolution changed.

Syrian diplomats, backed by the Soviet Union, demanded that a sentence from a recent report by Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, which described the situation in the Mideast as "unstable" and noted the need for a diplomatic movement, be injected into the renewal resolution. Although conceding that the Syrian change was insignificant, Israel refused to accept any change from last May's resolution to extend UNDOF in order to avoid creating a "precedent" and future Syrian attempts to inject political notes into resolutions that extend the mandate of the force.

The new UNDOF mandate expires May 31, 1977. Sources here indicated that the Syrians will not agree to extend the mandate automatically when it expires again.

Meanwhile, the General Assembly last night strongly condemned the collaboration of all states with the "racist regimes of South Africa." The resolution specifically named Israel, the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and Japan. While the resolution was approved by a vote of 97-11 with 28 abstentions, a separate vote on the paragraph singling out the six countries was 69-25 with 39 abstentions.

#### **B'NAI B'RITH DENIES ROLE IN PLO MEETING; AJ CONGRESS STAFF MEMBER WHO ATTENDED IS GIVEN REPRIMAND**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1 (JTA)--David M. Blumberg, president of B'nai B'rith denied today that his organization was "in any way" involved in a meeting with representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization "or had any prior knowledge of such a meeting." He added that "B'nai B'rith was not asked to meet with any PLO representatives nor would we agree to such a meeting if we had been asked."

A B'nai B'rith spokesman said the organization was responding to reports circulated by a wire service, not the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and published in some newspapers that implied

that Herman Edelsberg, who retired 10 months ago as director of B'nai B'rith's International Council and is now a consultant to it, attended the meeting in an official B'nai B'rith capacity.

The JTA had reported that the Jewish participants in the meetings with the PLO representatives in Washington and New York were there as individuals and not as representatives of their organizations. This included Edelsberg who, after the meeting in Washington, wrote a memorandum on the incident.

At the same time, Richard Cohen, associate executive director of the American Jewish Congress, issued a statement saying the AJ Congress "deplores any talks by representatives of American Jewish organizations with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Our president, Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, has publicly rejected an invitation by the PLO to meet with its representatives in this country." Referring to the presence of David Gorin of the AJ Congress at the meeting in Washington, Cohen said:

"We regret the unauthorized attendance of a brand new member of our staff, who was in fact spending his first day on the job, at a meeting of the American Friends Service Committee in Washington last month at which PLO representatives were present. That staff member was unaware that the PLO would be represented at the meeting. He has been reprimanded for not leaving the meeting immediately upon learning that PLO representatives were present."

#### **CONSTRUCTION FOR \$4.5 M JEWISH CULTURAL CENTER ON NEW YORK'S WEST SIDE DUE TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH**

NEW YORK, Dec. 1 (JTA)--Construction is scheduled to begin in January on a \$4.5 million Jewish cultural center which will house three institutions near the Lincoln Center on Manhattan's West Side. The seven-story building, to be completed early in 1978, will be named for Abraham Goodman, an industrialist and Jewish communal leader, who provided \$2.5 million for design and construction.

The land was purchased by the Hebrew Arts School for Music and Dance for \$1 million in 1966. The school will be one of the three institutions to be housed in the Abraham D. Goodman House. The others are the Tarbut Foundation for the Advancement of Hebrew Culture and schools operated by the Lincoln Square Synagogue. Goodman, who is treasurer of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, is president of the Tarbut Foundation. Those institutions are now scattered in borrowed facilities.

The remaining \$1 million is being raised by members of the Orthodox synagogue, which was reported half-way toward that goal through a \$500,000 contribution from Joseph Gruss, an investment banker, and his wife, Caroline.

#### **Studios, Workshops And Classrooms**

The section of the Goodman House to be used by the Hebrew Arts School will have 28 music studios, an art workshop, two dance studios, a music library and an electronic music studio. The new facility will provide, for the Tarbut Foundation, administrative offices, exhibit areas and galleries, and four classrooms.

The synagogue will have 15 classrooms, offices, youth recreation areas and a roof playground. Also to be included in the Goodman House are a 475-seat concert hall, a 150-seat recital hall, an art exhibition section and a Judaica library. Also planned are an outdoor

garden and a memorial to the six million victims of the European Holocaust.

Mayor Abraham Beame presented the 86-year-old Jewish leader with the city's Scroll for Distinguished and Exceptional Service to the city at a crowded City Hall ceremony yesterday. Beame lauded Goodman for his generosity "and lifelong dedication to the highest ideals of the city's Jewish community." He added that not until plans were made for the Goodman House "has anyone come forward with plans for a comprehensive center for Jewish culture."

#### **JEWISH AGENCY BOARD ENDORSES HOREV REPORT BUT FURTHER STUDY WILL CONTINUE ON ITS VARIOUS ELEMENTS**

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Dec. 1 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency's Board of Governors has followed the World Zionist Organization Executive in endorsing the proposal to concentrate immigration and absorption of settlers in Israel under a single authority instead of dividing the functions between the Jewish Agency and Israel's Absorption Ministry.

