



# daily news bulletin

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## MUTED EXPRESSIONS OF SATISFACTION GREET LATEST BREZHNEV STATEMENTS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA)--Soviet Communist Party Secretary General Leonid Brezhnev's lengthy comments on the Middle East in a policy speech to the Soviet Trade Union Congress yesterday, elicited some muted expressions of satisfaction here today. While there was little that was new in the substance of Brezhnev's remarks, the tone and timing of his statements seemed aimed at thawing, if ever so slightly, the long frozen relations between Moscow and Jerusalem.

Brezhnev's speech was also welcomed here if only because it caused irritation in some Arab capitals. Observers stressed, however, that the Soviet leader's formula for Middle East peace remains unchanged: Israel's complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, to be carried out in stages; demilitarized zones on both sides of the final boundaries; UN forces or observers to police those zones; free passage for ships of all countries--including Israel--through the Straits of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba; and the right of the Palestinians to have their own state.

Almost all of these lines have been advocated by the Soviets in the past. One new point was Brezhnev's indication that he did not favor an imposed solution in the Middle East--something Israel has long feared might be attempted by the two superpowers. Observers here considered it noteworthy that Brezhnev made his speech only six days before U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is due to visit Moscow.

They saw that as an indication that the Middle East will figure high on the agenda of Vance's talks with Soviet officials--along with Soviet displeasure over President Carter's human rights efforts, the SALT talks and other bilateral issues.

### Basis For Slight Shift

According to the observers, Brezhnev's remarks on the Middle East were clearly motivated by the Kremlin's desire to reassert its influence in Middle East diplomacy. The Soviets are aware that the Geneva conference may well be reconvened next fall--President Carter is aiming toward that--and they want to ensure that they have an equal role with the Americans in whatever substantive developments take place there.

That accounts for the slight softening of the Soviets' usual anti-Israel tone evident in Brezhnev's remarks, observers said. There is little support here for the view that Moscow is preparing ground for a renewal of diplomatic relations with Israel. But the Soviets may want a less frigid atmosphere if they are to play a central role in the peace process which has been dominated by American diplomacy for the past two years. If the Soviet Union was indeed interested in normalizing relations with Israel, it would have to end its current persecution of Jewish dissidents and emigration activists. But it shows no signs of doing so, the observers said.

Brezhnev's Middle East statements were at-

tacked today in the semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram and in other leading newspapers of the Arab world, for failure to dwell on Palestinian rights and giving too much attention to Israel's maritime rights. However, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy subsequently toned down the initially negative reaction. He said that Brezhnev's remarks were basically favorable but there were some points that required "clarification."

## ISRAEL'S THREE SEAPORTS PARALYZED BY GENERAL STRIKE OF 4500 WORKERS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 22 (JTA)--Israel's three seaports were paralyzed today by a general strike of 4500 workers. It was the first time in the country's history that Haifa, Ashdod and Eilat were shut down at the same time. The walk-out comes at the peak of Israel's citrus export season. The Citrus Marketing Board has ordered a suspension of picking to prevent the spoilage of fruit on the strikebound docks.

The Ports Authority has appealed to the Haifa Labor Court for a temporary injunction to get the strikers back to work. The court will decide tomorrow after hearing the port workers' case. The latter are demanding an IL 600 per month raise over and above wage agreements that were signed only five months ago. Minister-Without-Portfolio Gideon Hausner has urged the Cabinet to call a special session on the port strike but no decision was taken.

Meanwhile, the government's hopes to hold the line on wages--and curb inflation--during the pre-election period appeared to be crumbling. Histadrut decided yesterday to grant 4-5 percent salary increases to the employees of its various companies.

The measure, criticized by the company managers, was seen as an attempt to maintain labor peace among increasingly restive industrial workers. Histadrut apparently is trying to set an example for private industries to raise wages but so far the private sector has refused. A new strike threat is hanging over the Bank Leumi, Israel's largest bank, whose cashiers and accountants staged a two-day strike last week in support of higher wages.

