

## RELIGIOUS, NON-RELIGIOUS YOUTHS BATTLE IN BNEI BRAK OVER CLOSING OF STREET TO TRAFFIC ON THE SABBATH

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 10 (JTA)—Hundreds of police re-enforcements and soldiers were rushed to Bnei Brak Friday night where religious youths and non-religious demonstrators battled on the main street over the controversial closing of the thoroughfare to traffic on the Sabbath. Three policemen were injured. One was struck in the face by a rock.

The clash occurred a week after a young Israeli, Herzl Attaya, was killed when his jeep crashed into a chain stretched across Hashomer Street to block traffic. The street runs through non-religious neighborhoods as well as those inhabited by observant Jews in the ultra-Orthodox municipality north of Tel Aviv. Non-religious groups are challenging the right of the township to close the street. But the issue appeared to have been resolved at a meeting between the two groups held during the week. The Orthodox town leaders agreed to allow non-observant residents to drive through the street on Saturdays.

But apparently political elements on both sides continued to agitate. On Friday evening, a group of non-religious youths from outside Bnei Brak converged on police barricades to protest religious coercion. Although they had no permit to demonstrate, the police officer in charge allowed them to assemble on condition that they were orderly. The police are understanding orders to act with utmost restraint toward both sides in the dispute.

But when the demonstration became unruly and some of the youths knocked down barricades, re-enforcements were called in and the crowd was forcibly dispersed. None of the demonstrators were injured and no arrests were made. Shortly afterwards, however, large groups of Orthodox youths arrived on the scene and fighting broke out between them and the demonstrators. Police and troops intervened but the area was not cleared until well past midnight.

### Political Ramifications Noted

The incidents have political ramifications at a time when many Israelis are concerned by the religious concessions Premier Menachem Begin granted the National Religious Party (NRP) and the Aguda bloc to join his coalition government. The Agudat Israel members of the Bnei Brak town council have charged police with violating an alleged agreement that no traffic whatsoever would be permitted on Hashomer St. on the Sabbath.

Itzhak Meir, Deputy Mayor of Bnei Brak, implied that the Aguda was disappointed that the government has not intervened in the dispute on the Orthodox side. "You cannot sit in the coalition when the government is acting like this," he said.

### U.S. DOES NOT BELIEVE ANTI-SEMITISM IS OFFICIAL ARGENTINE GOV'T. POLICY

By David Ettinger

WASHINGTON, July 10 (JTA)—The State Department said it did not believe that anti-Semitism was an official policy of the government of Argentina. "It is our belief that anti-Semitism is not the policy of the President of Argentina (Jorge Rafael Videla) or his government," a Department spokesman

told newsmen Friday.

The spokesman's comments came in response to questions about the anti-Semitic and anti-American threats against the representative of the American Jewish Committee in Buenos Aires, Jacobo Kovadloff, and his family. The AJ Committee announced in New York last Thursday that it was closing its Buenos Aires office after 29 years because of the threats.

Kovadloff met in Washington Thursday with the Argentine Ambassador, according to the spokesman, which he said reflects the "serious concern" of the Argentine government about the incident. "The American Charge d'affaires in Buenos Aires has brought the problem to the attention of the Argentine Foreign Ministry," the spokesman said. He said AJ Committee president Richard Maass and Kovadloff met last Wednesday with William Stedman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs "to exchange views" on the situation.

### JUDGE BLAMES PILOT FOR HELICOPTER CRASH IN WHICH 54 ISRAELIS DIED

TEL AVIV, July 10 (JTA)—A military judge has blamed the pilot for the crash of a helicopter in which 54 Israeli soldiers were killed May 10. The judge said that Capt. Moshe Winter, who also died in the crash, was flying lower than permissible during hours of darkness. The helicopter crashed near Jericho during a military exercise causing the largest single military death toll in Israel's history.

The judge also recommended that the army consider bringing charges against the commanding officer of the helicopter unit, a major, because he had allowed the entire unit to fly at altitudes lower than regulation if they felt it was safe. The major had himself flown at the same altitude as Capt. Winter. The parents of the victims also are urging that the commander be prosecuted, saying that they are not satisfied that a dead man was being blamed.

