

STATE DEPARTMENT EXPRESSES DISAPPOINTMENT THAT ISRAEL HAS LEGALIZED 3 WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS

By David Ettinger

WASHINGTON, July 26 (JTA)—The State Department today expressed "deep disappointment" over an announcement in Jerusalem that Israel has legalized three settlements in the West Bank. According to Department spokesman Hoddging Carter, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Alfred Atherton telephoned Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz this morning to convey the Department's "disappointment."

"We have consistently made clear, including in our recent talks here in Washington, our view that the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories is not only contrary to the Fourth Geneva Convention, but also constitutes an obstacle to the peace-making process," Carter told reporters.

According to Carter, the State Department "has been in touch with the Israeli government" which "has informed us it is taking action to give legal status to three existing settlements in the West Bank." Carter identified the settlements as Maale Edumim, east of Jerusalem, Ofra, near Ramallah, and Eilon Moreh (Kadum), near Nablus.

"Our understanding is that the former Israeli government had refused to legalize, at least one of the settlements," the spokesman said. He confirmed that the question of Israeli settlement in the occupied territories was discussed during Premier Menachem Begin's visit here last week, but was unable to say whether Begin had informed the President of his intention to legalize the settlements.

Settlement Decision Defended In Jerusalem

(In Jerusalem, Begin denied reports today in Israeli and American newspapers that he had promised President Carter not to establish any settlements on the West Bank or other occupied areas until after Oct. 10, the date Begin has suggested for reconvening the Geneva Conference. However, he did not specifically say that he would plan new settlements. Begin made his statements to reporters after he met with President Ephraim Katzir to apprise him of his trip to the United States.)

(At the same time government officials in Jerusalem defended the "Ministerial Settlements Committee" decision to formally legalize the three West Bank settlement as "not a new departure." The officials, conscious of the immediate negative reactions the decision was likely to provoke, sought to stress that all three sites were already extant settlements—which had won at least the tacit consent of the previous government—and whose positions were now being merely "regularized.")

Unlikely To Endanger Hope For Peace

Although Hoddging Carter would not go as far as to say that the effect of the legalization would be to "endanger the hope for peace," he voiced the hope that "prior to the new round of discussions in the Middle East there will be no steps to make the search for peace more difficult." He said the U.S. was disappointed by the Israeli action "because it runs contrary to our long-standing belief on what should be done in the occupied territories."

The Department spokesman said his statement was

"officially relayed" to the Israeli government and had been approved by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

In another development, Hoddging Carter would not comment on reports that the U.S. and the Soviet Union were seeking agreement on the possibility of stationing United Nations forces along the Israeli-Lebanese border. Vance, who will be leaving this weekend for a trip to the Middle East, is scheduled to meet with Dinitz this afternoon as part of what was called a routine meeting before his departure. It was probable that the issue of the settlements would come up, State Department officials said. Yesterday, Vance met with a delegation of Arab ambassadors to brief them on the President's talks with Begin and Vance's plans for his trip.

PERES REJECTS ALLEGATION BY BEGIN THAT LABOR LEAKED HIS PEACE PLAN

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 26 (JTA)—Labor Party leader Shimon Peres lashed back at Premier Menachem Begin for the latter's allegation that Labor Alignment MKs had "leaked" parts of his peace proposals to the press before they were presented to President Carter in Washington. Begin made the charge during a press conference at Ben Gurion Airport yesterday morning on his return from the U.S.

Peres, addressing his party's Knesset faction yesterday, angrily rejected the accusation. He said the gist of Begin's plan was leaked before Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan presented it to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee last week. It was printed in three newspapers before Dayan's briefing and therefore must have come from government circles close to Begin, Peres said.

The incident, which marked the first public row between the Likud regime and the opposition is expected to have repercussions during Wednesday's Knesset debate on Begin's visit to Washington.

