



daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036
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Vol. XLIV - 60th Year

Monday, January 31, 1977

No. 21

PERES TERMS SYRIAN TROOP MOVEMENT IN LEBANON A MISUNDERSTANDING

By Gil Sedan and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Shimon Peres today described the assessment of Syrian troop movements in southern Lebanon as a "misunderstanding" that Israel was trying to correct by diplomatic means with the assistance of the United States. He reiterated that the presence of Syrian tanks and artillery units at Nabatiyeh, about 10 miles from the Israeli border, could escalate the situation to "a very dangerous point."

But Peres stressed that Israel was not looking for a military confrontation. "The U.S. is trying, and rightly so, to solve the crisis in a diplomatic manner" and "Israel will participate in that to the limits of its patience," Peres said in an address to the 1977 Prime Minister's Israel Bonds Conference here.

Ready To Accept Syria's Explanation

The Defense Minister's remarks indicated that Israel was prepared to accept, at this point, the Syrian explanation that the presence of its forces in southern Lebanon was a temporary deployment that will be ended after the Syrians disarm Lebanese leftists and Palestinian terrorists in the region.

The inter-Arab peacekeeping force, which is predominantly Syrian, did not, however, take part in the clashes reported over the weekend between Lebanese Christians and Moslems. The fighting covered a large area, including the region around Nabatiyeh and the villages of Kili and Aqdaia.

Artillery, mortar, automatic and small weapons fire was heard in Israel Friday and yesterday. According to the latest reports from the border region, Christian forces are firmly in control of southern Lebanon.

But the encroachment of Syrian forces across the so-called "red line" last week threatened to precipitate a new crisis between Israel and Syria. Although never defined in precise geographical terms, the "red line" is the point which Israel says it will permit no Arab army to cross because of the threat to its security. The Litani River in southern Lebanon is regarded as an unofficial demarcation line.

Israel, last week, demanded a Syrian pull-back from Nabatiyeh which was conveyed to Damascus through the U.S. American officials were reportedly engaged in behind-the-scenes diplomatic efforts throughout the week to avert a possible military confrontation between Israel and Syria. But all the State Department would say was that the U.S. was continuing to urge restraints on all parties.

Border Remains Calm

Meanwhile, the situation along the Israeli-Lebanese border remained calm. Workers from Lebanon continued to come to jobs in Israel through the open fence and other Lebanese arrived at border clinics for medical treatment. The latter included Christian militiamen who

parked their arms outside the fence and retrieved them when they left Israel. The number of Lebanese Moslems availing themselves of the clinics' services has reportedly dropped, however.

In a related development, Peres disclosed that Israeli authorities were setting up a school near the open fence for Lebanese children who have been unable to attend classes in their own villages because of the fighting. The school was said to have been requested by Lebanese teachers who visited Israel during the week.

BARSHAI ARRIVES IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- Israeli music lovers may soon enjoy the talents of one of the Soviet Union's leading musicians. Rudolf Barshai, who founded the Moscow Chamber Orchestra in 1955, said on his arrival here today that he planned to settle in Israel and work here. He said he has been offered the musical directorship of the Israeli Chamber Ensemble.

Barshai, 52, recognized as one of the foremost interpreters of Mozart, left the Soviet Union earlier this month and spent some time in Vienna and London. He said he emigrated because of the shabby treatment he received in Soviet musical circles. "I am very happy to be in the historic land of my people," he told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport.

MAPAM VOTES TO REMAIN IN ALIGNMENT

TEL AVIV, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- Mapam, by a 527-313 vote tonight, agreed to continue in the alignment with the Labor Party providing labor accepts the recommendation of its political subcommittee that Israel be willing to make territorial concessions on all fronts. The decision came after long hours of debate during the opening session of Mapam's two-day convention.

Earlier, Meir Talmi, Mapam's general secretary, stressed that if the Labor Party accepts its subcommittee's recommendations it will have met Mapam's demands. But MK Eliezer Ronnen and members of Mapam's urban "Young Guard" demanded that Mapam split with Labor. They noted that Minister-Without-Portfolio Israel Galili said that the subcommittee's recommendations have not changed Labor's previous position on the territories.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Shimon Peres is expected to meet with some Mapam leaders in an attempt to have them drop Mapam's opposition to him as Premier should the Labor Party select him over Premier Yitzhak Rabin to head the election list.

LABOR TRYING TO HALT HISTADRUT INDUSTRIALISTS FROM DEFECTING

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- The Labor

Party is trying desperately to prevent the defection from its ranks of a powerful and influential group of Histadrut industrialists -- many of them high-ranking reserve officers -- which seems about to join forces with Prof. Yigal Yadin's new Democratic Movement for Change. The group, known as the Histadrut Economic Network, is headed by Gen. (res) Meir Amit, for nearly ten years the director general of Koor Industries, the giant Histadrut conglomerate.