### BEGIN URGES A 'POLITICAL ARMISTICE' IN THE MIDEAST; DOLE SAYS THE WEST BANK IS 'LIBERATED TERRITORY'

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, July 10 (JTA)—Premier Menachem Begin urged a "political armistice" in the Middle East and suggested that Israel and its Arab neighbors refrain from defining future borders and national security until the Geneva conference convenes. Begin offered the truce in his address to the 80th annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America here.

He responded to a warning by President Anwar Sadat that Egypt would retaliate if Israel launched an atomic war by saying that Israel will not threaten war, nuclear or conventional. Begin also expressed hope that President Carter will order the U.S. Embassy moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Sen. Robert Dole (R. Kan.), who also spoke at the ZOA convention, declared that Jerusalem is historically and legally a Jewish city and that "In the search for a solution, whatever else may be negotiable, the capital of Israel clearly is not." Dole, who was President Ford's running mate in the U.S. elections last year, said he agreed

fully with Begin's view that the West Bank is "liberated territory, not occupied territory". He claimed that Israel has the right to relinquish all or part of the West Bank territory but "that is her right, it is not her obligation".

#### Changes In The Arab World Noted

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan told the convention that Israel was ready to make political compromises but would not compromise on its ideals. He said the Arabs "still want what they wanted before but they now want to get it through American pressure rather than by force of arms".

He noted, however, that there have been changes in the Arab world. While the late Egyptian President, Gamal Abdel Nasser, preferred to have the Suez Canal blocked and the canal cities devastated, Sadat has opened the canal to navigation, has brought back millions of people to the canal cities and is even ready for peace talks, Dayan said. In warning that the Arabs have not given up their goals regarding Israel, he said "we should see in a positive light their readiness for a political alternative."

Defense Minister Ezer Weizmann said he regards as his greatest challenge the prevention of war. "To prevent war, we shall use political wisdom and maintain our military strength," he told the convention. He also thanked the United States for the great aid it has rendered to Israel.

Shimon Peres, who was the Defense Minister in the Rabin government, received a prolonged applause when he said "We shall not permit political differences to split our unity as a nation, as Jews and as Zionists." He called for the continued upbuilding of Jerusalem and urged that aliyah be increased. "Israel should be a magnet for aliyah," he declared.

#### Some U.S. Officials Playing Devious Game

Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the ZOA, lashed out at elements in the State Department and other officials of the Carter Administration who he accused of playing a "devious game" in the course of recent negotiations. "It seems that the State Department machinations are coupled with brandishing the recent Brookings Report as God's own word on Middle East policy," Sternstein said. He was referring to a study made by the Brookings Institute some time ago which recommended Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territories with only minor border rectifications.

Sternstein said the ZOA approved and endorsed Jewish settlements in the Judea and Samaria regions. Refraining from such settlements "will not buy good will or favor from our enemies," he said.

The ZOA convention received a message of greetings from President Carter. The President said: "I assure you of my Administration's commitment to the security of Israel and to the realization of our shared goal of peace. The ties between Israel and the U.S. are deep, strong and enduring." The convention opening last Thursday night was attended by President Ephraim Katzir, Cabinet ministers, U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis and Mayor Teddy Kolek of Jerusalem.

(In Washington, the State Department refused to comment on statements by Dole and Sternstein supporting Israeli control of the West Bank. The Department also refused to comment on a charge, made several days earlier by Former Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon that the U.S. "was bullying the new Israeli government into a Middle East settlement by making irresponsible demands to withdraw from occupied Arab land.")

#### WALDHEIM TO DISCUSS TERRITORIES, GENEVA TALKS WHEN HE MEETS WITH BEGIN AT THE UN ON JULY 22

PARIS, July 10 (JTA)--United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim said here that he will raise the question of occupied territories when he meets with Israeli Premier Menachem Begin. Waldheim said he had invited Begin to meet with him in New York, July 22 to discuss the future of the territories and assess the chances of an early resumption of the Geneva conference. Begin will be in Washington July 19-20 to meet with President Carter. On July 21 the Israeli Premier will be guest of honor at a national dinner of welcome and tribute in New York under the auspices of the Israel Bond Organization.

