



# daily news bulletin

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## RABIN SEES PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE DURING 1977 OR 1978

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Rabin said here last night that initiatives taken by his government in the past "might create conditions for progress toward peace during 1977 or 1978." He also said that Israel expected that "developments in Lebanon will be corrected by peaceful diplomatic means," a reference to the current presence of Syrian troops in southern Lebanon near the Israeli border.

However, the Premier warned, in an address at the closing dinner of the annual Prime Minister's Israel Bonds Conference, that the Arab states should not take "our patience" over recent events in Lebanon as "a sign of weakness or a change in our policy."

He reiterated that peace heads Israel's agenda. If the Arabs are ready for real negotiations they will find Israel "a strong, reasonable and a forthcoming partner," but if they are not ready to negotiate, "I can promise them that we will not be taken by surprise again." Rabin told 300 American and Canadian Jewish leaders attending the Bonds conference at the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel.

The situation in Lebanon will be resolved when U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance visits the Middle East Feb. 14-21, observers here believe. They expect Syria to withdraw its forces from Nabatiyeh at that time. To do so sooner would create the impression that Syria was backing down under Israeli pressure, the observers said. If the Syrians refused to withdraw, their presence in southern Lebanon would become a top priority issue during the Vance visit, they said.

A total of \$8.5 million in Israel Bonds were sold at the Jerusalem Hilton dinner last night. As Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bonds Organization, announced the pledges, several participants increased their purchases to \$1 million. Rothberg presented Rabin with a Prime Minister's Club pin which is awarded to persons purchasing bonds in the amount of \$25,000 or over.

## INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL TO PROTEST AGAINST STERN'S IMPRISONMENT

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- An international tribunal will be held here March 23-24 to deal with the continued imprisonment of Dr. Mikhail Stern in the Ukraine. Members of the tribunal will include Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir from France; West German author Heinrich Boell; and the Dutch Roman Catholic and former Cabinet Minister of Social Affairs, Dr. Marga Klompe.

The dissident Vladimir Bukovski, who was recently allowed to leave the Soviet Union, will be a witness. The tribunal will be under the auspices of the "International Committee for the Release of Doctor Stern" who was sentenced to eight years at hard labor in December, 1974 on trumped up charges after he had

refused to forbid his two sons August and Victor, to emigrate from the Soviet Union. (See related story P. 3)

## DENY QADAFFI RELEASED FRENCH WOMAN BECAUSE FRANCE FREED DAUDU

PARIS, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- French political sources denied today that the release of French anthropologist Francoise Claustre by Chad rebels who had held her hostage for nearly three years was in any way connected with France's release last month of Palestinian terrorist Abu Daoud. The sources were responding to a suggestion in the newspaper L'Aurore that the personal intervention of Libyan strongman Col. Muammer Qaddafi, credited with securing Mrs. Claustre's freedom, was part of a deal.

They said Qaddafi put his personal prestige and influence on the line because of "the good Franco-Arab relations." L'Aurore, which is generally pro-Israel, said today that if Qaddafi's intervention was the price paid for Daudu it was well worth it. President Valery Giscard d'Estaing personally thanked Qaddafi. Mrs. Claustre, 33, was seized by the rebels in 1974 while on an expedition in the Sahara sponsored by the French government. Her detention was a cause celebre in France.

## KNESSET APPROVES ABORTION BILL Orthodox Brand It 'Murder;'

Feminists Say It Is Defective  
By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- The Knesset passed the controversial abortion bill on its third reading yesterday. The infuriated Orthodox religious establishment branded it "murder" and vowed to overturn it. Feminists in the Knesset said, however, that the new law did not go far enough because it still does not give women the right to abortion on demand.

The measure legalizes abortion in the early stages of pregnancy if approved by a committee of three which must consist of two doctors -- one a gynecologist -- and a social worker. Abortions will be obtainable if the committee determines that birth would injure the physical or emotional health of the mother, that the child would be born with physical or mental handicaps, and if the mother is under 16 or over 40.

Shortly after its passage, three Aguda bloc MKs introduced private member bills aimed at rescinding the law. Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren inveighed against the Knesset for enacting a law contrary to Biblical law and "basic Jewish morals." Goren demanded that the law be abolished because it has "no moral validity." Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef claimed the law "permitted murder" and must be cancelled.

But MK Marsha Freedman said the law was defective because "doctors are still in

charge of a woman's own womb and she cannot decide for herself." The situation in Israel with respect to abortion is similar to that in many Western countries where abortion was, or still is, illegal. Termination of pregnancy is available to affluent women but not to the poor. The rate of abortion in Israel until now has been estimated at 40,000-70,000 a year. Doctors who performed abortions were rarely, if ever, prosecuted.