## JEWISH LEADERS TO MEET WITH VANCE BEFORE HE GOES TO MOSCOW TO ASK HIM TO TAKE UP SOVIET JEWRY ISSUE

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA)--The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations will meet in Washington Thursday with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance on the eve of his departure for Moscow. Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, chairman of the Presidents Conference, said today that Vance will be asked to take up with Soviet leaders the issue of Soviet Jewry, especially in view of "the new campaign of vilification against Russian Jews."

Speaking at a press conference here, Schindler said that Vance also will be presented with a specific list of Jewish activists and be asked to intervene on their behalf with the Soviet

authorities. In addition, Schindler said, the Presidents Conference is interested to learn Vance's views on the issue of Soviet Jewry and the way he intends to approach it during his upcoming visit to the USSR.

Another major issue to be discussed with Vance is the Middle East in view of the recent statement by President Carter. Schindler praised Carter's statement last week in which he described basic conditions for a lasting peace, emphasizing "the recognition of Israel by her neighbors; Israel's right to exist in peace."

Schindler recalled that Carter had specifically urged that Israel's borders "be opened up to travel, to tourism, to cultural exchange, to trade..." with her neighbors and said that Carter's definition of peace is the same as Israel's. While Carter had earlier spoken of Israel returning to the 1967 borders with only "minor" adjustments, Schindler said the President's latest statement recognized Israel's position that the boundaries must be adjusted for security purposes and emphasized that "this is a matter to be negotiated between the Arab countries on the one side and Israel on the other."

#### Comments On Brezhnev's Statement

Referring to a statement made yesterday by Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev which called for Israeli withdrawal from all the territories taken in 1967, Schindler stressed the urgency of educational and other efforts "to make clear that the surest formula for renewal of war in the Middle East is a settlement that restores the old borders that proved so tempting to Arab dreams of destroying the Jewish State."

Schindler disclosed that he had a series of meetings with James Schlesinger, Carter's energy chief, to discuss the energy situation. He explained that the energy problem is of major concern to the Jewish community in view of its influence on American policy in the Middle East. He said that if anything endangers Israel it is the erosion of American support as a result of energy problems. He said that the Administration is determined to achieve a measure of energy independence.

Concluding his remarks, Schindler said that "There is a strong need for a united American Jewish community" at the present time because "Israel is in a period of confusion and disarray." He said that the Israeli leadership is divided, partly because of the upcoming elections, and called for increased efforts by American Jews on behalf of Israel.

#### HIAS WILL HELP SOVIET JEWS EMIGRATE TO WHEREVER THEY CHOOSE TO GO

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA)--Carl Glick, president of HIAS, issued what he termed the "first official and public statement" on the issue of Soviet Jews who opt to go to countries other than Israel when they reach Vienna. Addressing more than 1000 guests at the 93rd annual meeting of HIAS Sunday, he said: "With the danger to Jews in the USSR still great, HIAS will help them to emigrate to wherever it is they choose to go. We will continue this policy until such time when Jews the world over are free to determine their final destination."

During the past year, Glick said, "HIAS was importuned by a small number of persons to cease assistance to Russian Jews in Vienna who left the Soviet Union with Israeli visas." The HIAS board of directors and officers regarded any such action

"as detrimental to the interests of the Jews of the Soviet Union, the diaspora generally and Israel," he stated.

"They recognized that anti-Semitism remains rampant in the Soviet Union. Current newspaper headlines which report harassments and jailings are proof of the continuing danger to the Jews of Russia. It has been and remains the mission of HIAS to assist Jews to move from countries where they are unwanted--where they are in danger as Jews--to countries where they can be comfortable and prosper as Jews."

Accordingly, Glick continued, the HIAS board of directors "has determined that HIAS will assist all Jewish refugees who need help--whatever the condition and circumstance of their temporary travel documents." In so doing, he said, "we believe we are acting in accordance with the highest precepts of the Jewish tradition. We firmly believe we are fulfilling the needs of the Soviet Jews and the wishes of the American Jewish communities."

#### Carter Urged To Aid All Dissidents

The meeting was also marked by a standing ovation given to Elie Wiesel who was presented with the HIAS 1977 Liberty Award for his efforts on behalf of world Jewry. The 1975 Nobel Prize nominee for literature called upon President Carter to "take under his wing" all Soviet dissidents" as he noted the "pre-pogrom atmosphere" in the Soviet Union today and stressed the need for renewed and revitalized Jewish solidarity.