Waldheim told a press conference here Friday that he doubted that the Geneva talks could be resumed Oct. 10 as Begin suggested recently. He said the situation regarding the West Bank, following statements made by the Premier, had to be clarified before the Israelis and the Arabs could start serious talks.

He added that the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Geneva talks had still to be solved. Waldheim said the question of Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories was at the nucleus of the problems to be tackled.

He added: "But there is also the question of a homeland for the Palestinian people as suggested by President Carter and rejected by the Israeli government, and of course, the right of Israel to exist within secure and recognized borders... all this has to be done between now and the resumption of the Geneva talks". Waldheim said all parties involved must be fully prepared to take part in the talks, "otherwise we run the risk of a failure".

#### REPORT PLO INVESTING IN U.S. BLUE CHIP FIRMS DOING BUSINESS IN MIDEAST

NEW YORK, July 10 (JTA)--Time magazine said in its current issue that the Palestine Liberation Organization has built up an investment portfolio amounting to an estimated \$60-\$100 million which includes shares in "blue chip American companies that have operations in the Middle East".

Describing the PLO as "probably the richest, best financed revolutionary-terrorist organization in history," Time said its other holdings include two Beirut hotels, shares in shipyards and oil tankers and a youth hostel under construction in Cairo.

Time said that "Some of this money has even been used for the quiet purchase of land on the West Bank that local Palestinians might otherwise be tempted to sell to the Israelis." According to the report, "The Palestinians also claim to make \$5 million a year operating an illegal drug market inside Israel, using Oriental Jews as pushers."

#### Terrorism Replenishes PLO Coffers

But the PLO's principal sources of income are subventions from the oil-producing Arab states, notably Saudi Arabia and from other Arab states which totals about \$70 million a year. Another \$10 million comes from the 300,000 Palestinians living in the Arab oil states where 5 percent of their wages are routinely withheld as a contribution to the Palestinian movement.

"Every so often, the Palestinian coffers have been replenished with income extracted by terrorism," Time reported. The magazine referred to the \$25 million ransom paid jointly by Iran and Saudi Arabia for the '81 hostages taken at the OPEC

meeting in Vienna in December, 1975.

According to Time, the PLO's assets "are mainly held through numbered bank accounts and blind names to prevent Israeli retaliation and also to camouflage the wealth of a movement that prides itself on its warrior image."

#### U.S. INDIANS WANT ARAB, 3RD WORLD AID

WASHINGTON, July 10 (JTA)--Representatives of 23 Indian tribes in the West have held two meetings here with representatives of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Nations (OPEC) in an effort to gain help from Arab and Third World countries to develop uranium and coal reserves thought to lie beneath their reservations.

Peter MacDonald, tribal chairman of the Navajo Nation and chairman of the Council of Energy Resource Tribes, which met with the OPEC members, said another meeting will be held this week. While he declined to identify the countries with which the Council met late last month, he said the Indians are appealing to the Arab and Third World nations because of what he termed federal red tape. He said the talks were initiated by the Indians. The tribes involved represent about two-thirds of the American Indian population.

#### SCHOLARS, JURISTS PROBE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE STATE AND RELIGION

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, July 10 (JTA)--The delicate issue of relations between the State and religion and the balance between individual rights and the public's right to an orderly society were probed by scholars and jurists at the 13th annual American-Israel Dialogue at the Jerusalem-Hilton Hotel last week. The dialogue, conducted by the Van Leer Institute, brought together about 35 academicians, rabbis, lawyers, judges and communal leaders from the U.S. and Israel.

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress, introduced the theme of the 1977 dialogue—the rights of the individual under American, Israeli and halachic law. He said that "While complete separation of State and synagogue would deny the very basis of the Jewish State, it is equally true that any fusion of religious and civil authority would mutilate Israel's modern character."

Hertzberg, a Conservative rabbi of Englewood, N.J., said "There are no more absolutes whether in the relationship between the government and the rabbinate, the competition between economic laissez faire and the welfare state or the tension between liberty and license." He said that "In Israel, what the law must seek is a balance between the obligatory character of halacha and the libertarian nature of the modern state."

