



# daily news bulletin

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## RABBINIC RESPONSA TO BE BEAMED VIA SPACE SATELLITE FROM BAR ILAN U. IN ISRAEL TO YESHIVA U. IN NEW YORK

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Jan. 6 (JTA)--A Yeshiva University official reported today that a space satellite link will be put into operation in the spring by which rabbinic responsa--replies to questions on Jewish religious law and social customs--stored in a computer at Bar Ilan University in Israel will be beamed to a university facility at its main center in Manhattan.

The \$1 million project, partly funded by a three-year \$175,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a federal agency, was announced by Dean David Mirsky, acting vice-president for Yeshiva University academic affairs, and Dr. Aaron Schreiber, for the Israeli university. Private funds will make up the rest of the budget, Mirsky said.

He noted that there are about 500,000 responsa in existence, authored by some 3000 authorities over 12 centuries, reflecting the oldest applied legal tradition in the Western world. He said the responsa were invaluable for the study of history, language, literature, religion, Jewish-Christian and Jewish-Muslim relations, law, political science and "all facets of human relationships."

The first text chosen for computer storage was the responsa of Reb Yitzchak Bar Sheshea of Spain and North Africa, a 14th century scholar who prepared 518 responsa of more than 500,000 words. Since then, more material has been stored, a process accelerated by installation of a large IBM computer at Bar Ilan.

### Satellite Operation Described

-- Requests for information stored in the Bar Ilan computer will be made through Yeshiva University whose computer will activate the Bar Ilan facility via the satellite. The computer in Israel will run the request through the nearly 24,000 responsa now stored in its data bank, representing a total of 24 million words in Hebrew and Aramaic.

The satellite will transmit the requested information to the Yeshiva University computer for analysis and print-out. Mirsky said plans call for storage of up to 50,000 responsa by April and 100,000 within a few years.

The dean said that for modern rabbinic authorities or scholars, the problem is how to track down specific information in the massive rabbinic literature which, he said, has never been indexed. Mirsky added that the information retrieval problem was considered unmanageable until a group of scientists from the Weizmann Institute, the Hebrew University, and Bar Ilan University began in 1967 to explore the possibilities of using a computer for that purpose. The dean said that in 1970 the project was centered at Bar Ilan, gaining support from the National Endowment and other grant agencies.

Mirsky said the Bar Ilan computer scans all the responsa stored in its data bank to find requested information. He said the project also will have the capacity to check out all grammatical

variants for every key phrase on which the computer might be questioned, seeking infinitive forms, conjugations, tenses and related variants. He said some words in the responsa could have thousands of such variants.

Mirsky said that through the satellite-linked computers, "anyone in the Western Hemisphere who desires access to the Israeli retrieval unit can turn to Yeshiva University." He said the university facility here will use its own computers and will add additional equipment to convert electronic signals to print at either computer terminal and a device to convert such signals into Hebrew.

### BEHIND THE HEADLINES

#### ISSUES FACING THE NEW CONGRESS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Legislative actions of special Jewish concern and interest will soon reach preliminary stages in the 95th Congress. The confirmation hearings of President-elect Jimmy Carter's Cabinet members and other top Administration officers who must have the Senate's approval will bring out their views on the issues. The breadth of sponsorship of bills in both Houses will be another barometer of attitudes.

Among the legislative measures to face Congress and the new Administration are military and economic aid to Israel and to its Arab neighbors; delivery of arms to Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt; renewal of full U.S. membership in UNESCO which continues to condemn Israel while lifting one "illegitimate" barrier against her; ratification of the 30-year-old genocide treaty which actually may be voted into law by the Senate this time; and outlawing the Arab boycott against Israel insofar as Americans are concerned in any form.

Other measures include: nuclear plants for Egypt and Israel; legislation that may circumvent the Jackson-Vanik and Stevenson-Harrison provisos of the current U.S. trade and credit laws with relation to U.S. government credits for the Soviet Union and its emigration policy; fresh Congressional considerations of the Helsinki accords in the light of Soviet flouting of its human rights provisions; and consideration of energy programs to lessen dependence on Arab oil.

