



## ISRAEL WELCOMING VANCE; HOPES FOR FRUITFUL TALKS THAT WOULD STRENGTHEN BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA)--The Cabinet issued a statement last night extending a warm welcome to U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance who will arrive in Israel tomorrow. The statement said Israel hoped for "fruitful talks" that would "strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation" with the U.S.

Foreign Minister Yigal Allon told the Cabinet he expected Vance's visit to be more a get-acquainted occasion than a round of negotiations on a substantive level. Nevertheless, he said, Israel would elucidate its basic positions. Vance will be told that while Israel favors an overall peace settlement at this time, it is ready, as an alternative, to conduct negotiations separately with each Arab state.

Israeli leaders will also stress their opposition to participation by the PLO in peace talks because of the PLO's covenant calling for the destruction of Israel, Allon said.

He stated that on the bilateral level, the talks with Vance are expected to touch on the Carter Administration's review of President Ford's promise to sell Israel advanced weapons systems, including cluster and concussion bombs. Israel's Ambassador to Washington, Simcha Diniz, who is here for Vance's visit, said a positive decision on these weapons may be attainable.

(According to the State Department in Washington, Vance is scheduled to arrive in Tel Aviv tomorrow evening, arrive in Cairo Thursday morning, leave the following morning for "a very short stop" in Beirut and then go to Amman late Friday afternoon. He will leave Amman Saturday for Riyadh, will be in Damascus Sunday and leave there Monday for a return flight to the U.S.)

## SATISFACTION OVER SYRIAN PULL-BACK

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin and his senior ministers expressed satisfaction yesterday over the Syrian pull-back in southern Lebanon. Rabin told the Cabinet at its weekly session that the government's "balanced but tough" approach to the situation in southern Lebanon has borne fruit. He also acknowledged the diplomatic role played by the United States in easing the crisis.

Rabin's remarks were contained in a Cabinet communique released last night. He cautioned, however, that not all of the Syrian forces have left the danger zone as yet and indicated that the Syrian presence in southern Lebanon would be one of the subjects discussed with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance when he arrives here tomorrow.

Meanwhile, it was learned today that about half of the Syrian troops have left the Nabatiyeh area and have been replaced by a Lebanese security force. Israeli sources noted that they had made three demands on this issue. They were: the withdrawal of the Syrian troops, a time limit for the withdrawal and the entry of Lebanese troops to prevent the creation of a vacuum in the area.

In Israel, meanwhile, border settlements have organized into an Association of Confrontation Settlements to press for their specific needs in terms of their locations along the frontier. Among those joining the new group was the Arab village of Horfish.

## WARNING SOUNDED THAT DIVISION IN JEWISH COMMUNITY ON ISRAEL COULD ERODE SUPPORT BY ADMINISTRATION

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 14 (JTA)--Two Jewish leaders warned today that divisions in the American Jewish community on matters affecting Israel could erode support for Israel by the Carter Administration and the American public. Theodore Mann, chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC) and Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress, both expressed concern that if such divisions are perceived they could harm Israel at a crucial time.

Addressing a meeting of the AJCongress Women's Division, Mann contended that American Jewry is solid in its support of Israel. Although its views are not monolithic, there is basic agreement within the Jewish community that Israel must remain secure, that the PLO is a terrorist organization and that Israel must not be pressured to negotiate with the PLO, he said.

But a "false perception that the support of American Jewry for Israel is lessening" on these issues or that the community is not united on them, could lead to such pressure, Mann warned. He claimed that recent reports in the media had created the false impression that there was an erosion of support for Israel among certain parts of the Jewish community.

Hertzberg said it was "dangerous" for elements within the community to speak against Israel openly. He said that "the squabbling and dissension" should be kept within the community lest Israel's enemies use reports of dissension to construct a theory that many Jews are not supportive of Israel. Rep. Lester Wolff (D.N.Y.), another speaker at the gathering, said that the support of American Jewry and of the Carter Administration was "crucial" for Israel at this time.