Israel's abortion law was bitterly opposed not only by religious elements but by conservative elements generally. The measure adopted yesterday was passed by a show of hands in the Knesset when many religious MKs and other opponents were absent. They were outside the Knesset building at the time participating in an anti-abortion demonstration.

#### EEC MEMBERS REBUFF FRENCH MOVE TO INCLUDE PLO IN GENEVA TALKS

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- A French attempt to gain West European support for the Palestine Liberation Organization was rebuffed here yesterday by other members of the European Economic Community (EEC), well informed sources said today.

The EEC Foreign Ministers, under the chairmanship of Britain's Anthony Crosland, refused to endorse a French proposal that the Community urge an early recall of the Geneva conference and the presence there of the PLO. Instead, the Foreign Ministers issued only a brief and general statement referring to the high priority to be given to the Middle East conflict and the need to take advantage of the present "favorable atmosphere" there. Israeli circles here welcomed the outcome of the meeting, which ended last night despite originally being planned as a two-day affair. They saw it as a victory for the British policy of giving precedence to American peace-making efforts in the Middle East.

The circles pointed out today that Britain is certainly not committed to a Palestinian state or to PLO representation of Palestinian interests. Among the nine EEC countries, analysts believe Britain is closest to Israel in wanting a Palestinian settlement within a Jordanian framework.

#### At Odds With Arabs' Attempt

The EEC Foreign Ministers are also understood to have discussed the next committee meeting of the European-Arab dialogue due to be held in Tunis Feb. 10. Crosland told the press last night that the Euro-Arab dialogue should be mainly concerned with economic and commercial cooperation. He regarded any discussion of the Geneva conference at the Tunis meeting as "out of place".

This is almost completely at odds with the Arab attempt to make the dialogue a political forum and to give the PLO national status in it. At the last meeting in Luxembourg, Palestinians were allowed to take part only as members of the general Arab delegation and it is expected that this will again happen in Tunis.

However, the European side will try to limit itself to two previous statements on the Middle East. These are the EEC Foreign Ministers' Luxembourg Declaration of Nov. 6, 1973

and the Dutch delegate's statement to the 1976 United Nations General Assembly.

The 1973 Luxembourg Declaration, made at the height of the Arab oil pressures after the Yom Kippur War, spoke of the need for Israel "to end the territorial occupation which it has maintained since the conflict of 1967," and of "application of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338."

Holland's UN statement, made on behalf of the entire EEC, spoke of "the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, in particular their right to the effective expression of their national identity which could involve a territorial basis in the framework of a negotiated settlement."

#### SEIDEL LEAVING ILP TO JOIN MAJOR FACTION IN THE LIKUD

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- The Independent Liberal Party suffered a major blow today when Hillel Seidel, one of its four MKs, announced he is leaving the ILP to join the Liberal Party, one of the two major factions in Likud. Seidel said while he was joining as an individual he was ready to lead an ILP group within the Liberal Party.

In a letter to ILP leader Moshe Kol, Seidel said his decision came after long deliberation. He said although he supports the ILP's social and economic ideology he believes a change can only be brought about by a large and strong party.

Seidel's move was only the latest in the game of political musical chairs that is going on in preparation for the May 17 Knesset election. Maariv published a cartoon today showing Yigal Yadin, leader of the Democratic Movement for Change (DESL), as the Pied Piper leading members of the Labor Party, Likud, the ILP and others as the worried Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Likud leader Menachem Begin look on.

#### Others Joining Yadin's Movement

This appears to be the situation as Yadin's movement yesterday was officially joined by two such diverse elements as Res. Gen. Meir Amit, head of Koor Industries, the giant Histadrut conglomerate, and other members of his group of Histadrut industrial managers and the Black Panthers, who have been fighting for equal rights and economic gains for the Sephardic community. In addition, such prominent personalities as former Air Force Commander Mordechai Hod have been considering joining Yadin's movement.

Amit, who rejected strong appeals by many Labor members to remain in the party, said in his letter of resignation that he was not changing his ideology but that the present set-up of the Labor Party convinced him that it could not make any changes because of its constant surrender to pressure groups. He said Labor is incapable of running an efficient government, of dealing with the country's economic and social problems and of making electoral reforms. He said Labor needs a shock treatment.

#### YORDIM UNDER ATTACK

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Uzi Narkis, director of the Jewish Agency's immigration

department, has declared war on yordim. He issued orders yesterday to fire yordim, their spouses and children from any jobs they may hold with the department abroad. In a television panel discussion of the problem last night, Narkis demanded that yordim in the United States should not be allowed to be involved in any way that would "legitimize" their emigration from Israel.