Israel has requested \$2.3 billion in military and economic assistance in view of the steep rise in the costs of needed weapons and other goods. The Ford Administration is understood to have cut it by \$800 million. The Carter Cabinet's thinking has yet to be indicated. Egypt in two years received economic aid of about \$2 billion which is more than the allocations of economic aid to Israel in the same period. Egypt is now asking for "defensive" military weapons, too. The U.S. supplied Egypt with six giant military aircraft--the C-130s--last year after Congress extracted a pledge from the Administration that it would not give any additional military equipment to Egypt for the remainder of 1976.

-- Legislation is expected to be introduced early in the session against the Arab boycott. It

will be along the lines of the compromise informally worked out by Senate and House members when the legislation before both chambers was stymied by Senate Republican Policy Committee chairman John Towers until Congress adjourned Oct. 2. With President Ford and Commerce Secretary Elliot Richardson both having committed themselves to legislation that would expose compliance by American firms with the boycott, new and tough laws can be expected. Rep. Jonathan Bingham (D.N.Y.), a prime mover of anti-boycott laws, has said that the Saudi Arabian concessions on oil price rises would not have an impact on the legislation.

#### Attitude Toward UNESCO

Whether the U.S. should return to full membership in UNESCO may prove a troublesome question. Arguments are emerging that the clearance of the road for Israel to join the European Regional Group should offset the "politicization" of the educational, scientific and cultural organization against Israel.

Leaders in the strong negative reaction and suspension of U.S. dues in UNESCO two years ago after UNESCO pushed through a resolution barring Israel are not so certain. They seem to agree that the UNESCO vote in Nairobi in November is a good start in the right direction but its two related resolutions attacking Israel outweigh that. Restoration of Israel to UNESCO membership, pro-Israelis feel, is not a favor to Israel but rectification of a wrong that never should have occurred and is therefore insufficient to justify renewal of U.S. payments to that UN body.

These sympathizers resent the resolution at Nairobi condemning Israeli educational programs in the territories it occupies. They point out that in the nine years that Israel has been in control of the occupied areas it has provided the Arabs with educational facilities and teaching that not only are better than Britain or Jordan provided when they were in control but the best the Arabs there have ever had. "The Arabs know this," one observer said.

The other Nairobi resolution that condemns Israel over its archaeological excavations in Jerusalem is also resented because UNESCO's own authority has praised Israel's work. Furthermore, when UNESCO was asked to send a delegation to the site, Israel accepted the proposal but instead of sending a delegation the majority in UNESCO adopted a condemnation of Israel. Then, after Israel was condemned, the majority decided it would send a delegation—a move regarded as obviously tainted before it started.

#### ANOTHER BLOW TO LABOR PARTY; TOLEDANO JOINS YADIN'S MOVEMENT By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6 (JTA)—The Labor Party had an unpleasant surprise today when Shmuel Toledano, a Laborite for 34 years and, for nearly 12 years, the Prime Minister's advisor on Arab affairs, announced he was quitting the party to join Prof. Yigal Yadin's new Democratic Movement for Change.

Toledano said he would explain the reasons for his move when he submits his formal resignation to Premier Yitzhak Rabin. Party circles are aware, however, that his relations with Rabin had deteriorated and that the Premier was relying increasingly on Amos Eran, Director General of

the Prime Minister's Office, for counseling on Arab affairs.

Nevertheless, Toledano's unexpected announcement caught the Labor Party and the Prime Minister's Office unaware. It represented a political blow because Toledano was not just a civil servant but an active member of the Labor Party's Central Committee and Jerusalem branch. Moreover, he is not simply leaving Labor after three-and-a-half decades but is joining a new political movement that is expected to capture a significant number of votes from Labor in the May elections.

