



JTA 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

Thursday, March 31, 1977

No. 63

FRENCH POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST SAID TO BE IMPROVING

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA)--Israel's envoy to Paris, Mordechai Gazit, said yesterday that he saw some improvement of late in the French position on the Mideast conflict. In an interview with the Jerusalem Post, the Ambassador cited French leaders' reversion recently to the term "patrie"--homeland--when discussing Palestinian rights. In the past France had been much more specific--and more objectionable, from Israel's viewpoint--explicitly demanding an "independent state" for the Palestinians.

Similarly, Gazit said, French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and his Foreign Minister, Louis de Guiringaud, no longer spoke of Israeli withdrawal from "all the territories" but instead urged "withdrawal from the territories--excepting mutually agreed minor adjustments."

The Gazit interview was published on the eve of an official visit here by de Guiringaud. Officials said last night that the visit would take place despite earlier rumors of its postponement following the French Cabinet's resignation and reshuffle.

Elements Of Shift Noted

Gazit said the shift for the better began in 1976 and would have become apparent earlier had it not been for the Abu Daoud affair last January which put a severe strain on Franco-Israeli relations. There were "ups and downs" during 1976, he said, with de Guiringaud, then Ambassador to the UN, specifically demanding at the Security Council in June an independent state for the Palestinians.

In recent weeks, however, the content of French pronouncements significantly softened, and de Guiringaud, on a tour of Arab capitals in February, deliberately used the term "patrie" on every occasion and stressed that it was capable of various forms of realization. Gazit said that the "interesting shift" for the better resulted from Giscard's personal involvement in policy-making.

Gazit said bilateral ties were good and 1977 promised to be a record year for French tourism to Israel. El Al is predicting business of 150,000-plus, up 35 percent over last year. Gazit said, however, that it was unrealistic for Israel to hope for a change in the "basic economic reality" which is that France is heavily dependent on Arab oil and ran a \$4 billion annual deficit in its overall trade with the Arabs. It was this reality which caused France's "hypersensitivity" towards the Arabs.

Israel, Gazit said, could constantly seek to change the attitude of hypersensitivity but could not change the causes of it. He hoped the shifts he detected in French positions would have practical reflections in votes at UN forums and in France's conduct on Mideast issues within the European Economic Community.

MINOR SKIRMISHES MARK 'LAND DAY'

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA)--"Land Day"

passed with only minor skirmishes in Israel proper but most West Bank businesses and schools were closed by a general strike today and Israeli security forces clashed with Arab youths in several West Bank towns and villages. Shops and schools were closed in East Jerusalem but no incidents occurred.

"Land Day" is the occasion when Arab activists attempt to rally West Bankers and Israeli Arabs to demonstrate in protest against government expropriation of Arab lands in Galilee and to commemorate the deaths of six Israeli Arabs in riots there last March 30.

But the call for a general work stoppage and school shut-down was largely unheeded by Israeli Arabs. A protest meeting called at Baka el-Garbiya, a large Israeli-Arab village, was poorly attended. Some 3000 participants showed up although many more were expected. Israeli sources said that about 60 percent of West Bank Arabs employed in Israel reported for work today.

Incidents On West Bank

But five Arab youths were arrested after a stone-throwing incident with police in one Arab village. Youths from the village of Kefar Kassem, north of Tel Aviv, refused to attend school and blocked the road to Petach Tikva with burning tires. They were dispersed by police.

The most serious incidents occurred in Hebron and in villages near that West Bank town and near Ramallah and Bethlehen. In Hebron a small bomb damaged a Jewish restaurant near the Machpelah Cave, a shrine sacred to Jews and Moslems. Israeli troops firing tear gas dispersed several hundred student demonstrators and several dozen were detained. Police removed a roadblock of burning tires near Tamra village but no injuries or arrests were reported. In Nablus, the largest West Bank town, groups of youths were dispersed after setting fire to tires on the main street, but there were no injuries.