However, the governors, who finished a two-day meeting here yesterday, said that the proposal, known as the Horev Report, entailed complex legal, procedural and financial problems. The Jewish Agency would, therefore, appoint a special committee to study them.

(In Jerusalem, it was reported today that Premier Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset that the Cabinet will decide within two or three months whether or not to accept the Horev Report which has been sharply condemned by Absorption Minister Shlomo Rosen. Rabin told the Knesset that he saw no haste in dealing with the report's recommendations. In the meantime, he added, the report was being studied, including the objections by Rosen.)

Max Fisher, Board chairman, told the press that his colleagues had also studied a report on the Agency's own workings drawn up by two professors of the Harvard Business School. There would be further studies of the Agency's staffing policy.

#### **Agency Finances Discussed**

Yosef Almog, chairman of the WZO and Jewish Agency Executives, said that in the coming year the Agency expected to raise \$440 million and, like last year, would have to operate on a deficit. Fund-raising, already suffering from the world-wide economic situation, had now been further hit by the devaluations in Mexico and Australia, although they had been particularly offset by Israel's own series of currency devaluations.

In 1975, the deficit budget of \$502 million had meant cuts in housing and education. But Almog stressed that the essential services for aliya and absorption had been sustained. Both Fisher and Almog spoke of the need to improve the fund-raising techniques of the Jewish Agency around the world and to strengthen young leadership in the various communities.

Answering criticism about handling of Soviet migrants who preferred to settle elsewhere than in Israel, Fisher said that, as co-chairman of a special committee which is now studying this problem, he had asked the United States government to grant visas for those who wanted to settle in the U.S.

It was also officially confirmed that Moshe Rivlin is resigning from the Jewish Agency after

five years as its director general. Unlike Rivlin, his successor would not also be the director of the WZO. Fisher stressed that in choosing Rivlin's successor the Agency would not be influenced by any affiliation he might have to a particular Israeli party. Both men paid warm tribute to Rivlin who, at 51, is to be the chairman of the Jewish National Fund. The next meeting of the Jewish Agency's Board will be in Israel in February.

#### **PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE WANTS FORD TO PROHIBIT PLO OFFICE IN CAPITAL**

NEW YORK, Dec. 1 (JTA)--President Ford was urged today by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to prohibit the opening of a Palestine Liberation Organization office in Washington. In a telegram to the White House, the Conference voiced "profound dismay" at a State Department comment last week that there was no way to prevent the PLO from opening an office in Washington as long as it complies with regulations.

The telegram, signed by Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman, and Yehuda Hellman, executive director, said "In the interest of public safety, and the cause of peace in the Middle East, our country must not permit killers of Jewish children and the assassins of American diplomats to open an office in Washington, D.C. Surely there is a law or principle of law that can be invoked to protect the American people from the criminal conspiracy that constitutes the PLO. We urge you therefore to issue instructions prohibiting the PLO from opening an office in Washington."

The Presidents Conference telegram quoted a statement from Robert L. Funseth, State Department spokesman, that "from a foreign policy point of view, we do not believe it is a propitious moment for the PLO to open an office in Washington." Commenting on the statement, the telegram said: "In our view it is not a question of what is 'propitious' but rather what is the principle involved in permitting an avowedly terrorist organization to open a headquarters in our nation's capital."

#### **ZOA FAVORS JAN. 1978 MEETING OF THE WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS**

NEW YORK, Dec. 1 (JTA)--The Zionist Organization of America supports a January, 1978 meeting of the 29th World Zionist Congress, objecting strenuously to any convening of the Congress before the holding of Israel's Knesset elections next November.

Leon Ilutovich, national executive director of the ZOA, who represents the ZOA on the U.S. Area Elections Committee of the Congress, said that "administrative and organizational reasons preclude holding the conference before next summer, and holding it then or in any of the months just before Israel's parliamentary elections would turn the congress deliberations into a battleground for Israel political parties."

"This," he added, "would result in an overshadowing of the real issues facing the Zionist movement and would destroy the basic purpose for which the congress has been convened."

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Moshe Dayan threatened Tuesday to quit the Labor Alignment if the government decided to return to the pre-Six-Day War borders. However, Dayan, speaking to the Jerusalem Worker's Council, said Israel could give up part of the administered territories in return for an end of belligerency.

## **ORTHODOX GROUP SAYS ALL EMIGRATING SOVIET JEWS MUST BE AIDED, EVEN THOSE WHO CHOOSE NOT TO GO TO ISRAEL**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1 (JTA)--The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America ended its four-day 78th anniversary convention here with the adoption of a series of resolutions delineating the Orthodox viewpoint on a wide range of matters of direct concern to the Jewish community in the U.S. and abroad.

