



# daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL CONFIRMS PRESENCE OF SYRIAN ARMY UNIT NEAR ISRAEL'S BORDER By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- Israeli sources confirmed today that a Syrian army unit of battalion strength has entered the south Lebanese town of Nabatiyeh, less than 10 miles from Israel's border. The Syrian troops and armored cars encountered no resistance from the local populace, according to the report. The unit is part of the inter-Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon which consists mainly of Syrian formations with token forces from other Arab countries.

The latest Syrian deployment has created a new situation in southern Lebanon, the Israeli sources said and developments are being watched closely. Nabatiyeh lies inside the red line zone, a region never defined by Israel in precise geographical terms but in which Israel said it would take action if an Arab army entered and created a situation that threatened its security.

The force in Nabatiyeh is expected to fan out to the south and west in order to prevent clashes between Moslem and Christian Lebanese. A Lebanese army unit has entered the port town of Tyre which is also close to Israel's border, it was learned today.

### Peres Issues Warning

Defense Minister Shimon Peres warned today that Israel would not tolerate a threat to its security arising from a crossing of the red line. He said, however, that the government would study the situation before deciding what measures to take. He noted the reports of the Syrian troop movements at Nabatiyeh needed further verification. Peres made his remarks at ceremonies inaugurating a new settlement north of the Dead Sea -- Nahal Almog -- named for the late Yehuda Almog who pioneered the development of the Judean desert and the Dead Sea region.

Meanwhile yesterday's artillery duel between Christians and Moslems in southern Lebanon sent several stray shells crashing into Israeli territory near Kibbutz Misgav Am in Upper Galilee. There were no casualties or damage. Despite the new outbreak of fighting, Lebanese civilians continued to enter Israel through the open fence. A group of 16 Lebanese school teachers and principals visited the Reali School in Haifa today to observe Israeli educational methods.

## CARTER: VANCE WILL TELL MIDEAST LEADERS IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PEACE PROGRESS IN 1977

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- President Carter announced today that Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance will make a one-week trip to the Middle East in mid-February visiting Israel and five Arab countries in order to obtain "a first hand understanding of the views of Middle East leaders" on the peace process in that

region. The announcement was contained in a Presidential statement issued by the White House. White House Press Secretary Jody Powell said later that Vance would visit Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia between Feb. 14 - 21 but "not necessarily in that order."

The Presidential statement said Vance's visit to the Middle East countries was "to convey to their leaders the importance the President attaches to making significant progress this year for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

The statement continued: "The President believes it is essential to have a first hand understanding of the views of Middle East leaders at the earliest possible time as the Administration considers how it can most effectively contribute to the peace process. Secretary Vance will also emphasize during his trip the value the President places on maintaining bilateral relations with the states of the Middle East."

### To Listen, Not To Negotiate

Jerrold Schechter, associate presidential press secretary for the National Security Council said in reply to questions by reporters that Vance's trip "is not a negotiating trip and not shutting diplomacy." He said the Secretary was going to the Middle East "primarily to listen at this point." He was not prepared to announce who will be traveling with Vance.

Schechter was asked if the trip was arranged with the fact in mind that Israel's Labor Party will be holding its convention Feb. 22-24 to name its leader in the May 17 elections and if Vance's visit would have any impact on the party's deliberations. Schechter replied that Vance was not going for the Labor Party meeting.

Powell told reporters it would be fair to speculate that following Vance's trip, Middle East leaders would be visiting Washington. He did not specify dates or individuals. Asked if there has been any reaction to President Carter's statement yesterday on limiting U.S. arms sales abroad, Powell said there has been "some reaction, directly and indirectly" but he was not at liberty to say who said what.

## ORTHODOX RABBI URGES CARTER TO DECLARE A TOTAL AMNESTY

HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, N.J., Jan. 25 (JTA) -- The head of a major Orthodox rabbinical organization yesterday urged President Carter to grant "a total amnesty for all who are in any way under a cloud as a result of the Vietnam War."

Rabbi Walter S. Wurzburger, president of the 1,000-member Rabbinical Council of America, said that Carter who declared a pardon for those who fled from the draft should "go all the way and declare a total amnesty." His remarks were made in an ad-

dress to the 500 delegates from the United States and Canada attending the organization's special Torah convocation here.

While noting that many families who lost loved ones in the war oppose amnesty, Wurzbarger declared that "we now have to put the Vietnam war behind us." He said the war was "a devious force in our country and pitted brother against brother as well as citizen against citizen." He said that unless full amnesty is declared "this problem will continue to plague us and prevent full reunification of our country" which the new President is seeking.