An Orthodox rabbi and Talmudic scholar, Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein, objected that "The very formulation of the dialogue is non-halachic, perhaps even anti-halachic in character." He claimed that "rights, natural or other, are the legacy of Locke, John Stuart Mill and Martin Luther King, Jr. They are not the 'lingua franca' of the Torah, the Talmud."

#### Individual Rights, Public Order

Justice Haim Cohn of Israel's Supreme Court said at another session that "Israeli law has failed to achieve an equitable balance" between individual rights and public order. He referred specifically to the area of labor law where, he claimed "the right of the individual has become and remained well nigh absolute." He said that "The

right to strike, traditionally regarded here by many as the most fundamental human right, has been allowed time and again to paralyze public services, jeopardize vital state interests and oust any conflicting rights of the community at large or of the individuals effected."

According to Cohn, none of the remedies provided under Israeli law has proved effective enough to compete with the "inviolable, immaculate, primordial right to strike". He suggested that perhaps "we were all too optimistic when we assumed that promoting and safeguarding individual rights was a 'sine qua non' in upholding the State".

#### U.S. SCIENTISTS URGE USSR TO ALLOW LEVICH TO ATTEND OXFORD SCIENCE CONFAB

WASHINGTON, July 10 (JTA)--A group of distinguished American scientists have urged the Soviet Union to permit Prof. Benjamin Levich, the Moscow Jewish activist, world-renowned electrochemist and member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, to attend a scientific conference being held in his honor at Oxford University in England this week. At a news conference held Friday, under the auspices of the Committee of Concerned Scientists, Nobel Laureate Julius Axelrod said he would refuse invitations to visit the USSR unless Levich was permitted to attend the conference or to emigrate.

Axelrod, who received the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1970, urged scientific organizations to refrain from holding meetings in the Soviet Union until the USSR "exhibits a willingness to live up to the principles of free scientific exchange." He termed Levich's predicament "not only a violation of scientific freedom but of fundamental human rights".

Another participant at the conference, Dr. Robert Adelstein, noted that "since filing his application for permission to emigrate Levich has suffered innumerable harassments in both his professional and personal life.

According to Adelstein, Levich has not been permitted to publish his research, give lectures or attend scientific conferences. Levich has also been subjected to lengthy and threatening interrogation by the KGB, he added.

Levich is reportedly being detained on the grounds that he was privy to state secrets until 1950. A special commission of the Soviet Academy of Sciences has since concluded that such information is obsolete. In a letter released at the conference, Levich appealed to his Western colleagues not to "get discouraged" and said: "I and others like me derive our strength from your genuine concern and your unremitting support."

#### DMC, LIKUD TALKS RESUME

TEL AVIV, July 10 (JTA)--Negotiations between the Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) and Likud were resumed this morning. A team of six representatives from each side reviewed all the issues that were taken up the past two weeks during informal talks between DMC leader Yigael Yadin, Likud and the National Religious Party leaders. It now appears certain the DMC will not join the government coalition before Premier Menachem Begin visits Washington July 19-20. The negotiations will apparently take some time and Begin is unable to participate in them since he is busy with preparations for his Washington visit.

AMSTERDAM (JTA)--An exhibition "The Old Testament in Music," prepared by the Haifa Museum of Music, is now in the Museum "Het Prinsenhof" in Delft near The Hague.

## UNIVERSITY-ACCUSED OF SPONSORING COURSES WHICH ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO CONVERT TO MEDIEVAL CATHOLICISM

By Brian Lipsitz

NEW YORK (JTA)--The Jewish Community Relations Bureau (JCRB) of Kansas City has accused the University of Kansas of sponsoring a series of humanities courses in which students are encouraged to convert to medieval Catholicism. A memorandum issued by the JCRB said: "Moreover, a disproportionate number of former IHP (Integrated Humanities Program) students are now in the Benedictine monastery at Fontgombault, France."

In a phone interview, David Goldstein, JCRB executive director, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that it is "generally conceded... that in the Abby, there are nine (former IHP) students" of whom three are believed to be Jewish. Goldstein said he is certain two are Jewish, after their identities became known when they returned home to visit their parents.