Meanwhile, sources close to Begin told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they had learned in reliable quarters that two former Labor ministers on the Knesset committee met shortly after Dayan's briefing with 7-8 non-members of the committee to discuss the Begin peace plan. The sources said that Begin's warning that "we shall learn the lesson" from the leak meant that in the future the government would be more careful in furnishing information to the Knesset's Foreign Affairs Committee.

They said the government would not necessarily withhold information from the panel but might delay divulging it. Peres noted that the Knesset's constitution entitled the committee to full access to information relevant to foreign affairs and defense policy-making.

SOME 180 JEWISH RESIDENTS IN JOHNSTOWN DISPLACED FROM HOMES OR HAD THEIR BUSINESSES DAMAGED BY FLOOD

By Brian Lipsitz

NEW YORK, July 26 (JTA)—Approximately one-third of the Jewish residents in flood-ravaged Johnstown, Pa. have either been displaced from their homes or had their businesses damaged, according to Jim Young, assistant director of the

Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds (CJF), who has just returned from Johnstown where he spent two days assessing the flood's effect on the Jewish community. Fortunately, Young said, no Jewish lives were lost.

The death toll has risen to 59, with up to 60 people still missing as a result of last week's savage flooding from the overflowing Conemaugh River valley. As it continued to rain, civil defense officials warned of the possibility of more flooding. Gov. Milton J. Shapp has estimated total damage in the area at \$200 million.

Young was scheduled to return to Johnstown today to meet with local Jewish community leaders to determine specific needs and to finalize plans for assisting the businessmen and displaced persons affected by the flood. Over 25 Jewish businesses have sustained severe structural damage and loss of stock due to the mud and water, Young told the JTA.

Synagogue Buildings Not Damaged

Since most of the Jewish community lives in the suburbs on higher ground than the city proper, their homes were not damaged, Young said. But he added that about 35 elderly Jews who live in the city itself, mainly in apartments, have been forced to find temporary shelter with other Jews in the suburbs or in emergency shelters. The two synagogue buildings of Beth Shalom Congregation were not damaged, Young said.

There is still no electricity, water, or phone service for the Johnstown area and it may take a month before things return to normal, he said. Unable to contact the Jewish community by phone because the flood disrupted communications, Young went there in a private plane and after receiving a pass from the National Guard, was driven into the central city by jeep where he met with Jewish leaders.

Most of the damaged businesses were medium and small sized. Some were large enterprises. "That's a lot of businesses for a little community of 550 Jews," Young said, adding that: "They will try to rebuild."

Young is familiar with emergency relief of this nature after having spent several weeks in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. when it was flooded in 1972. The flooding in Wilkes-Barre was "much more severe," Young said, as about 90 percent of the Jews there lost their homes and businesses, and all the Jewish institutions were damaged. Young said the CJF is still helping in Wilkes-Barre and intends to do what is necessary for the Johnstown Jewish community.

Actions To Aid City Outlined

A memo issued by the CJF on efforts to help the flood-ravaged city said the following actions were designed:

"The community is contacting the people displaced from their homes in the central city, to determine their needs.

"The community will ascertain the needs of the businessmen. We will help them obtain the full assistance of the Small Business Administration and other government aid, and to organize any special help required beyond that.

"The Jewish community is volunteering its assistance to the general community in many ways. For example, the unemployment compensation office is housed in one of the synagogue buildings, and arrangements are being made also to house a day care center that lost its facility. And the Jewish leaders are active in a number of volunteer services."

In addition, the CJF memo said: "We will continue in closest contact with the community, for every assistance we can provide, directly and through our associated Federations and organizations. Wilkes-Barre itself has offered to make available its ex-

perienced personnel."

PROBE CONTINUES INTO BOMBING INCIDENT

By David Ettinger

WASHINGTON, July 26 (JTA)--The FBI and Montgomery County (Maryland) police are continuing the investigation into the bomb explosion which yesterday ripped through the Rockville, Md. home of Morris J. Amitay, executive director of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). According to police, whoever set off the blast must have been "sophisticated" in the use of explosives.