Wiesel declared that "the one concept that prevails in Jewish history" is that of solidarity. The Jews' purpose is to bring all Jews together, "whomever they are, wherever they come from, whatever language they speak. Whomever wants to be helped should be helped, no questions asked," he said.

Gaynor I. Jacobson, HIAS executive vice-president, calling the work of the various cooperating Jewish agencies "an effective partnership in helping Jews to gain the right of freedom of choice," made special mention of Attorney General Griffin Bell's action of extending parole for Soviet refugees in Italy, which had the cooperation and support of House and Senate committees and the State Department.

#### SCHEEL TRYING TO SPRING HESS

BONN, March 22 (JTA)--German President Walter Scheel has promised to try and secure the release of Hitler's former deputy Rudolf Hess, 82, from Spandau prison. At a meeting which took place at Scheel's wish, Hess' son, Wolf Ruediger Hess, told Presidential Secretary Paul Frank of his efforts to secure his father's release, and asked for Scheel's intervention. Frank said Scheel would seek the release on "humanitarian grounds." Scheel's promise follows mounting public criticism here of the imprisonment, especially since a suicide attempt by Hess last month.

PARIS (JTA)--Walter Rauff, a wanted Nazi war criminal held responsible for sending 250,000 people to the gas chambers, is living in Punta Arenas, Chile, according to Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Nazi war crimes documentation center in Vienna. Wiesenthal, who said he is trying to trace 299 former Nazis, most of them in Latin America, said that Rauff runs a canning factory in Punta Arenas.

**SPECIAL INTERVIEW****FRENCH FM'S VIEW ON THE MIDEAST**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, March 22 (JTA)--French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud said here today that "Israel's right to existence is as important to us as the Palestinian right to a homeland." The Foreign Minister, who is due to pay a two-day visit to Israel next week, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an exclusive interview that in his view "circumstances in 1977 are more favorable to an Arab-Israeli settlement than ever in the past."

De Guiringaud, who is due to meet in Israel with Premier Yitzhak Rabin, Defense Minister Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, also spelled out to the JTA the international guarantee which could be envisaged within a settlement's framework. He said "certain zones could be demilitarized and United Nations observers could be stationed there as is done in the Sinai and on the Golan. Special surveillance electronic equipment could be added as has been done in the Sinai."

The Minister, who has often called "for international guarantees" for Israel as part of a global settlement, added that these could also consist of "moral and juridical guarantees given by certain powers as part of a peace agreement. France," he added, "would not refuse to take part in such a project."

**Sees Palestinian Moderation**

De Guiringaud intimated that the Palestinians have adopted a more moderate tone at their recent National Council in Cairo. He said: "The Cairo congress did not reiterate the text in its 1974 declaration and in its 1964 charter calling for the destruction of Israel. I do not say that the PLO charter has been modified but that the Cairo communique no longer repeats this position. This shows that an evolution has taken place since 1974."

The Minister, a former French representative to the United Nations, said he last visited Israel 12 years ago "when I spent time in the Negev, saw a number of collective villages and the Dead Sea works. I was and am full of admiration for Israel's achievements." He added, "I am going to Israel to hear the views of the Israeli government and to find out how the French government can maybe help in the quest for peace."

**HOUSE VOTES 400-2 TO CONDEMN****SOVIET HARASSMENT OF EMIGRANTS**

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA)--The House adopted a resolution today by a vote of 400-2 condemning the Soviet Union for the harassment of Jews and others seeking to emigrate. The two who voted against the measure were W.R. Poage (D.Texas) and Gary Myers (R.Pa.). The resolution was similar to the one adopted by the Senate on March 2 by a vote of 91-0 which was sponsored by Sen. Frank Church (D.Idaho).

Today's resolution, sponsored by Rep. Toby Moffett (D.Conn.), declared that "the obstruction and harassment of Soviet Jews and other minorities trying to obtain emigration visas to reunite with their families profoundly offends the conscience of a free people." The resolution stressed "the sustained interest of the American people" in the adherence of the Helsinki agreement's provisions on human rights. It noted that government sanctioned ethnic and religious discrimination in the USSR violates international

agreements on human rights.