## YADLIN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHARGES THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED BRIBES

By David Landau

TEL AVIV, Feb. 14 (JTA)--Asher Yadlin, sobbing that his career has been ruined and his character brutally maligned by the press, pleaded guilty in a Tel Aviv district court today to charges that he accepted bribes and evaded taxes when he headed Kupat Holim, the Histadrut sick-fund. Sentence will be pronounced next Tuesday.

Yadlin's plea implicated the Labor Party and some of its top leaders in the scandal that led to his downfall. It could have serious political repercussions for the party, now engaged in the toughest election campaign in its history.

Yadlin insisted that he had not taken bribes for personal gain but because he was under

pressure to contribute Kupat Holim funds to the Labor Party's coffers. In that connection he named former Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, who died in 1975, incumbent Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz and other key Labor Party figures. He said, however, that the recipients of the bribe monies, amounting to IL 80,000, were not aware that it was tainted money. He said these contributions began after the 1973 election campaign and continued.

The prosecution invited the court to disbelieve Yadlin's contention that he had not pocketed bribes. The defense counsel argued that his client would never have named top party figures if that were not true and produced a signed receipt for IL 70,000 to prove that Yadlin was engaged in fund-raising for the Labor Party. The receipt was signed by the defendant's cousin, Aharon Yadlin, then secretary general of the Labor Party and now Minister of Education.

#### Party Open To Charges

The revelation, it was noted, opens the Labor Party to charges of violating the 1973 law which provides substantial state funding for political parties relative to their representation in the Knesset. The law forbids parties from accepting contributions from companies. They may accept donations by individuals provided they are reported to the State Comptroller. Already, former MK Uri Avnery of the Haolam Haze faction has demanded an official inquiry into the Labor Party's financing.

Yadlin was taken into custody four months ago, just days before he was to have assumed the important and influential post of Governor of the Bank of Israel to which he had been appointed by Premier Yitzhak Rabin. Rabin and other Labor Party leaders professed to have known nothing of the alleged offenses. The Cabinet did not withdraw its nomination of Yadlin until sufficient evidence was accumulated to support a warrant for his arrest.

The small courtroom, presided over by Judge Hadassah Ben-Itto, was packed with visitors this morning. Yadlin's family and friends--his wife, Dalia; his friend, Talia; his son and daughter--occupied the front benches. They retained their composure during most of the proceedings but broke down when defense attorney Shlomo Tussia-Cohen called a succession of character witnesses to the stand.

These included Health Minister Victor Shemtov, Mark Mosiewicz, former president of the Israel Manufacturers Association and Gen. (Res.) Meir Amit, head of the Histadrut-owned Koor Industries. They and others were effusive in their praise of Yadlin's ability, tact, understanding and devotion to the cause of strengthening Israel's economy.

#### Testifies On Own Behalf

Yadlin, testifying on his own behalf, drew a distinction between the various bribery charges. He admitted that he had taken a total of IL 40,000 from his former mistress, Hava Ehrlichman, which he said came from commissions she had earned in various deals involving Kupat Holim. It was Ehrlichman's statements to police that led to the original charges against Yadlin.

He said the sums he received from her were part of the "Complex of intimate relations" that developed between them after the death of Ehrlichman's husband in 1972. Yadlin said he had done a great deal to help her and she was appar-

ently repaying him. But he insisted that the IL 80,000 he received from lawyer Haim Goshen--he described it as commissions earned from land deals involving Kupat Holim--were not put into his own account but turned over to the Labor Party.

When Judge Ben-Itto observed that these monies may well have been contributed in violation of the law, Yadlin said it was not his responsibility but that of the recipients to "arrange" the absorption of the money in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Yadlin's guilty plea reversed his earlier plea of not guilty to all charges. Prosecutor Victoria Ostrovsky-Cohen explained that the judge, defense and prosecution had agreed, in light of the plea, to postpone hearings on another bribery count in which Yadlin is accused of accepting \$30,000 from Mordechai Elison, head of a Histadrut-owned construction company.