The bomb was detonated by an electrical device not far from the house, according to police reports. About 400 feet of electric cord was found leading from the site of the blast. The explosion caused an estimated \$50,000 in damages, punching out the door on the ground floor along with an adjacent window and making a hole 10-feet wide in the side of the house. Neither Amitay, his wife Sybil nor their three children, who were asleep at the time of the explosion around 3 a.m., were hurt but the explosion killed the family dog.

Police theorized that Amitay's "highly visible" position as a leading advocate for Israel's cause in Washington made him a likely target. So far no individual or group has claimed responsibility for the bombing. Speculation, however, about who may have been responsible ranged from pro-Palestinian terrorists to members of the Hanafi Moslem sect whose leader along with other members were convicted last Saturday in connection with the armed takeover last March of three buildings in Washington, including the B'nai B'rith headquarters.

Pro-Palestinians Deny Involvement

Police so far have discounted a Hanafi role in the bombing. Representatives of some of the major pro-Palestinian groups have denied any involvement. Dr. M.T. Mehdi, president of the American-Arab Relations Committee, said in a statement released today in Chicago where he was visiting that the "terrorist attack...even if it might have been the work of a Palestinian or a pro-Palestinian organization" should be condemned. "Violence to settle political issues has no place here (in the United States)."

Amitay, 41, has long been considered one of the most effective spokesmen for Israel on Capitol Hill. A former State Department official, he had been a legislative assistant to Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier (D. Wis.) and Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D. Conn.) before joining AIPAC in December, 1974.

Yesterday's incident recalled the assassination of Col. Yosef Alon, the Israeli air and naval attaché in Washington, who was shot outside his Bethesda, Md. home in July, 1973. No one has ever been arrested in that case.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Only six of the 12 representatives of the World Zionist Organization's Israel Executive will be going to Washington for the biennial World Jewish Congress general council meeting Oct. 30, the WZO Executive announced this week. The other six WZO representatives will be enlisted from among its American section--in order to save on travel expenses. The announcement was made by the WZO spokesman after the Executive meeting. There has been periodic criticism in the Israeli press of allegedly too free and frequent travel abroad by WZO officials at public expense, and this latest decision is plainly aimed to counter that.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**TRYING TO COOL IT IN CROWN HEIGHTS**

By Nancy Chanin and Brian Lipsitz

NEW YORK, July 26 (JTA)--The Hasid, sits hanging at his side, and the young man, a Black, clad in a bright blue gym suit, could be seen gesturing and talking to each other as they faced the maroon store front. A closer look revealed they were reading a flier which portrayed a Hasidic Jew beating up a young Black.

The flier charged the Crown Heights Community Patrol, a civilian anti-crime patrol sponsored by the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, with harassing Blacks and said: "Are we willing to be put into a Concentration Camp without raising our voices?" Across the street, at this seemingly innocuous corner of Troy Avenue and Montgomery Street, in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, stood the solitary telephone booth where, on June 4, 17-year-old yeshiva student Abraham Goldman was stabbed to death.

There is an air of tension in the tree-shaded Crown Heights area. And the damage to stores in this area during the power blackout July 13-14 is, perhaps, not entirely unrelated to the simmering feelings of suspicion and distrust between the Hasidic and Black communities here. Crown Heights, the center for the Lubavitcher Hasidim, is now about 60 percent Black and 35 percent Hasidic.

Since the Goldman murder, the Jewish community has been tense and angry. The Jewish crime prevention patrol has intensified its duties. According to the Jewish Community Council, these duties are to protect both the Jewish and Black residents of the area by serving as a deterrent to crime. But according to many Blacks, the patrol has taken the law into its own hands by harassing and assaulting Blacks. To the Black community, the patrol is little more than a "vigilante" group not in the least concerned with the welfare of Blacks. These feelings culminated in the July 9 demonstration by about 500 Blacks to protest the alleged actions of the patrol.