#### Jewish Educational Structure Rapped

In another section of his address, Wurzbarger called for a "reassessment and re-evaluation of the Jewish religious educational structure in America." He expressed shock at "the enormous waste and duplication which afflict the Jewish educational scene and which drains its limited resources. While the enrollment in the Jewish day schools and yeshivot have not markedly increased in recent years there has been a proliferation of such institutions in specific areas with various schools vying for the limited number of potential students."

Wurzbarger said the problem is that there are many large Jewish communities which have no proper religious educational institutions. "Committed Jews are fragmenting their resources while large masses of uncommitted children are left by the wayside," he said.

He declared that "we cannot afford the luxury of simply catering to the needs of small groups and overlooking the requirements of the total community." He called upon the Jewish community to mobilize "all our resources to double the enrollment of Jewish children within our schools and to improve the quality of Torah education."

#### OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT'S \$13.5 BILLION BUDGET FOR FISCAL 1977-78

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Rabin's minority government submitted its \$13.5 billion Dollar budget for fiscal 1977-78 to the Knesset yesterday but ran into stonewall opposition from Likud, the National Religious Party and its reluctant coalition partner, the Independent Liberals. The budget will come up for its first reading next week. But Yisrael Kargmann of the Labor Alignment, chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee, said that even if it passed the first reading, it might not weather the second and third readings.

In that case, the government would have to present an interim budget pending the May 17 elections and leave the final budget to the next government. Likud demanded that the draft be returned to the government and its members said they would entertain no compromise. Avraham Melamed, chairman of the NRP Knesset faction proposed a six-month budget based on the current one except for a few changes to promote exports. The NRP rejected an appeal by Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz to have the budget referred to the Finance Committee where the proposed changes could be discussed. The ILP, which remains in the care-

take government, only because the Supreme Court invalidated the resignations of its two ministers, insisted that the budget be cut by \$2 billion. If not, the ILP said it would not support the government. Yitzhak Golan, of the ILP observed pointedly that if the government failed to gain Knesset approval of its draft budget on first reading, it would be "an unprecedented disgrace" that would doubtlessly reflect on the Labor Alignment in the coming elections.

#### ARAMCO CHIEF RAPS ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION PENDING IN CONGRESS

LONDON, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- The anti-boycott legislation now under discussion in the U.S. Congress was sharply condemned here by Frank Jungers, chairman of ARAMCO. He told the Arab London-based magazine "Events" that "such laws will not harm ARAMCO or Saudi Arabia as much as they will harm the United States and its economy." Companies operating in the Middle East, Jungers continued in his interview with the magazine, "will shift their operations from the U.S. to Western Europe or elsewhere."

As an American citizen, he stated, "I must condemn any laws that are opposed to American interests. I find no justification for them -- the Arab boycott is a political measure similar to the U.S. boycotts of Cuba, North Korea and China." Jungers said he saw no reason to raise the matter right now "because the Arab boycott was 25 years old." The oil company chief complained that Americans are being forced into becoming part of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

He charged that "Zionist elements are projecting the Arab boycott as a racialist act aimed against the Jewish people. That is not true. Prince Fahed of Saudi Arabia told me that the boycott will end when the Arab-Israeli dispute is over." Jungers promised "I'll do my best to ensure that American legislators realize that anti-boycott laws will not end the Arab-Israeli dispute but would only intensify it."

#### WRITERS, ARTISTS PROTEST AGAINST FRANCE'S RELEASE OF ABU DAUD

NEW YORK, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- Louise Nevelson, one of America's most famous living sculptors, and a delegation of artists, writers and theater notables representing Writers and Artists for Peace in the Middle East, met today with M. Jacques Lecomte, charge d'affaires at the French Mission to the United Nations, to protest the release of Palestinian terrorist Abu Daoud.

Joining Ms. Nevelson were sculptor Chaim Gross, art dealer Arnold Glimcher, literary critic Alfred Kazin, Bayard Rustin and Bess Myerson. They presented a letter to be transmitted to President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. Signatories included: Cleveland Amory, Cy Coleman, Gerold Frank, Sheldon Harnick, Arthur Laurents, Bernard Malamud, Estelle Parsons and Shelley Winters, Paddy Chayefsky, Otto Preminger and Katherine Kuh.

The letter condemned "France for what it has done to cripple the fight against international terrorism. By selling out for economic and political considerations, France has betrayed its friends and allies in the struggle which

must go on." It continued, "We call upon you, Mr. President, to restore France to what it once symbolized, and to rejoin the forces of civilized mankind by remaining steadfast with the United States and your Common Market partners in our common struggle, which, if not successful, spells doom for all peoples and nations, including France."