#### U.S. SAYS ISRAEL'S EXPLORATION OF OIL IN SINAI VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HAMPER'S PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 (JTA)--Israel's exploration for oil off the western shores of the Sinai Peninsula was criticized by the United States today as a violation of international law and as a move that will hamper peace negotiations.

The matter arose when a published report said that Israel has employed Canadian and Texas engineers in what was called highly promising oil possibilities in an area known as the Ramadan field in the Gulf of Suez.

State Department spokesman Frederick Z. Brown said that Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance will discuss the issue when he visits Israel and Egypt on his Middle East tour.

The matter became an Israeli-American dispute some three months ago when American companies exploring in the area were directed to leave by the Israelis. Brown explained today that American companies are involved and "we have a responsibility to them in this matter."

#### Israel, An Occupying Power

Pressed on the legalities of the issue apart from the American companies' role, Brown said: "Our legal view is that Israel, as an occupying power, in that particular area, does not have the right to exploit natural resources in occupied territory that were not already being exploited when the occupation began. I understand that is based on international law."

Brown was asked whether it was right for Israel to draw oil from the Abu Rodels oilfields in the Sinai since that was an ongoing operation when Israel occupied the Sinai in 1967. Israel returned the oilfields to Egypt in 1974. Brown said he would not address that matter.

Asked whether Israel and its American employees should cease and desist from operating in the Suez area, Brown replied: "We believe Israeli development of oil resources in those occupied territories is not helpful to efforts to get peace negotiations underway and complicates the achievement of a settlement."

#### GOVERNMENT, HISTADRUT SIGN DEAL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA)--The government and Histadrut signed a three-month package deal last night freezing wages, prices, taxes and divi-

dend payments for a three-month period, ending June 30, well after Israel's general elections. The measure was promptly denounced by the Israel Manufacturers Association which refused to go along with the freeze, and by various labor groups engaged in negotiations for higher wages.

The economic package must be approved by the Knesset where the government no longer commands a majority. Should the Knesset balk, however, the government said it would promulgate emergency regulations with the force of law.

The package deal was worked out during a night of intense negotiations between Histadrut and government representatives. It is intended to forestall a new wave of strikes by public employees which could paralyze the nation and throw the economy into chaos. It is also aimed at stabilizing prices before the elections.

The price freeze would be general, excluding fruits and vegetables. The government agreed not to raise taxes or tariffs during the freeze period and to limit the use of creeping devaluation of the Pound. Histadrut agreed to postpone wage demands and refer uncompleted negotiations to arbitration.

#### Relaxed Atmosphere Intended

A government communique released after last night's meeting said the freeze was intended "to create a more relaxed atmosphere in the economy." But the business and industrial community was anything but relaxed today. Avraham Shavit, president of the Manufacturers Association, claimed the government and Histadrut did not have the power to implement the freeze, especially to keep dividends at last year's level. "We have enough labor laws but we have seen the government circumvent the laws and the Histadrut avoid agreements," Shavit declared.

There are a number of weaknesses in the agreement. For one thing, it does not prevent workers from staging crippling slowdowns. If Histadrut is unable to control the various trade unions, the package may be worthless. Several local unions have threatened to strike if their wage demands are not met promptly.

It was also pointed out that the price freeze cannot be implemented unless the public makes sure that vendors are observing it. Except for a limited number of basic commodities, price controls have failed since the austerity days of the early 1950s. In fact, only hours before the agreement was signed, cigarette prices were raised 20 percent. And the government hastily approved a decision to raise the wages of career soldiers by an average of IL 600 per month.

#### ARGENTINE ENVOY SAYS GOVERNMENT WILL HALT SPREAD OF HATE MATERIAL By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 14 (JTA)--An Argentine official affirmed today that his government intends to stop activities that are considered inimical to the coexistence of the different communities in that country. Enrique Jorge Ros, Argentina's Ambassador to Israel, expressed this view during a luncheon given by the Israeli Executive of the World Jewish Congress when he was questioned about the publication of Nazi and anti-Semitic propaganda in Argentina.