#### Some Reasons For Move

According to some sources, Toledano was dissatisfied with the progress of his career. Rumored appointments, including directorship of the Housing Ministry or an Ambassadorial post failed to materialize. Toledano felt he had nothing to lose by quitting Labor, the sources said. On the other hand, he has no guarantee that his political career will be advanced in Yadin's movement. The latter has promised to make up its Knesset elections list by secret ballot and Toledano, a late-comer, may not get on it. Furthermore, there is no way of knowing how many Knesset seats, if any, Yadin's party will get although a recent poll gave it 18.

Toledano has been offered a job as a contributor to a leading daily on Arab-Israeli relations. He is due to lecture at Harvard University in March and will receive an award for his contributions to Arab-Jewish understanding.

#### HERUT ADOPTS MORE MODERATE POLICY ON TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6 (JTA)—The Herut faction of Likud ended its convention here this morning after adopting a policy on territorial concessions somewhat more moderate than its previous position and agreeing to consider changes in Israel's electoral system. Veteran Herut leader Menachem Beigin was unanimously re-elected to head the faction's election list.

But whether Beigin will be chosen to head the Likud list in the May elections, with the possibility of becoming Israel's next Premier, depends on his acceptance by the other factions comprising Likud, notably the Liberal Party. Some elements within the party are known to believe that Beigin's unrelenting hard-line on territorial and other issues has frightened a large bloc of voters in the past and thus prevented a Likud victory.

For the first time, Herut adopted resolutions that speak of readiness for territorial compromises in exchange for peace, although these are limited to the Sinai and Golan Heights. Herut resolved that the West Bank and Gaza Strip must remain permanently under Israel's sovereignty. It stated that when agreements are reached with the Arabs, treaties would be signed ending the state of war and setting new boundaries in Sinai and the Golan Heights.

#### Basis For Peace Agreements

Herut insisted that the peace agreements must be accompanied by appropriate security arrangements, recognition of the right of self-determination, security and peace for all nations in the region, rehabilitation of refugees where they now live, regular diplomatic relations and cooperation in the economic, scientific and tech-

nological fields.

Herut ruled out any contact with the Palestine Liberation Organization which it called "an organization of murderers" and rejected any Palestinian state which it called an "Arafat state." The faction resolved for the first time to set up a special committee to consider election reforms and bring its recommendations to the central committee. A new central committee of 581 members was elected, an increase of 115 members, in response to demands from various party branches for better representation.

Belgin delivered a long, emotional address before the convention closed. He said that he will retire in six years, when he reaches the age of 70. But, he told his Herut colleagues, "If you elect me head of the party and if we win the elections, I can assure you that we shall set up a good government that will not rule but serve the nation loyally and a new spirit will come over Israel."

#### HIAS OFFICIAL SAYS AGENCY DOES NOT EMPLOY SOVIET DROPOUTS FOR OPERATIONAL WORK IN VIENNA OFFICE By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Gaynor Jacobson, executive vice-president of HIAS, responding to a complaint by Uzi Narkiss, director general of the Jewish Agency's allya department, said today that HIAS has never employed Soviet Jewish dropouts for operational work in its Vienna office.

Narkiss told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in Jerusalem today that he had demanded, in an exchange of letters with Jacobson, that HIAS discharge "a number" of Soviet Jewish dropouts working in the HIAS office in Vienna and that he had been informed that there had been several cases in which the fact that dropouts were employed by HIAS in the "processing" of other dropouts from Vienna to Rome had had a "negative" effect.

Narkiss said that he had been informed that in some cases when a Soviet Jewish family was debating on whether to continue on to Israel or to remain in Vienna, the family decided to remain in Vienna and then go to Rome, with the "help" of the dropouts employed in the HIAS Vienna office. Narkiss said there were three such dropouts working in the HIAS Vienna office.

Jacobson told the JTA in New York today that he had cabled Narkiss on Jan. 4 that there were two female dropouts presently working in the HIAS Vienna office, both of them assigned solely to typing out forms required by Austrian and Italian officials for movement of the Soviet Jews from Vienna to Rome.

#### Basis For Hiring

Jacobson added that, in his cable to Narkiss, he had said that the women had been hired because of their knowledge of English and Russian to fill out the required forms based on "our desire to cooperate with the Jewish Agency so that the dropouts do not remain indefinitely in Vienna." Jacobson said this was done in accordance with a request from the Jewish Agency, which he said was made in 1968, that HIAS act to move the dropouts from Vienna to Rome within 72 hours.