#### Nationwide Protests Continue

Meanwhile anger at France for releasing Daoud continued across the country and numerous Jewish organizations issued condemnations of the action. These included the Jewish Community Federation of Rochester, the Atlanta Jewish Welfare Federation, Americans for Progressive Israel-Hashomer Hatzair, the Greater Boston Jewish Community Council, the Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis and the Philadelphia Metropolitan Area Jewish Labor Committee.

In addition, demonstrations were held in New York by students of the Ramaz High School, a Jewish day school in Manhattan; and in the state of Washington by members of the Seattle Jewish Community where the demonstration was telecast by ABC and CBS. At the same time, Young Israel Tours, with the concurrence of the Orthodox movement's National Council has cancelled its tour program to France. Alfred Gottschalk, president of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio, urged Americans planning visits to France or purchasing French-made items to cancel their plans.

(In Paris, some 2,000 persons staged a demonstration last night to protest against France's decision to release Daoud. The meeting was organized by major Jewish organizations and the speakers criticized the French government's decision. Jean-Pierre-Bloch, president of the International League Against Anti-Semitism, declared that the release "disgraced France and marred its reputation and prestige.")

#### IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL REMAINS STABLE BUT SOURCES CHANGING

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- Immigration to Israel in 1976 amounted to about 20,000 roughly the same as in 1975, but the sources of immigration changed somewhat, reflecting unstable political, economic and social conditions in certain countries, according to Uzi Narkis, director general of the Jewish Agency's immigration department.

—In his annual report presented to the World Zionist Organization Executive today, Narkis noted a drop in aliya from Eastern Europe, an increase from Latin America, mainly Argentina and a continuing rise in the drop-out rate among Soviet Jewish emigrants after they reach Vienna.

He reported that of 14,264 Jews who left Russia last year, 7,030 opted to go to countries other than Israel, representing a drop-out rate of 49 percent compared to 37 percent in 1975 and 19 percent in 1974. He said the drop-outs were mainly from European Russia and the large cities such as Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Odessa, Kharkov and Lvov. There were relatively few drop-outs from the more remote regions such as Soviet Georgia, he reported.

#### No Conclusion On Drop-Outs

Narkis said in his report that the "Committee of Eight" appointed last summer to find a solution to the drop-out problem "has not yet reached its conclusion because of sharp disagreement among its members." The committee, now consisting of 10 members, comprising representatives of the Israeli government, the Jewish Agency and major overseas Jewish organizations, concentrated mainly on the Jewish Agency's demand that HIAS and the Joint Distribution Committee stop providing financial assistance to drop-outs -- Soviet Jews who leave the USSR with Israeli visas.

Narkis noted that "recently drop-outs were employed in the HIAS office in Vienna." He reported that his department "feeling that their employment is detrimental to the cause of solving the question expressed its objections to the move."

(Earlier this month Gaynor Jacobson, executive vice-president of HIAS, said HIAS has never employed Soviet Jewish drop-outs for operational work in its Vienna office. He said there were two women drop-outs employed in the Vienna office assigned solely to typing out forms required by Austrian and Italian officials for movement of the Soviet Jews from Vienna to Rome. See full story in the Jan. 7 issue of the Bulletin.)

#### Aliya From France Is High

Narkis reported that for the past three years aliya from France has accounted for one-half of all aliya from Western Europe. He claimed that "This is a result of the existence of a particularly active aliya movement in France whose members come to Israel and assist those who follow them in their absorption." He reported that aliya was on the rise from South Africa. It amounted to 583 olim last year compared to 415 in 1975 and 432 in 1974. "We expect that aliya from South Africa will continue to grow and are planning projects to comply with the specific needs of South African Jewry," he reported.

Narkis also reported that about 30 of the Jewish Agency's 80 shlichim (emissaries) currently abroad will return to Israel this year and will be replaced by emissaries elected, for the first time, by public ballot. He said that about 1,000 persons have applied for posts as shlichim and those meeting basic requirements are currently undergoing language and psychological testing. Those selected will undergo a period of training before being sent abroad, Narkis said.

#### COMMERCIAL TV ADVERTISING APPROVED

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- The board of directors of the Israel Broadcasting Authority voted 4-2 Sunday night to introduce commercial advertising on Israeli television. The board will set up a committee to submit recommendations by March 15. But the two dissenting members indicated that they would appeal to the government against the decision.

In any event it may be a long time before the "plug-uglies" appear on the local tube. Likud MK Avraham Katz, chairman of the Knesset subcommittee on broadcasting was to begin discussing commercial television yesterday but most of its members are opposed to tv advertising.