Its resolution on Soviet Jewry took cognizance of the fact even free emigration would not solve the problem of "the majority of Soviet Jews who have not yet shown any desire to emigrate." In that connection, the UOJC demanded that "the Soviet campaign against the Jewish religion must be halted" and the Soviet Union must "make available to Soviet Jews the rights given other Soviet minorities including the institutions, schools, textbooks and materials necessary to teach the religious traditions and beliefs of our people."

The resolution also stated that "while the majority of Soviet Jews [who emigrate] choose to go to Israel, every effort must be made to welcome and service those that choose to live elsewhere in the free world." The UOJC urged its affiliated synagogues to monitor Soviet violations of the 1975 Helsinki accords dealing with human rights and "to spare no efforts in ensuring the continuation of Jewish life in the Soviet Union."

Another resolution called on Jews everywhere "to include the Jews of Syria in their prayers and to intensify their efforts on behalf of this beleaguered community."

### **Limit Use Of Rabbi Title**

A resolution under the heading of "Ethics" stated that "all individuals who may have rabbinic ordination but are not serving in the pulpit or working full time in Jewish education or communal work to refrain from using the title 'Rabbi' and to eschew any privileges attached to this title."

Contrary to news reports that this resolution was aimed specifically at Rabbi Bernard Bergman, the former nursing home czar now serving a prison term for fraud, and the Jewish Defense League founder, Rabbi Meir Kahane, a UOJC spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the resolution had "no one in mind."

The UOJC also called on President-elect Jimmy Carter to declare full amnesty for all American citizens who refused to serve in the Vietnam war. It pointed out that according to both Jewish tradition and American history, "those who refuse to serve, be it from conviction or cowardice, are to be granted eventual re-entry into society."

### **Warns Of New Anti-Semitism**

Three major addresses highlighted the UOJC convention which was attended by over 1000 delegates from the U.S. and Canada. Harold M. Jacobs, who was re-elected president of the UOJC, warned of "a new form of anti-Semitism" in the form of anti-Israel or anti-Zionist positions being "promoted and propagated by forces of the so-called Third World and Communist countries." According to Jacobs "the classic anti-Semite has now put on a new uniform" but "only the clothes have changed, underneath there still beats the heart of a Jew-hater and Jew-baiter of old and his goal and purpose has not changed since."

Prof. Norman Lamin, president of Yeshiva University, called on the Orthodox community to

recognize and acknowledge "the unhappy fact that we Orthodox Jews are a minority within a minority." But he warned against trying to solve this dilemma either by joining the majority or by withdrawing from society at large "and pulling in and manning the ramparts against the hostile world." According to Lamin, "The only valuable approach... is to acknowledge the facts but not rest too content with them and to build our own institutions vigorously while participating fully in the largest society in the wide Jewish community."

### **Proper Religious Education**

A guest speaker was Baron Alain de Rothschild, president of the French Jewish Consistory. He related the history of that all embracing organization of French Jewry since its inception by Napoleon and its success in gathering all French Jews under the umbrella of halachic tradition.

He stressed that "to give our youth a sound and proper religious education is a common goal both of the Union and the Consistoire as it is also the necessity to create a future generation still more determined to transmit the eternal values of Judaism. To bring forth such a project, we shall have some day to cooperate. Why not make it today?" Baron de Rothschild asked. "For we can, by combined actions, draw in our wake other communities less well structured, less important numerically and incite them to fight successfully for their survival."

### **SOVIETS IMPRISON ZAVUROV BROTHERS**

NEW YORK, Dec. 1 (JTA)--Soviet authorities have arrested and given a 15-day prison term to two brothers living in a Central Asian Soviet city noted for blatant anti-Semitism, the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry announced. Amnon and Amner Zavurov, of Shakh-rizyabz, Uzbek, had received visas for emigration to Israel for themselves and their families on Aug. 23, 1975. These visas were revoked without explanation on Oct. 3 of that year by Col. Yusopov of the Tashkent civil office.

The Zavurovs have been without internal Soviet passports since receiving their exit visas. The imprisonment, on charges which are still unknown, are seen by the Conference as a Soviet pressure tactic to force the Zavurovs to take back their passports, cease the process of renouncing their Soviet citizenships, and alter their decision to leave for Israel.

In related developments, the GNYCSJ also announced that Vilnius activists, including Jacob Aranson, Vladimir Raiz, Naum Salenski and Simon Gershovich, were called down for interrogation by the KGB. Authorities subsequently searched Salenski's apartment confiscating a typewriter, personal bank account documents, and other belongings.

LIMA (JTA)--A new home for the elderly, "Home of the Kehila, was dedicated here Nov. 14. The home was built by Bikur Holim-Hevra Kadisha Department of the Union Israelita del Peru. The first stage of the home, which will eventually house 104 persons, has been completed.

NEW YORK (JTA)--The first issue of "Israeli Express," the new Hebrew-language daily, will appear here Dec. 10. Avraham Paz, an Israeli journalist from Tel Aviv, is the editor. The paper's editorial office is in Manhattan.