HERZOG SAYS ADJOURNMENT OF SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST WAS A DEFEAT FOR THE EGYPTIANS

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 30 (JTA)--Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, said today that the adjournment of the Security Council's Middle East debate last night was "a defeat" for the Egyptians who initiated the debate which opened here last Friday. The Council adjourned indefinitely last night without adopting any resolutions or making any other decisions.

Diplomatic sources here said that the Egyptians, who wanted the Council to declare its support for the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Geneva talks, agreed to a postponement of the debate without a date for reconvening when they realized that they faced an American veto and were unable to guarantee the necessary nine votes to pass a resolution in the Council. In addition to American opposition, Syria and Libya refused to sup-

port the Egyptian resolution because it was "too moderate" in their view. Some observers said it was unlikely that the debate would be resumed at a later date. "The United States took a very tough position during the debate and it seems unlikely that Egypt will want to face strong American opposition again on this issue," one observer noted.

Herzog said that Egypt's plan at the Council "completely misfired and on the eve of Passover, Israel administered another Passover plague against the Egyptians." Sources here also said that the Egyptians backed off in order to avoid a conflict with the United States on the eve of President Anwar Sadat's visit next week to Washington for talks with President Carter. The United States made it clear that the Egyptian resolution was not acceptable to her. Egypt, therefore, had to agree for a postponement of the debate, avoiding an American veto that would have created a negative effect on the Carter-Sadat discussions.

Addressing the Council prior to its adjournment last night, Herzog challenged the Jordanian delegate, who said earlier that Jews were not driven out of Arab countries, to meet with the representatives of the Jewish-Arab refugees "who have now organized themselves worldwide in order to press their claims against the Arab governments."

The Israeli envoy told the Council that Jewish refugees from Arab lands in Israel now number approximately 1,250,000. He rejected an Arab call for those Jews, made at the Council, to return. He declared that Jews who were driven out of Arab countries have no desire to return because "they know what life for a Jew in an Arab country means."

Charging that Egypt initiated the debate in the Council because of "an apparent internal struggle at the highest level on matters of policy" Herzog said that the Council should not serve as an arena for a domestic political struggle taking place in Egypt. He said that the internal struggle in Egypt is between Sadat and his Foreign Minister, Ismail Fahmy.

CATHOLIC LITURGY OFFICE SUGGESTS SUBSTITUTION FOR 'REPROACHES'

WASHINGTON, March 30 (JTA)--The Secretariat of the Catholic Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy is recommending that the Good Friday "Reproaches" or "Impropria" not be used this year during Holy Week. It was announced here by the U.S. Catholic Conference. The Liturgy Committee's secretariat here suggested that parishes use the option of substituting "other suitable songs" during the Veneration of the Cross in the liturgy of Good Friday, an option clearly spelled out in the church's liturgical books.

The "Reproaches" consists of two medieval hymns that have Christ berating those who have been unfaithful to God. The secretariat acknowledged that this has sometimes been interpreted as addressed directly to Jews. "The church certainly does not intend to foster such an interpretation in its liturgy," the secretariat said.

Last November the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy expressed serious concern over the possibility of such misinterpretations. The present English translation of the text is being carefully studied by the committee with the hope that a new text can be provided for future use, the secretariat noted. "Until that revised text is avail-

able," the secretariat said it strongly encourages parishes to avail themselves of the option of using other suitable hymns.

Rabbi Marc H. Taubenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, hailed this development as an "historic action." He noted that the removal of "this historically-conditioned 'Impropria' prayer with its memories of polemics, antagonisms and hostility toward the Jewish people will constitute a significant act of spiritual liberation" that will ultimately foster "a new spirit of mutual respect and solidarity between the Catholic and Jewish people."

RABBIS URGE RETREAT CENTERS FOR JEWISH COLLEGE STUDENTS TO COUNTERACT CULTS, ASSIMILATION

PITTSBURGH, Pa., March 30 (JTA)--Two leading authorities on cults and movements on college campuses have called on American Jewish communities to establish retreat centers or hostels for American Jewish college-age youth. Rabbi Arthur Green, assistant professor of religion at the University of Pennsylvania, and Rabbi A. James Rudin, assistant director of the interreligious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee, issued their call at a special Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) meeting here this week at Temple Rodef Shalom. Reform rabbis from throughout the nation attended the two-day gathering which dealt with "The World of Our Children."