According to reports here, the number of yordim, Israelis who have left the country to reside abroad, has increased substantially since 1974 although authorities here concede that it is almost impossible to determine who has left permanently and who intends to return to Israel after a prolonged stay abroad.

Last night's panel discussion followed an hour-long documentary on yordim who have "made it" in the U.S. The program focused on former Israelis in Los Angeles and the large Israeli community in New York City. Participants in the discussion disagreed with Narkis' view that Israel should not in any way aid or encourage the Israeli community in America. They included former yordim, one of whom is considering returning to the U.S. after trying to resume his life in Israel during the last two years.

The documentary emphasized the "guilt feelings" of many yordim, especially those who have done well financially in the U.S. One important conclusion reached by the panel as a whole was that although financial assistance might encourage some yordim to return to Israel, it is by no means the sole incentive.

#### LONG QUESTIONS CONTINUED U.S. ECONOMIC AID AND PROVISION OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO EGYPT By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Rep. Clarence Long (D, Md) today strongly questioned continued U.S. economic assistance to Egypt and the provision of nuclear technology to that country at a time when the Egyptian government is using a major portion of its resources for military purposes.

Long, who is chairman of the House Appropriations Committee's subcommittee on foreign appropriations, referred to the nuclear reactor promised Egypt by the U.S. "If Egypt had nuclear weaponry that would be the end of detente in the Middle East," he said.

Long made his remarks in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency after he and other Congressional leaders met with President Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance at the White House to discuss pending legislation related to foreign affairs. The discussion was said to have included the transfer of \$190 million the U.S. earmarked for food and development projects in Egypt. A State Department spokesman indicated later that the Carter Administration is reviewing the projected sale of two nuclear power plants to Egypt and Israel.

Declaring that he was "very sympathetic to Egypt's economic problems," Long asked, however, "Why should we be coming to Egypt's aid when it is spending about 25 percent of its gross national product -- about \$2 billion out of \$9.3 billion -- on military purposes?" He noted that was "four times as much as the United States is spending, relatively speaking,

and it doesn't include the large quantities of Egypt's arms paid for by other Arab countries."

Referring to people who "complain about our support of Israel," the Congressman said, "One of the reasons why we are putting so much into Israel is because we are giving so much to Egypt." In the period since the Israeli-Egyptian Sinai agreement, the U.S. has committed itself to projects totalling more than \$2 billion for economic development and food commodities for Egypt.

#### SCIENTISTS APPEAL FOR STERN

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Nearly 100 leading American medical scientists, including six Nobel Laureates, joined colleagues from three European countries yesterday in appealing for the release of their colleague, Dr. Mikhail Stern, who is serving an eight-year sentence in a Soviet labor camp. The appeal from the American scientists, which appeared in the press, endorsed a resolution passed by the Endocrine Society which states that they "will find future cooperative efforts (with the USSR) obstructed by thoughts of Dr. Stern's continued imprisonment." The resolution called upon Soviet authorities "to release Dr. Stern from prison and to allow him to spend his remaining years with his family" in Israel.

Stern, who is suffering serious heart and spinal ailments, has been transferred to hard labor in the "intensified regime" camp to which he was sentenced. Since his trial, Stern's case has attracted the attention of medical researchers and practitioners throughout the world. They responded to a call from Nobel Laureate Andrei Sakharov "to study the accusations against their colleague, which, in my opinion, are not substantial." The American Nobel Laureates in medicine who signed the appeal include David Baltimore, Baruch Blumberg, Arthur Kornberg, Joshua Lederberg, Howard Temin and George Wald. Similar appeals were issued in newspapers in Great Britain, France and Sweden.

#### YOUNG CONFERS WITH HERZOG

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- The newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young, yesterday met with Israeli Ambassador Chaim Herzog at the Israeli UN Mission here for a 45-minute conversation. It was Young's first official meeting after he presented his credentials yesterday to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. Young and Herzog have known each other for years.

During their conversation, which was described as "warm", the two envoys exchanged notes on the Mideast situation and assessed upcoming developments in the area in view of the visits by Waldheim and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in the area this month.

Young, who leaves today for a 10-day visit to Africa, asked to be supplied with Herzog's three speeches on the issue of apartheid, delivered at the last General Assembly session. Herzog presented Young, toward the end of the meeting, with his book, "The War of Atonement."