Other members include Res. Gens. Tzvi Zamir, former head of the army security services and presently director general of the Haifa oil refineries; Abraham Botzer, former commander of the Navy and now director general of the Eilat-Ashkelon pipeline company; Col. Iska Shadmi, a combat veteran who is director of a Koor subsidiary; and Itzhak Raviv, acting director of the Israel Ports Authority. Another member of the group is David Golomb, a prominent economist employed by Koor.

Could Be Fatal Blow

Their departure from the Labor Party before the May 17 elections could constitute a fatal blow and this is recognized by both Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Defense Minister Shimon Peres, now locked in a bitter struggle for the party's leadership.

Both men met separately with Amit over the weekend in an effort to convince him to remain with Labor. Both reportedly offered Amit a ministerial portfolio in the next government but Amit is said to have rejected the offer. Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz met with both Amit and Golomb but failed to persuade them not to defect.

Amit and his associates have been conferring for weeks with leaders of Yadin's movement and appear to be convinced that the Labor Party, as it is presently constituted, cannot effect the internal reforms that Israel urgently needs. According to some sources, a final decision to join Yadin was taken at a meeting of the Amit group last night. Golomb confirmed this but said some members still had reservations because the decision to break with Labor after many years of association was hard to make.

Yadin, apparently apprised of the decision, jubilantly told a Haifa audience last night that an announcement of far-reaching consequences would be made later this week. Amit has said that if he enters politics he would resign from Koor. But even without that post, the loss of his influence and prestige to Labor would be a severe blow.

Herlitz Tending Toward Peres

Meanwhile, another Labor Party leader, former Ambassador Esther Herlitz, announced that she intended to support Peres over Rabin for the party leadership. In a letter to Rabinowitz who heads the pro-Rabin forces in the party, she described herself as a disciple of David Ben Gurion, Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir, the leaders of Labor's former Mapai wing. Herlitz was apparently piqued that she was not invited to a meeting of Mapai stalwarts at Rabinowitz's home recently.

WALDHEIM SAYS GENEVA TALKS MAY BEGIN LATE THIS SPRING

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said Friday that the Geneva conference on the Middle East "cannot open before late in the spring and this is a guess." Meeting with reporters at the State Department after lunching with Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, Waldheim said he and Vance were "in general agreement on how to approach the negotiating process," but that they are under "no illusion" on the "many difficulties."

Asked about "PLO representation," Waldheim said that was "one important element and difficulty in our efforts" and that "as of now no agreement" has been reached. Asked whether the PLO would accept UN Secretary Council Resolutions 242 and 338, he said that "is an open question that has to be discussed."

Waldheim said the PLO "is interested in getting an invitation" to Geneva and he indicated that "a final position" would be taken by the PLO at its meeting in the latter part of February "probably" in Cairo.

Waldheim, who goes to the Middle East, Tuesday, two weeks before Vance departs on a week-long tour of six countries in the area, said there is "a good chance to overcome difficulties" because of a "more flexible" attitude in the Middle East towards a settlement. Waldheim will visit Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Israel and will meet with PLO leader Yassir Arafat.

Israeli authorities have informed Waldheim that he is welcome in Israel but that all discussions between him and the Israeli government will be within the context of the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This position was taken by Israel in view of the General Assembly resolutions that call for the PLO to participate in the Geneva talks.

KOOK SUPPORTS KAHANE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the Jewish Defense League and leader of Tnuat Kach (Thus), has been endorsed in his bid for a Knesset seat by Rabbi Zvi Yehuda Kook, son of the first Chief Rabbi of Israel and the spiritual leader of the Gush Emunim. Kook had been a staunch supporter of the National Religious Party but broke with them in 1974 when they entered the Rabin government over his opposition.

In his letter of support to Kahane, Kook stated: "The presence of Rabbi Meir Kahane and his uncompromising words from the Knesset platform will undoubtedly add strength and value to the obligatory struggle on behalf of the entire Land of Israel." The announcement of Kook's support of Kahane and his letter were made available to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by Kahane. The JDL leader, who expressed delight with this support, said he plans to concentrate his efforts to win a Knesset seat by campaigning among Kook's followers.

10 TERRORIST CELLS CRACKED

TEL AVIV, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- Israeli secu-

rity services cracked 10 terrorist cells in the Judeaa and Samaria regions and arrested 82 persons, it was announced today. Large quantities of hand grenades, arms and explosives were seized. Six of the cells were linked to El Fatah and one to Naif Hawatmeh's Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The other three were in the early stages of organizing and had not yet affiliated with any outside terrorist organization, security sources said.