According to Rabbi Stanley Davids of Springfield, Mass., chairman of the CCAR youth committee, the conference had been called to increase communication between rabbis and students to view Jewish life from the world of students.

Green called upon the American Jewish community to establish retreat centers staffed by a small, ongoing communal group which would provide an address in the Jewish community "where young people in search of a serious religious path might turn." Existing institutions do not meet the needs of young Jews, said Green who is a co-founder of the Havurat Shalom of Boston and one of the major innovative workers with Jewish students.

Rudin said that along with assimilation and intermarriage, the emergence of new cults, especially the Jews for Jesus, Hebrew Christians, Rev. Moon's Unification Church, and the Hare Krishna, "pose a growing threat to Jewish continuity and survival in America." To meet the special needs of young Jews between the ages of 15 and 25, "a greater emphasis must be placed on spiritual values, prayer and a sense of warmth and belonging that is often lacking in today's organized Jewish community," he said.

Rudin recommended that large Jewish communities establish Jewish hostels for young Jews, located in central cities and afford a total Jewish environment: sleeping accommodations, food, classes, counseling, prayer services, entertainment and education. He said that the Jewish community has the financial and professional resources to set up the youth hostels.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Fifty Soviet Jewish communities are baking their own matzo for this year, according to a leading Moscow Jew, following the authorities' refusal to allow the import of matzo from abroad. The Muscovite Jewish leader, Shalom Kleinman, gave this information to Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren in a telephone conversation Wednesday.

YOUNG: CARTER'S USE OF PHRASES 'DEFENSIBLE BORDERS' FOR ISRAEL AND 'PALESTINIAN HOMELAND' NOT ACCIDENTS By David Friedman

NEW YORK, March 30 (JTA)--Andrew Young, the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, said today that President Carter's statements on the need for defensible borders for Israel and a homeland for the Palestinians were no accidents because the President knew what he was saying. He said he attended a meeting with Carter and the President's National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski when it was agreed to use the phrase "defensible borders" instead of "security borders."

Young's remarks were made to some 150 persons at a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations which was closed to the press. His remarks were reported later by a spokesman for the Presidents Conference.

Stressing that he was not speaking for Carter but believed he was reflecting the President's views, Young said Carter realizes something has to be done to end the stalemate in the Middle East and make it possible for the Arabs and Israelis to begin bargaining. He said U.S. policy is not to impose a solution but to encourage flexibility in discussions.

Young said that Carter sees himself as strong and is willing to use some of his strength to bring about a movement toward peace in the Mideast. He said Carter sees himself as a "willing scapegoat" to that end. He noted that Carter is willing to take the "heat" for his statements and believes that they have given Premier Yitzhak Rabin more room to bargain within Israel for a settlement.

Impressed With Rabin

The American envoy personally praised Rabin, according to the spokesman, and said he believes Rabin is a "winner," adding that he is good at picking winners since he was an early supporter of Carter. He said he was impressed with Rabin during his recent visit to Washington and that despite Rabin's narrow victory in the Labor Party convention he came to the U.S. not as "a supplicant," but someone who knew what he wanted and was not hesitant to ask for it.

Young said that in a Middle East settlement, Israel is seeking security from outside forces while the Arabs are concerned with internal stability, an apparent reference to the poor economic conditions, especially of Egypt.

He stated that when he visited the Mideast in 1966 he found in Jordan a hatred among intellectuals that he had experience only by Ku Klux Klan types in the United States. "It brought terror to my heart," Young said. He said this gave him an understanding of the need for military and economic aid to Israel to make it strong and secure enough to cope with the hatred of its enemies. He affirmed that no one can decide for Israel the terms on which it can live, especially people thousands of miles away.