### JCC OF GREATER WASHINGTON RAPS QUAKER GROUP, BREIRA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- The Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington is circulating statements sharply critical of Breira and of the American Friends Service Committee both of which will hold national conferences here this month. The statements are being distributed to the JCC's 180-constituent synagogues and organizations in the Greater Washington area. The one on Breira, adopted by the JCC's executive committee, calls on the constituents to "advise and caution their members about Breira's activities which are injurious to Israel."

The JCC statement "deplores Breira's methodology and platform as enunciated by its leading spokesman, which calls for inclusion of the terrorist PLO in negotiations without pre-conditions, for restriction of Israel to the 1967 borders and for a Palestinian state."

Recalling a JCC decision more than two years ago deploring "the activities and policies of organizations which seek to divide and politicize American Jewish support of Israel" the statement accused Breira of "seeking to establish and emphasize a public perception of a seriously divided American-Jewish community on issues pertaining to Israel, its security moves toward peace in the Middle East to the U.S. Congress and the general American public."

The JCC claimed that Breira would be "utilizing its forthcoming conference to spark a major political initiative on behalf of the PLO's cause with an eye to affecting U.S. policy to the Middle East via Congress, the media and the new Administration."

#### Opposes Jewish, PLO Contacts

The other document being distributed by the JCC is a summary of a statement by the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) on the American Friends Service Committee conference at which PLO representatives are expected to speak. Another expected speaker is former Israeli Gen. Matityahu (Matti) Peled.

The NJCRAC opposes direct contacts between American Jews and PLO representatives in the U.S. or indirect contacts, through third-party sponsoring groups, with PLO spokesmen or others advocating negotiations with the PLO. According to the NJCRAC statement, "The PLO itself clearly has disavowed interpretations of its posture as moderate or conciliatory."

The statement says, "We recognize the value of constructive, informed dialogue with any group which is committed to the co-existence of an independent Jewish State of Israel with secure and recognized borders living with Arab states in the Middle East. But in the final analysis, peace in the Middle East will come about only as a result of face-to-face negotiations between Israel and its neighboring Arab states."

#### SUSLENSKY RELEASED FROM PRISON

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Prisoner of Conscience Yaakov Suslensky, from the town of Bendery, was released from a Soviet prison after serving a seven-year term, the New York Conference on Soviet Jewry reported here today. Suslensky was sentenced for spreading anti-

Soviet literature and what the Soviet authorities termed as intent to undermine the Soviet regime. The NYCSJ also reported that Suslensky, who is back in Bendery, suffers from a heart condition.

In 1968 he wrote an open letter condemning both the hanging of nine Jews in Baghdad and the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. Together with his friend Iosif Mishener who is now also a prisoner, Suslensky drafted an appeal to the UN denouncing Soviet denial of human rights. Both were arrested and Suslensky's trial began Oct. 19, 1970 behind closed doors. Mishener was sentenced to six years in jail.

#### Zavurov Transferred To Uzbekistan City

Meanwhile, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) has learned that Soviet Jewish activist Amner Zavurov has been transferred to the city of Karshi in the Uzbekistan SSR where an appeal will be made on his behalf. Zavurov was sentenced last month for being without an internal passport, without a job and disorderly conduct. His internal passport had been taken away by the Soviet authorities when he had finished his application process for an exit visa to Israel in the fall of 1975.

At his trial, Zavurov was defended by a court appointed lawyer though his family had secured counsel. Zavurov's personal lawyer is expected to appeal the case in Karshi, though he has yet to receive permission to travel to Karshi to examine and review Zavurov's file. "It seems that the Soviet authorities are apparently re-examining Zavurov's case due to the severe reaction in the western world," said Eugene Gold, NCSJ chairman.

#### ADL, THE BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSS ISSUE OF ARAB BOYCOTT

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Benjamin R. Epstein, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, announced that the ADL and The Business Roundtable, an organization made up of the chief executives of 170 major American corporations, conducted a joint meeting last week "for the purpose of exchanging views on efforts to reach a mutual accommodation with respect to Arab boycott issues."

The meeting was chaired by Irving S. Shapiro, chairman of the board of the Du Pont Co., who is chairman of The Business Roundtable, and Burton M. Joseph, national chairman of the ADL and president of I.S. Joseph Company. Joseph and Shapiro stated that the group had a very constructive meeting and reached agreement on areas for fuller exploration and study.

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TORONTO (JTA) -- A Holocaust Remembrance Week is being held at York University. The activities planned for the week ending Feb. 6 include pictorial exhibits on the Holocaust and the resistance; films and discussions on life and resistance during the Holocaust; and literature of the Holocaust and North American Jewry. The Holocaust Remembrance Committee of the Toronto Jewish Congress has provided assistance to the Jewish Student Federation of York University in planning the week.