To do that, Jacobson said, there is an "indispensable minimum of paper work" on forms for Austrian and Italian officials and the two girls were hired to fill out those forms. He said that the two girl typists lived apart from the compound where Soviet Jews live during their stay in

Vienna and have no contact with the other dropouts. Jacobson said he explained this in his Jan. 4 cable.

Declaring that HIAS does not process Jews in Vienna for emigration, Jacobson quoted from his Jan. 4 cable to Narkiss: "Please be assured of our continued desire to cooperate" and that the employment of the two dropouts was done "only to carry out our responsibility to move them out of Vienna quickly."

Jacobson told the JTA that one of the typists is emigrating on Jan. 10 to the United States to rejoin her family here and that the second typist, who was hired last Dec. 27, will leave on Feb. 4 to join a brother in Sweden. Narkiss said, in his comment to the JTA in Jerusalem, that he had no authority to "order" HIAS to fire the dropouts but that he expressed that demand in his letters to Jacobson.

#### 3 JEWISH GROUPS URGE STRONG FEDERAL ANTI-BOYCOTT LAWS By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Three major American Jewish organizations, in their first jointly sponsored press conference, called today for "strong federal anti-boycott legislation" in the face of "the widespread extent of surrender to Arab boycott demands" by American companies.

Benjamin R. Epstein, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Bertram H. Gold, executive vice-president of the American Jewish Committee and Naomi Levine, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, released an analysis of 836 reports filed with the U.S. Department of Commerce during the four weeks beginning Oct. 7.

The analysis disclosed compliance by American firms with Arab boycott demands in at least 87 percent of the cases. The study was prepared by the ADL in behalf of the three groups and was based on information supplied to the Department of Commerce following President Ford's order that boycott related reports by U.S. companies with the Department be made public.

Noting that the findings of the study underscore the urgent demand for anti-boycott legislation the three leaders stated: "Without a strong federal law the Arab states will remain free to intimidate and manipulate American industry in their economic war against Israel. Without a strong federal law, Arab regimes will continue to violate American principles of free trade and free enterprise." Such legislation is needed, the three leaders continued, to shield U.S. firms "from Arab blackmail that distorts their business judgements and twists their business decisions."

Observing that an initiative on anti-boycott legislation is underway in the House and Senate, Epstein warned that efforts are being made to stop such legislation. Mrs. Levine said that the monitoring of American firms in their response to Arab boycott demands will continue in the months ahead.

The study issued today showed that in only four percent of the 836 cases was there refusal to agree to Arab demands. In the remaining nine percent, the study disclosed, the companies reported either that the decision on compliance was being made by "another party" or that no decision had yet been made. The most common boycott request was for certification that goods were not made, in whole or in part, in Israel.

**ZIONISM IN ACTION****DECISION TO HOLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTIONS SPARKS NEW ENTHUSIASM**

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6 (JTA)--The Zionist Congress Court's ruling last year that elections must be held for all delegates to the next World Zionist Congress embarrassed those elements in the Zionist movement who wanted to avoid the costly process by allowing individual Zionist federations to agree to a single slate. It also forced postponement of the Congress which was to have opened in Jerusalem this month.

But those negative aspects have been more than overshadowed by the new zest and enthusiasm of Zionist groups all over the world as they prepare for the democratic process of casting ballots. There has been a renewed momentum of activity related not only to the Zionist Congress but in the areas of Zionist information and educational activities abroad and plans to bring large groups of overseas Jews, especially youth, to Israel in the coming year within the framework of various projects.

Avraham Shenker, head of the World Zionist Organization's information and organization department, said at a press conference here yesterday that the WZO Executive will recommend the last week of February, 1978 as the date for the next Zionist Congress.

The Congress elections in various countries are expected to be held between September-December, 1977, thus avoiding any conflict with Israel's national elections scheduled for May 17. Shenker said the February, 1978 date was also the most convenient for delegates from the northern and southern hemispheres.