U.S. Policy Unchanged

Young stressed that Carter's handshake with a Palestine Liberation Organization official during his recent UN visit did not mean any change in U.S. policy toward the PLO. He said for Carter to have denied the UN the right to invite anyone it wanted to the reception for him might have jeopardized the U.S. role as a peacemaker in the Mideast. But he claimed that neither he nor

Carter knew they had shaken hands with the PLO representative until he asked UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim about it later.

The U.S. envoy noted that at this week's Security Council debate on the Mideast, the U.S. had again been the lone opponent to having the PLO participate in the meetings. He said the U.S. considered the resolution sponsored by Egypt as "inflammatory" but had not wanted to veto it on the eve of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Washington. He said the Council members agreed to end the discussion, adding the U.S. believes the Council cannot solve the Mideast conflict.

Young stressed to the gathering that the problems of Jews and Blacks are inseparable. He said the recent television program, "Roots," had ignored the religious motivation and survival mechanisms of Black Americans which were essentially based on the Old Testament. Young, a Baptist, said Blacks took the Old Testament as "our book of reference" and that "common heritage" is the basis of both Black and Jewish survival and of "our ongoing working relationship."

FIVE TERRORISTS TO BE TRIED

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA)--The government has officially confirmed a report widely published abroad during last July's Entebbe episode that five young terrorists, three Arabs and two Germans, were foiled by Israeli intelligence in January, 1976, in a plan to shoot down an El Al plane.

An official statement issued here said the incident occurred "abroad." Privately, sources here acknowledge that the reports which placed the incident in Nairobi, Kenya, were correct. The story emerged during the Entebbe operation because the Entebbe Air France hijackers demanded, among other things, the release by Kenya of five terrorists. By then, however, the five had been transferred to Israel. Informed sources here said.

Israel is not prepared to say officially that the incident took place in Kenya so as not to embarrass the Kenyan government which apparently cooperated with Israeli intelligence in foiling the attack.

The official statement, issued by the Prime Minister's Military Secretary, Brig. Gen. Efraim Poran, said: "Because of counter-terror considerations it is impossible to publish any more information at this stage." Sources said Israel released the story at this time because the family of one of the arrested terrorists, a German, was threatening to give it to the world press and Israel feared that publication would create hostility. The trial of the five will be held in a military court. Local lawyers have been appointed for the defense.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--The U.S. position on a suggestion by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko that the Geneva conference be resumed without "Palestinian" participation and that this question be postponed until after the talks begin will be held in abeyance until after Secretary of State Cyrus Vance returns from Moscow, a State Department spokesman said Wednesday. Gromyko's idea was reportedly passed on to Vance.

REMINDER: There will be no Daily News Bulletin dated April 4 due to Passover.

JNF APPROVES BUDGET OF IL 374.5 M IN MOVE TO ENABLE IT TO PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN ZIONIST TASKS FACING ISRAEL By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund board of directors this week approved an IL 374.5 million budget which, in the words of chairman Moshe Rivlin, will enable the JNF to play a major role in "the real Zionist tasks" facing the nation. The budget figure indicates a 25 percent increase over last year, and Rivlin said he hoped a quicker rate of increase in income in future years would enable the JNF to expand its efforts even faster.

The major field of activity--preparing land and infrastructure for agricultural settlements--would see a spurt forward in the fiscal year ahead, Rivlin promised. Twenty-five settlement areas already approved by the government and the Jewish Agency would be readied by JNF heavy equipment teams for living in and working in. Longer range plans, Rivlin noted, call for 80 new settlements--on both sides of the green line--in the next five years, and 180 during the next decade.

Rivlin said he would love to see one of the world's Jewish communities "adopting" one of the JNF's top-priority projects: the building of a water reservoir near Hatzeva, in the Arava on the way to Eilat. He said such a reservoir, at the focus of an elaborate new irrigation system, could facilitate the addition of another 12 settlements in the area to the existing eight. The cost: around IL 30 million, Rivlin said.