**SHARANSKY'S WIFE URGES UN TO ASK SOVIETS TO RELEASE HER HUSBAND**

By Yitzhak Rabin

UNITED NATIONS, March 22 (JTA)--Mrs. Avital Sharansky, wife of Soviet Jewish activist Anatoly Sharansky, came to the United Nations today to urge the world body to intervene with Soviet authorities on behalf of her husband. Escorted by Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Mrs. Sharansky met with Under-secretary General William Buffum.

She gave him a letter addressed to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim which said: "I humbly beg of you to save my husband and let him rejoin me. All I ask as a simple citizen of the world is to enjoy the basic human right to be reunited with my husband in a place of our choice. I ask no more than this from life."

In the letter, she said that her husband is presently in Lefortovo Prison in Moscow "where he is being held on false accusations while I live in Israel." Sharansky was arrested last week and is being threatened with charges of treason and espionage.

Mrs. Sharansky, 26, emigrated to Israel in June, 1974, only a day after her marriage to the 29-year-old mathematician. "What do we ask?" she wrote Waldheim. "Only to live in peace and privacy in our country which is our right according to the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights--1948 to which the Soviet Union was a signator."

At an impromptu press conference after the meeting with Buffum, Herzog told reporters that "the UN is being very helpful" in Sharansky's case, but he did not elaborate. He added that Israel's experience with the UN in this matter had been "very positive." Mrs. Sharansky's brother, Mikhail Shteigitz, accompanied her to the meeting with Buffum. Mrs. Sharansky told reporters that her husband wants to live in Israel because he is Jewish and this is the reason he was arrested.

**SOVIET EMIGRANTS SEEKING RE-ENTRY****RAPPED BY OTHER EMIGRANTS IN VIENNA**

VIENNA, March 22 (JTA)--A small group of Soviet emigrants living in Vienna praised Austria for its hospitality and denounced as "slenderous" a petition of the heads of 87 Soviet Jewish families who want to return to the Soviet Union. "Austria grants asylum to everybody who is persecuted for political, religious, social or ethnic reasons," the emigrants said in an open letter published in the daily newspaper of the ruling Social Democratic Party.

The petition of the Soviet Jewish "re-emigrants," who want to return to the USSR, was submitted last month to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim asking him to send a human rights commission to Austria to conduct on-the-spot investigation of their plight.

Referring to this petition, the emigrants said: "Austria, as a free country, is always open for such commissions, whereas the Soviet Union will always refuse to admit commissions that want to investigate the political rights of the Soviet citizens, the fulfillment of the Helsinki agreement, and the plight of the political prisoners in jails, camps and psychiatric clinics." However, they conceded that most of the "re-emigrants" have families in the USSR and want to be reunited with them.

**MIDDLE EAST AID PACKAGE**

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 22 (JTA)--Egypt is earmarked by the Carter Administration to receive \$771,022,000 in economic security assistance and agricultural commodities during the fiscal year beginning next Oct. 1, according to statistics obtained by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency at the State Department.

This figure is only \$14 million less than the funding in the same categories for Israel. As has been made known previously, Israel was listed to get \$511,043,000 in the last Ford Administration budget but this amount was boosted to \$785 million by the Carter Administration. Jordan is earmarked for \$67,659,000 in economic aid; Lebanon, \$8,800,000; and Syria, \$94,175,000.

These statistics include allocations of agricultural commodities under the U.S. Food for Peace Program also known as "P.L. 480," which is the identifying number of the U.S. Public Law establishing the assistance programs.

Israel is booked for \$11,943,000 in PL 480 money, including \$2,743,000 in grants for Gaza and the West Bank. Egypt's allocation is about 14 times as much, \$146,022,000. Jordan is earmarked for \$7,659,000 and Syria for \$19,175,000. All of Lebanon's fund is in this category.