He said the Argentine authorities have taken strong steps against the publishing firm responsible for the publication of this material, the postal authorities have prohibited the use of postal services for distributing the publications

and the printing firms have been told to stop printing the material. Jorge Ros hailed the contribution made by the Jewish community to the economic and cultural development of Argentina since the days of the Jewish colonization movement organized by Baron Maurice de Hirsch more than 100 years ago.

Referring to Israel-Argentine relations, the envoy noted that Israel has reached the 20th place in the list of countries which trade with Argentina. Since a meeting last year in New York between the Foreign Ministers of both countries, the door has been open to greater cooperation. Mutual committees for promoting cultural and scientific cooperation were agreed upon and their convention is expected soon, he said. These committees will decide on an exchange of scientists and scientific knowledge as well as an exchange of cultural delegations.

Jorge Ros called on the many Argentine Jews who have settled in Israel to be good-will ambassadors for Argentina and to act as a bridge for closer cooperation between the two countries. The Ambassador was accompanied by the first secretary, Miss Marta Oliveros, and the military attache, Col. Alberto Omar Etchegorry. Itzhak Koren, chairman of the Israeli WJCongress Executive, welcomed the guests and said this was the first in a series of meetings with ambassadors of countries where the Jewish communities are encountering problems.

#### \$250,000 GRANT FOR JEWISH STUDIES AWARDED BRANDEIS BY HUMANITIES FUND

WALTHAM, Mass., Feb. 14 (JTA)--Brandeis University's Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Department--the first comprehensive Judaic Studies Department in any American university--has been awarded a \$250,000 grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The funds will strengthen specific areas of Judaic studies at Brandeis and develop a program of active relationships with the general humanities. The grant covers a three-year period.

"Brandeis' NEJS officers the largest and most comprehensive program of its kind in American higher education," said department chairman Marvin Fox, the Philip W. Low Professor of Jewish Philosophy. "Now, with this grant, we will have resources for new faculty in the fields of Talmudic literature and Hellenistic Judaism, adding important new dimensions to the existing strong offerings," he continued.

Fox explained that the department will now be "fully equipped" to give extensive instruction in Talmud and in the history of the Second Commonwealth and the Hellenistic period. These will be coupled to existing courses in Bible, Jewish history, Jewish philosophy and thought, Hebrew literature and the sociology of the American Jewish community. The new program will focus on bringing together general humanistic learning and Judaic scholarship.

The National Endowment for the Humanities grant will underwrite development of new courses to be taught jointly by Judaic studies faculty and their counterparts in the departments of Classics, History and Philosophy and History of Ideas. Each course will be designed to bring together scholars from the humanities and from parallel areas of Judaic studies.

**A MAGAZINE FOR ALL THEMES**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA)--A "think" periodical is not likely to garner mass circulation, but it certainly engenders controversy. That is why editing the Zionist quarterly "Forum" is no easy task, according to editor Zvi Yaron, who immigrated to Israel from Britain in 1950. But Yaron, a member of Kibbutz Lavi in lower Galilee, goes at it with gusto and is performing an important service in the realm of ideas.

"Forum" deals, by definition, with "The Jewish People, Zionism and Israel," a very broad area that allows a wide spectrum of viewpoints. The magazine is a continuation of "Dispersion and Unity," a periodical that appeared for many years, though not on a regular basis. "Forum" will appear regularly. Its first two editions were out on schedule and the third, the winter edition, will be ready shortly, if the budget and the printing plant allow.

A sampling of the contents of "Forum" is an indication of its lively nature. The first edition featured an article by Dr. Gary Schiff, professor of Jewish Studies and Political Science at City College, City University, New York. The subject was American Jews and Israel. Schiff claimed that there is an explicit avowal of the centrality of Israel in the mainstream of organized American-Jewish life. But there is also a small, variegated but articulate opposition. Schiff also reported a decline in the reliance on fund-raising and the growth of political strategies to serve Israel's interests.