**Preparing For The Congress**

The central office of the WZO in Jerusalem and the various regional and national federations abroad, are concentrating their election preparations among several sectors of the Zionist constituency. One is the party level, including the world unions of various Zionist parties.

Another, Dor Hahemshech, involves the younger generation of adults, those between ages 30-40. A third group is made up of students and other youths, especially those now aged 17 who will be eligible to vote for Congress delegates when they turn 18. Finally, there are the community organizations and synagogues abroad affiliated with the WZO.

Shenker reported on the success to date of seminars held in Israel for executives of Jewish communal organizations in smaller cities and towns abroad where there are significant Jewish communities. Seminars are also held for Jews in the communications media, especially suburban and regional newspapers. About 700 persons, representing 21 groups in six countries, attended a special seminar series in Israel this year for Jewish academicians, Shenker reported.

In the field of information, he noted that Israel desks were established in Boston and Denver last year. A special Canadian-Israeli teachers' course was introduced at Bar Ilan University.

**Progress In Various Areas**

Shenker reported on the progress of negotiations with the world organization of Conservative Judaism which will affiliate with the WZO along the same lines as the Reform movement did earlier. He also reported that Brazilian authorities have approved of the Tapuz Plan which brings

Brazilian-Jewish youth to Israel during the citrus picking season. The Brazilian Minister of Education and his aides are due in Israel shortly to view citrus-picking at kibbutzim. Their tour of inspection is required before ratification of the agreement which will grant the Tapuz Plan an official seal of approval by Brazil.

Shenker reported that some 1800 Jewish youth from Latin American countries came to Israel last year in the framework of the Tapuz Plan and their number is expected to double this year. In addition, an experimental project will get underway this year to bring young Jewish couples to Israel to work at kibbutzim. The plan was initiated by the Maccabi World Union. The first 34 couples from the Hebraica-Maccabi Club in Buenos Aires are expected in Israel this month.

**UJA AND BONDS ANNUAL FIGURES**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6 (JTA)--Income figures for both the United Jewish Appeal and Israel Bonds in 1976 have been made available here and both show increases over 1975.

The UJA figure, reported by Jewish Agency Treasurer Leon Dulzin at Monday's meeting of the World Zionist Organization Executive, was \$276 million in cash, \$4 million above the previous year's total. Dulzin said this was especially pleasing as the 1976 forecast had predicted only \$260 million in cash. The United Israel Appeal (Keren Hayesod) 1976 total, reported by chairman Ezra Shapiro, was \$113 million cash, \$3 million over 1975.

Israel Bonds, meanwhile reported a \$34 million rise in the sale of Bonds during 1976 over the previous year. The 1976 figure was \$311 million. One-quarter of the purchases were made by non-Jews, according to Bonds president Michael Arnon. His report was broadcast by Israel Radio. The 1976 total brings the Israel Bonds all-time figure past the \$3.5 billion mark.

**ORT CONCLAVE TO HEAR OF RECORD ENROLLMENT OUTLOOK FOR 1977**

NEW YORK, Jan. 6 (JTA)--A record breaking enrollment for 1977 of almost 75,000 students in ORT schools in Israel and 20 other countries throughout the world will be projected by Harold Friedman, national president, in his report to the 55th national conference of the American ORT Federation to be held here at the Hotel Americana Jan. 21-23.

In announcing this forecast, based on current trends, especially in Israel, Friedman will warn the 600 delegates expected at the convention that ORT's spiraling financial needs keyed to growth of ORT services in practically all areas of operation, compounded by currency destabilizations, will trigger a massive rise in the 1977 budget. ORT spent approximately \$48 million in 1976.

Admitting that he is talking about possible deficit financing, Friedman will report that "greater needs and an unpredictable but ever-increasing inflation effecting every line item in the ORT budget will cause highly critical problems. We must build up income in '77 to cover increased costs and the certainty that they will be even greater in '78. I can see no predictable situation in the Jewish world where our work will be less necessary...."