# **BEHIND THE HEADLINES SOLVING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM**

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- Prof. Ranaana Weitz, head of the Jewish Agency's settlement department, has proposed dividing up Israel and the occupied territories into eight administrative districts as a means of solving the Palestinian problem. He said five of the districts would be populated mainly by Jews and the other three on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip would be administered by Arabs. Jerusalem would be a separate district "in itself" according to the Weitz plan.

Weitz, a member of the Labor Party, has presented his proposal to the party's political committee which is scheduled to discuss it. One committee member noted that the plan is original and will stir a heated debate.

In his proposal, Weitz argues that Israel must minimize the "physical involvement" of Palestinian Arabs in Israel, particularly the large number of Arab workers from the administered territories who work in Israeli towns. He said that if something is not done to develop the economies of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip "Arabs will continue to be the cheap labor providers" and this will develop into a permanent status.

Weitz also argues that Arabs in these areas must have their own "political expression" without which there will never be peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. He notes that socially, economically and politically it is not desirable to continue a military administration in the areas for many more years. He says that in any political agreement all citizens of Israel must have equal rights while in the territories the Palestinians must have the right of self-determination.

It is for this reason that Weitz has suggested dividing up the country into eight districts. The five Jewish districts would be Safad, Haifa, Tel Aviv, Ashdod and Beersheva. The three Arab districts would be Nablus, Hebron and Gaza.

## **The Plan In Practice**

According to Weitz's plan, each district will have its own administration in charge of the district's internal affairs. The Israeli government will deal mainly with defense, economy and foreign policy.

Weitz maintains, that dividing the country into districts will not prevent a possible political agreement in the area. If there is an agreement with Jordan, Weitz says, then according to the plan, all three Arab districts would become part of Jordan. (The plan includes building a highway from Hebron to the Gaza Strip that will not go through Jewish settlements.) The Gaza Port would serve Jordan with the exception of receiving imports of arms and military equipment.

If there is no hope for a peace agreement with Jordan, Weitz notes, then the two remaining possibilities are -- a Palestinian state or a federal system. According to Weitz, the unification of all three Arab districts with all rights except the establishment of an army, would in effect be a Palestinian state.

The third option would be a federal state made up of the eight suggested districts with

Jerusalem as the capital. As far as defense and foreign policy are concerned, "Eretz Israel" will be one unit run by a central government, Weitz says. All domestic and internal affairs would be handled by the local administrations of the various districts.

In his plan, Weitz gives top priority to an agreement with Jordan. He says that for a peace agreement with Jordan concessions should be considered even in his plan. However, if it is not possible to reach a peace agreement with Jordan, Weitz prefers establishing a Palestinian state rather than have a federal system which will include the three Arab districts because he maintains that a federal state would abolish the basic supposition of having a Jewish state.

However, he emphasizes that he includes in his plan a federal state in order to prevent the dangerous tendency "of annexing Arab territory with dense Arab population." He assumes that Israel will not be able to financially carry out such a plan without aid, but is positive that such aid would be given if Israel decides to carry it out.

## **JNF IS PLANTING FORESTS**

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25 (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund is presently planting forests over some 10,747 dunams in the south of Israel. This takes in about half the land designated for afforestation during 1977. The JNF said that special emphasis in the current program will be placed on preventing erosion.

In the vicinity of Be'erli 1,000 dunams of trees are to be planted along wadi banks. Near Dorot-Ruhama, 1,500 dunams; Telamim, 350 dunams and at Tequema, 350 dunams. Other afforestation works in the area will consist of forest thinning and general maintenance.

Between Ibdim and Sederot, a new outdoor recreational forest park is being set up with picnic sites and 18 planned physical fitness installations. The park is being set up by the sports authority in cooperation with the JNF.

In the area of Raffah and north Sinai, emphasis is also to be placed on erosion prevention, such as checking of sand dune movement and creation of wind breaks through tree planting. Some half of the plantings in the area will be at Yamit. . . .

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- Sen. James Abourezk (D. SD), the Senate's most active spokesman for pro-Arab viewpoints since the departure of J. William Fulbright two years ago, announced his retirement from the Senate when his term expires January, 1979. Abourezk said at a news conference in Sioux Falls, S.D., that he is leaving the Senate and will not seek re-election because he wants to be closer to his family. . . .

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Life expectancy among Israeli Arabs has gone up from 52 years in 1948 to 72 years at present. This is the highest rate for any Arab population in the Middle East, figures recently released by the Central Bureau of Statistics show. It compares with a life expectancy of 52 years in Iraq, 55 in Syria, 54 in Egypt and 64 in Lebanon.