Yaron told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the professor's article drew different reactions in the U.S. While the social scientists said his examination of the political relationships between American Jewry and Israel was "excellent," the politicians felt Schiff had not done sufficient justice to the role they play.

**Articles Engender Controversy**

The same edition contained two opposing viewpoints on the delicate issue of the Palestinians. The writers were Dr. Yaacov Goldstein of Haifa University's department of "Land of Israel" studies, and Dr. Mordechai Nissán, a research fellow on Middle East affairs at the Hebrew University's Truman Center. Both addressed themselves to the problem of what degree moral questions affect Israeli policy toward the Palestinians. The debate on the subject continued in the second edition where writer Misha Louvish expressed his views.

Prof. Melvin Urofsky, head of the history department at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, triggered a controversy over allya from America. In an article in the second edition of "Forum" he said the slow rate of immigration from the U.S. could be explained by Israel's failure to offer "the lure of greater opportunity that is the motivating force of any immigration." Not unexpectedly, three American olim took issue with Urofsky.

Moshe Kohn, formerly of New York who is a member of the Jerusalem Post staff, argued that in the history of the Jewish people it was always the minority that led the way. Ephraim Tabory, of Bar Ilan University, claimed that Idealism still plays a role in Israeli society. And Michael Graetz, rabbi of the Conservative congregation in Omer, near Beersheba, who came to Israel in 1967, accused Urofsky of failing to discern the great spiritual renewal in Israel "because he

doesn't live here."

The latest edition of "Forum" contains an article by sociologist Janet O'Dea who describes the Gush Emunim as a religious rather than political phenomenon. That view will be challenged in the next edition by novelist and essayist Shulamit Har Even who sees the Gush as a political movement that emerged from the Yom Kippur War.

Yaron brings the credentials of a scholar to his job. He is the author of a book on the philosophy of the late Rabbi Kook, published last year by the World Zionist Organization's Torah Education Department. He also wrote the study of religion in Israel that appeared in the 1976 American Jewish Yearbook published by the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Publication Society of America.

**ISRAELI STUDENTS IN GOOD-WILL MISSION**

NEW YORK, Feb. 14 (JTA)--Eighty Israeli high school students from the 11th and 12th grades arrived here several days ago to participate in a good-will mission to American youth, the Consulate General of Israel in New York reported. This is the sixth annual mission of its kind. The main purpose of the mission is to provide large numbers of American youth with the opportunity to meet Israelis of their own age and to hear about Israel and its youth directly.

The selection of the 80 participants from among the 500 recommended candidates was made by special committees before whom each candidate appeared. The group comprises an equal number of boys and girls. A little more than half live in urban areas; nearly a third in agricultural settlements and the remainder in immigrant and development towns. For many of the students it is their first trip beyond the borders of Israel, while a few had been abroad for periods of up to a year.

The mission will visit more than 150 communities all over the U.S. The nationwide coordination and execution of the project is handled by the Consulate General of Israel in New York, in cooperation with Consulates General of Israel in Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Houston, San Francisco and Los Angeles, each responsible for supervising activities within their areas of jurisdiction. The Riverdale Jewish Community hosted the group over the weekend.

LONDON (JTA)--Anthony Crosland, the British Foreign Secretary, is seriously ill in an Oxford hospital after suffering a stroke, the Foreign Office said Monday. His illness has cast doubt on a meeting of the European Parliament's political committee due to take place here Tuesday. Crosland, as incumbent president of the European Economic Community (EEC) Council, was to have briefed the committee on political aspects of the EEC's association treaties with Israel and her Arab neighbors. Two weeks ago, the Council meeting in London discussed EEC policy in the Middle East.

LONDON (JTA)--Children of Israeli diplomats here have sent a collection of foreign stamps to the BBC in answer to a television program appeal on behalf of children wounded or made homeless in the Lebanese civil war.

REMEMBER: There will be no Bulletin dated Feb. 21 due to Washington's Birthday, a postal holiday.