Military statistics, previously announced, show Israel is to receive \$1 billion, equally divided between credit and gift; Jordan \$75 million in credits and \$56.5 million in grants. Military assistance is expected to be asked for Egypt when Egyptian President Anwar Sadat visits Washington April 4-5 but no figure is shown in the proposed programs thus far. Support for the Sinai project between Egyptian and Israeli forces is listed at \$12,200,000. A Middle East special fund, for use principally for refugees, is earmarked at \$25 million.

In a statement to Congress on the programs, President Carter said last Friday that the security supporting assistance is to "finance programs for countries whose economic condition is a factor in our efforts to assure international security."

**U.S. ISRAELI INTELLECTUALS  
DIFFER WITH TRADITIONAL CONCEPTS  
ON FUTURE OF ZIONISM, ISRAEL**

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA)--A group of about 100 Zionist academicians and intellectuals from the U.S. and Israel looked into the future of Zionism, the Jewish State and the Jewish people and expressed views at variance with certain traditional concepts about all three. The scholars were participants in a symposium hosted by the Zionist Academic Council of the American Zionist Federation and the Herzl Institute held at 515 Park Ave. yesterday.

The theme was "Toward the Year 2000," AZF president Faye Schenk, who greeted the assemblage, said it was necessary to extricate American Zionists from their "armed camp mentality" and accentuate the positive by looking ahead to an Israel in peace when the new century begins. But Prof. Shlomo Aaronson, an Israeli political scientist, said that given world tensions today, "the question of the year 2000 when peace prevails is not relevant."

Prof. Melvin I. Urofsky, chairman of the history department at Virginia Commonwealth University and chairman of the Zionist Academic Council, touched a controversial issue when he

observed that Israel's place in Zionist thought must be re-evaluated because "the purpose of Zionism is the regeneration of the Jewish people and Israel is a means to that end--not an end in itself."

Urofsky rejected "the current Zionist position that aliya is the only criterion for true Zionism." He said that concept "is rooted in the present Israeli establishment's European origin and their Zionism is a result of persecution at home. Americans had no such pressures. American Zionists who know they cannot go on aliya should develop new areas in which their abilities could be utilized," Urofsky said. He noted that "the only successful Zionist organizations were those which had specific projects in Israel."

**'Time Is Not On Our Side'**

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, professor of Jewish history at Columbia University and president of the American Jewish Congress, stated that "time is not on our side." He noted that intellectual emigrants from problem countries do not go to Israel if they have any Western alternative. "This was an eventuality not assumed by strict Herzlian Zionism," he said.

He urged a "massive rescue operation, biologically, intellectually and spiritually" because "the center of Jewish life is in us, not in what the gentiles do and not in simply sitting back and indulging in 'Israel-watching.'"

Milton Himmelfarb, an editor of Commentary Magazine and the American Jewish Yearbook, said "We are breeding ourselves out of existence. Jewish denatality is resulting in a loss of Jewish numbers and a loss of American Jewish political clout and this will not be good for Israel."

Observing that the Jewish birth rate is rising only among the ultra-Orthodox, Himmelfarb predicted that in 50 years the Jewish "center of gravity" would shift so far to the right that the Jewish community's ultra-liberal wing would be the Habad (Lubavitch) Hasidim.

**'ANACHNU KAN' TO PERFORM IN NY**

NEW YORK, March 22 (JTA)--"Anachnu Kan" (We Are Here), the world-famous troupe of Israeli-Russian singers, dancers and musicians, will give a concert of Russian, Israeli and Jewish folk dancing and singing in New York at three performances at Carnegie Hall on April 10, 12 and 23. They will give their fourth performance at the Avery Fisher Hall on April 20.

"Anachnu Kan," a company of 105 singers, dancers, musicians and actors, originated as spontaneous troupes throughout the Soviet Union. Forbidden to perform, they emigrated to Israel and with government help formed the present organization. Following their New York engagements, they will appear at the Servantino Festival at the invitation of the Mexican government. In 1976 they were the star attraction at the International Convention for Soviet Jews in Brussels. Nava Bodinger, who heads Isra Art Productions, is sponsoring the "Anachnu Kan" tour in America.

AMSTERDAM (JTA)--The Netherlands Supreme Court has rejected a request by Joseph Kotsaella, one of the three German war criminals imprisoned in Holland, to have his life sentence suspended due to extreme illness.