UNIVERSITY SAYS NO ACTION IS PENDING AGAINST PROFESSOR WHO CLAIMS HOLOCAUST IS A MYTH

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- A spokesman for Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Friday that "no action is contemplated at this point," against Arthur R. Butz, a professor at the university who is the author of a book asserting that the Nazi slaughter of Jews is a hoax and a Zionist myth.

Asked if action against Butz will be taken in the future, the spokesman, Jack O'dowd, said that no such move is likely unless Butz violated the rules of the American Association of University Professors under which the University operates. O'dowd said the book, titled "The Fabrication of a Hoax," did not constitute a violation of these rules.

Provost Condemns Book

O'dowd noted, however, that a statement condemning the book was issued Thursday by Provost Raymond W. Mack on behalf of the university. The statement said it agreed with the students and faculty members who feel that a distortion of well documented historical facts constituted "a contemptible insult to the dead and the bereaved."

"It is a right available to any citizen of the United States under the First Amendment," Mack stated, to have his writing published, but, he said "it is a shame when that right is used to insult survivors of concentration camps." Butz, an associate professor of electrical engineering, published his book last May in Great Britain. The book is not on sale in the United States.

The uproar concerning the book started two weeks ago when the university's student newspaper reported on the book after learning about it from an article in the Jerusalem Post. Butz claimed in his book that Zionist leaders invented the Holocaust to obtain support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Butz also contended in his book that there was no German policy of Jewish extermination and that millions of Jews were not deliberately slain in Nazi concentration camps.

Following publication of the report in the student paper, the Daily Northwestern, petitions denouncing the book and its author were signed by many faculty members and students. The petitions warned that the book added "academic legitimacy to anti-Semitic propaganda."

Workmen Circle Urges Federal Probe

Meanwhile, Bernard Backer, president of the Workmen's Circle, urged HEW Secretary Joseph Califano and Defense Secretary Harold

Brown to investigate whether any federal funds channeled to Northwestern University for research purposes were utilized by Butz.

If any federal funds were used by Butz "while writing or researching his scurrilous manuscript, it would be a violation of the Civil Rights Law of 1964 which clearly forbids the use of federal funds to hold up any minority to ridicule or depreciation," Backer said. "It would also be a violation of law for federal funds to be used to fashion apology for Nazi oppression and tyranny."

Backer told a luncheon honoring him at a Workmen's Circle division of Histadrut at the Hotel Plaza today that Butz "has laid a literary wreath on the memories of the butchers of Dachau, Auschwitz, Buchenwald, and Treblinka. For an electrical engineering professor to engage in perpetrating such a myth under the guise of historical fact is to tear up his own academic credentials in an attempt to erase and forgive the tragedy of the Holocaust."

BURN TREATMENT DEVELOPED

TEL AVIV, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- A faster, less painful method for treatment of massive burns, one of the most difficult types of injuries suffered particularly by tank and artillery troops in Israel's wars, has been developed by a Weizmann Institute professor, Israel Schechter.

Dr. Schechter is a medical officer in the army reserve and thus has had first hand contact with the severe physical and psychological effects of the trauma of deep burns. His technique is a new method of skin grafts, the Institute reported.

The existing procedure involves a skin dressing designed to provide deep burn victims with a protection against infection and loss of body fluids. But the dressing must be changed every few days during the critical three weeks after the injury.

Dr. Schechter's technique involves pre-processing the skin grafts with glutaraldehyde, a chemical which significantly changes the chemistry of skin constituents. This processed skin covering can be retained for lengthy periods and need not be replaced as often as unprocessed skin.

When the burnt area is sufficiently healed, the treated graft is removed and replaced with a permanent graft from the patient's own skin, eliminating the need for frequent and painful skin grafting operations. The new technique has been tested and is now getting additional evaluation.

DAILY 'FREEDOM VIGIL' PLANNED

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry will launch a daily "freedom vigil" next month "to remind the Soviets that we will not be deterred in our efforts to gain freedom for Jews in the USSR." Bronx Borough President Robert Abrams, Conference chairman, said that constituent agencies of the Conference, as well as synagogue groups, chapters of major Jewish organizations, youth groups and Jewish schools will take part in the vigil beginning Feb. 15. It will be conducted each day between 12 noon and 1 p.m. in front of the mid-Manhattan offices of Aeroflot.