Appearing at his first press conference since assuming the JNF chairmanship in January, Rivlin said he looked on his new work as "a vital Zionist challenge" and did it "with love." All three areas of the JNF's activities--land development, afforestation and land-linked education abroad--could be significantly expanded in the years ahead, said the dynamic former director general of the Jewish Agency who was unanimously voted in as chief of JNF.

Rivlin Announces 'Children's Forest'

Looking ahead to the 30th anniversary year of the State's founding, Rivlin announced a worldwide JNF "Children's Forest" project which would be intended to forge new and meaningful bonds between Israeli school children and their Jewish colleagues abroad.

The forest would be in the hills of Jerusalem, Rivlin said. Israeli children would be asked to write to Jewish children in the diaspora suggesting that they participate together in planting three trees each: one in the name of an Israeli child, one in the name of a friend abroad, and one in memory of an anonymous child who perished in the Holocaust and who, "were it not for that, would also be participating in the partnership of building Israel."

The Israeli Ministry of Education is supporting the project, Rivlin noted, and Jewish educational organizations abroad would be asked to help, too. The idea had already been received "with tremendous enthusiasm," he said, by Jewish communities around the world.

In Bern, Switzerland, for example, a leading department store had begun "selling trees in Israel" at 20 francs (\$7) a tree. "These must be the most expensive saplings ever sold," Rivlin noted. He was glad to report that the idea was "doing fine" and said it might be extended to other places as a fund-raising method for JNF

afforestation work.

Shimon Ben-Shemesh, JNF director general, reported that one-quarter of JNF overseas income comes from legacies. He said that a good part of the JNF shlichim's work was involved in counseling on legacy possibilities. Ben-Shemesh said there were 21 JNF shlichim around the world. He noted that this is not a large number considering their manifold tasks. He said none stay abroad for longer than four years at a stretch.

Meir Shamir, head of the JNF's land works section, said Israelis had "learned to use recreation facilities" better over the years and hence there was a drop in vandalism in JNF parks and woodland picnic sites.

CJC PLENARY VIEWED AS HISTORIC

MONTREAL, March 30 (JTA)--The Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) 18th Plenary Assembly May 12-15 is being viewed as one of the most important in the history of the 58-year-old organization. According to the CJC assembly organizers, the significance lies in the current situation in Canada, specifically in Quebec, which will affect the Jewish community perhaps to a greater extent than it will most other Canadians.

According to Shirley Rabinovitch, chairwoman of the arrangements committee, Quebec Premier Rene Levesque is slated to make a major address May 13 during which he is expected to deal with issues of significance to the province's minority groups. Secretary of State John Roberts will also participate in the conference, Mrs. Rabinovitch said, "and he will bring greetings to the Jewish community on behalf of the federal government."

In addition to dealing with the political climate in Quebec, the assembly will also deal with the evolving role of the CJC at both the national and local levels and the policy of the federal government on issues relating to Israel. All major sessions will be conducted in simultaneous French-English translation.

Mrs. Rabinovitch, who is also national vice-president of Hadassah-WIZO, reported that some 1000 delegates from every Jewish organization in Canada are currently being mandated to attend the conference. "Delegates will be asked for their stand regarding the expenditure of community funds," she said. "We must come to grips with the reality of what is possible and what is not possible to do with our limited funds."

A panel of international Jewish leaders will review the current state of Jewish communities throughout the world. It is scheduled to include Lord Fisher of Camden, president, Board of Deputies of British Jews; Philip Klutznick, chairman, World Jewish Congress board of governors; Prof. Yoram Dinstein, Hebrew University; and Alan Rose, national executive director, CJC.

LONDON (JTA)--Publication of the first full length biography of Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin has been delayed until September because of the forthcoming general election. Robson Books, publisher of the book by Robert Slater, a young American journalist living in Jerusalem, told the JTA that it was originally to have appeared in May, the manuscript was finished and could have been brought out on the eve of the election. However, the publisher preferred to wait until autumn in order to describe the election and Rabin's other experiences in 1977.