According to the JCRB memo titled, "A Warning About the Integrated Humanities Program at the University of Kansas," which was sent as an alert to various Jewish communities, "The Catalogue (explaining the course) does not discuss the student trips to this monastery organized by the IHP faculty, or the 1976 student trip to a remote island in western Ireland where instruction in Roman Catholicism, using a Roman Catholic catechism, was given."

According to the JCRB, the program at the state school in Lawrence, Kansas, is described by the catalogue as a freshman-sophomore program "devoted to an introductory study of great philosophical, historical and literary books of Western Civilization, from Homer to Dostoyevski." It consists of four six-credit-hour courses taught by Professors Dennis Quinn, Franklyn Nelick, and John Senior.

The memo adds: "While the IHP faculty deny they are 'brainwashing', it seems evident to many observers that the great books are used to introduce young students to only one point of view, that of medieval Roman Catholicism... All published reports agree that contrary views are not aired in the IHP classes. Memorization is stressed, but not dialogue and analysis: The Bible is read, but without scholarly methods of study. Students are not permitted to take notes in class or to ask questions. They are told not to read even the footnotes and commentaries in the editions of the books they use. They are warned against television, radio, newspapers, magazines and drama."

### University Confirms JCRB Memo

Contacted by the JTA, Theodore A. Wilson, Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Kansas, said: "It is a very ambiguous issue involving claims of academic freedom and involving questions of the separation of church and state." He added: "The statements in the release (JCRB memo) are accurate."

Wilson said the university has difficulty separating what goes on in the classroom from what may occur outside the classroom as regards the student-professor relationship. The professors offer personal counseling, Wilson said. Yet, there is "no evidence the professors have stepped over that line (dictated by the separation of church and state)," within the classroom. It would be difficult to prove, as no written records exist of the classes since note-taking is banned, he said. In addition, Wilson said the university would have to change its position on academic freedom before it could monitor the classes.

The courses are not required, Wilson said, but are electives which satisfy the humanities require-

ments. The professors have been teaching the program for "about eight years". Students receive no credit for their monastery study, he said.

While the university is not investigating in-class activities, Wilson said the administration has interviewed students about their outside activities. Although he did not elaborate, he said: "I think the allegations that have been raised are serious."

### Lunch-Time Conversions Alleged

According to Goldstein, students sometimes have lunch at professors' homes, which, he said, in and of itself, would be a constructive activity. But Goldstein alleged that an atmosphere encouraging conversion to Catholicism exists at the lunches. Furthermore, he said, students and professors sometimes go to mass together, "presumably to help them in their Latin (ecclesiastical Latin, not classical)". And although the trip to Ireland was "presumably a voluntary activity," Goldstein asserted that there was "a lot of pressure to take it."

Wilson said college credit for the Ireland program has stopped because of reports of proselytizing. According to Goldstein, about 300 students were in the IHP last year. Wilson said "...at its height, 100 students out of 20,000 students at the school," were taking the course.

An interfaith committee called "The Committee for Academic and Religious Freedom" has been formed, Goldstein said, with its primary goal being to inform potential students about the actual program. Beyond that, Goldstein said the committee would like to see the program modified so that opposite points of view are aired. He said: "This is not in any way a Jewish issue."

One well-informed observer said he felt there was a reluctance to challenge state officials publicly because of, what he believes to be, grass-roots support for the program from many small town parents who fear their children will become "hippies" or radicalized when sent away to college. Although their children may convert from being Baptists to Catholics, they view this as being a far lesser evil.

### Position of "Benevolent Neglect"

That observer added that a low-keyed approach is preferred to prevent the issue from becoming so controversial that students will take the course out of curiosity. Wilson also said the program has "very strong defenders," particularly parents whose children (with, for example, drug problems) were straightened out.

One university official close to the issue, who requested that his name not be used, said: "The administration is taking a position of benevolent neglect. By gradually withholding support for the program... the prospectus over the next year or so is that the program will decline...," as it loses its publicity and "sense of specialness," which is "its main motivating force". Beyond that, the official said, the university would drop the course if legal action showed the professors were proselytizing.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--Alexander Feldman, released on April 22 after serving a 3-1/2 year labor camp sentence, is scheduled to leave for Israel with his family on July 15; the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry reported. Feldman was sentenced in 1973 after being convicted for "malicious hooliganism".