NYC TEACHERS' RETIREMENT FUND TO AID AJ CONGRESS' ANTI-BOYCOTT MOVES

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- The New York City Teachers' Retirement Board, with assets of nearly \$4 billion, has agreed to vote in favor of American Jewish Congress-sponsored resolutions opposing the Arab boycott at annual meetings of corporations in which it holds stock. The board is the first pension fund to take a public position on the issue in response to a campaign by the AJCongress for support by institutional investors of its anti-boycott resolution.

"We are hopeful that our decision will set off a chain reaction among other institutional investors," said Wallace F. Sullivan, executive director of the Board. The Board unanimously adopted a resolution at its Jan. 20 meeting vowing to resist "the effort of Arab-bloc countries to involve Americans in their boycott of Israel and to import discriminatory practices in the U.S."

The Board resolution authorized Sullivan to vote the fund's stock in favor of "any resolution which calls for a report to the shareholders on the extent and involvement, if any, of the corporation in the boycott and which calls upon the corporation to refrain from participating in such boycott."

The Teachers' Retirement Board owns stock in 17 of 43 major U.S. corporations that have been targeted by the AJCongress in its 1977 anti-boycott campaign. Through the introduction of shareholders' resolutions, these companies are being asked to make public the extent of their involvement in the boycott, their policies regarding the boycott and the steps they are taking to prevent discrimination against Jewish employees.

The Teachers' Retirement System is one of approximately 300 institutional investors across the country being solicited by the AJCongress for support of its anti-boycott resolutions.

These include pension funds, foundations, university endowment funds, church bodies, banks and mutual funds.

JWV LEADER CANCELS TRIP TO EGYPT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- The Jewish War Veterans announced Friday that its national commander, Dr. Robert Shor of Los Angeles, has cancelled his trip to Egypt upon being officially informed that President Anwar Sadat is unlikely to meet with him. Shor was to leave yesterday for Cairo after it had appeared that Sadat would hold an informal conversation with him there as a private citizen. On Thursday, however, Egyptian Embassy officials telephoned the JWV that it appeared there was no likelihood of a meeting.

A meeting had not been definitely assured by the Egyptian government, JWV said, but in providing visas for Shor and Col. Irwin Ziff, the JWV's executive director, Egyptian Embassy officials were aware of their trip and indicated they would try to arrange a talk.

The Shor trip had no relationship with the announced plan by Philip Klutznick, chairman of the Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress, concerning a talk in Cairo with Sadat, JWV said. Shor had planned to stop in Cairo en route to the annual JWV convocation in Israel. The visit to Egypt "took shape

a month or six weeks ago," a JWV spokesman said.

NYC COUNCIL CONDEMNS FRANCE FOR RELEASING ABU DAUD

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- The City Council unanimously approved a resolution introduced by City Council President Paul O'Dwyer condemning the French government for its recent release of accused Arab terrorist Abu Daoud. Copies of the resolution were sent to the French Consulate, the United Nations General Assembly and the Israeli Consulate.

"The action of the French government in releasing a man accused of leading the terrorist raid which resulted in the murder of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympic games in Munich is nothing short of outrageous," O'Dwyer said. "Apparently the French government has forgotten what they fought against in World War II."

DULZIN GRATIFIED BY CANADIAN JEWRY'S RESPONSE TO ISRAEL'S NEEDS

NEW YORK, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- Leon Dulzin, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, said his visit to Canada a week ago on a fund-raising tour proved highly gratifying. "I was very impressed by the response of the Jewish community to Israel's needs," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here. In 1976, he noted, the community raised \$4 million more in cash than it did in 1975 "and I expect a similar increase, at least, this year." Dulzin, who visited Montreal, Windsor, Toronto and Hamilton on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal, described the Canadian Jewish community "as one of our best communities in the world. As Jewish Agency treasurer I returned from Canada very much encouraged by this responsible and dynamic response."

SHULMAN NAMED SPECIAL CONSULTANT ON SOVIET AFFAIRS TO VANCE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30 (JTA) -- Marshall D. Shulman, director of the Russian Institute at Columbia University in New York City, has been named special consultant on Soviet affairs to Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance.

In announcing the appointment Friday, the State Department noted that Shulman is a consultant to the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency and an advisor both to the Department of Commerce on east-west trade and the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council. The latter body has been campaigning to eliminate the Jackson-Vanik proviso in the U.S. Trade Act and opposes legislation to cause an easing of Soviet policy toward Jews and other Soviet minorities wishing to emigrate or practice their cultural principles.

Shulman, who served as special assistant to the late Secretary of State Dean Acheson in 1950-53, was born in Jersey City, NJ in 1916 and studied at Michigan, Chicago, Harvard and Columbia Universities.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Vladimir Lerner, son of Prof. Aleksander Lerner, Moscow Jewish activist, has been refused an exit visa for the third time, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry said.