The Black Point Of View

In random interviews with Jews and Blacks in Crown Heights, many Black residents told the JTA they thought the patrol was a good idea, but that some of its members occasionally abused their power. Some Blacks said the patrol should not exist, but if it had to exist it should also include Blacks.

Taylor Hamp, a Crown Heights resident for 20 years, said he was recently "pulled" from his car while sitting in a no-parking zone by members of the patrol. He said he decided not to press charges because of what he termed the political power possessed by the Hasidic community. "They have the officers under their thumb," he said. Hamp said the existence of the patrol had created a "tense" atmosphere. "The idea is great but not the methods," he said.

Bernard and Larry, two young men who attended the July 9 demonstration, thought the patrol "looks pretty good but was kind of unfair." Larry said he had been approached by patrol members and "hassled." Verbal harassment is the key issue. "Both complained that patrol members were 'limiting themselves' by not protecting everyone in Crown Heights." Bernard said that if someone was being robbed just outside the precinct where they were being interviewed, the patrol "wouldn't get involved. If the patrol protected everyone, we would have a lot more community cooperation." At a recent press conference, members of the Hasidic community would not say how extensive an area

their patrol covers.

Patrol Activity Praised

However, Scholom Gansburg, a Crown Heights resident, said the patrol was "necessary" and that it was doing a "fair job." A few months ago Gansburg said he was held up by Blacks and the patrol appeared immediately, caught his assailants and took him to the hospital.

The patrol is "necessary" because "people are aware that the area is not being protected," said a rabbi who would not identify himself but was present at the press conference. He said that the July 9 demonstration was "purely political," involving "people who were running for something." People were "imported" to attend the demonstration, the rabbi said. Classes at Medgar Evers College in the Crown Heights area were "interrupted" and people were told to attend the rally, according to the rabbi.

Yudal Zalmanson, a worker at the Crown Cuisine restaurant, said he disagreed with charges that the patrol was a terrorizing influence. He said it "takes guts" to belong to the patrol. An employee of a local fish market praised the patrol for "protecting young girls," while Leon Blesofsky, a cantor, said it was a "wonderful thing." The police are good, "but they can't be at every corner," Blesofsky added.

During the blackout, Utica Avenue, a major thoroughfare in Crown Heights, was severely looted and damaged. However, Kingston Avenue, another thoroughfare, was virtually untouched. Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky, a spokesman for the Lubavitcher Hasidim, attributed this to the fact that the patrol is centered in the Kingston area. He said: "It was a tremendous thing (the patrol). There is no question in my mind it was a deterrent" to the looting.

Trying To Get Together

The Blacks readily accept the claims of various fliers, posted and distributed to Blacks in the area, which accuse the Hasidim of harassing them, although few Blacks say they themselves have seen such incidents. The Jews deny any such actions asserting that in instances where the patrol members may have acted too forcefully, it was only in self-defense.

The Crown Heights Community Council announced two weeks ago that it wanted to meet with Black leaders to resolve the tensions, and said that Blacks have been invited to join the patrol. However, the process is slow, said Rabbi Mendel Shemtov, chairman of the Council. The Council is trying to find responsible Black leaders to help design a framework by which Blacks could join the patrol. Shemtov told the JTA, but added that they are having a problem finding them.

A rather talkative man known as Hanks said that having Blacks join the patrol was a good idea. According to Hamp, "A lot would like to join who are concerned with the community and want to share the responsibility. People on blocks will form their own groups if they don't work something out."

Gansburg said he found it "hard to comment" on whether or not Blacks should join the patrol. He said it is "hard to deal with people you are not close to and that it was hard to know who was (qualified) for the job." Zalmanson opined: "Blacks might not think another Black person was doing anything wrong. There are differences between Jews and Blacks."

Counter-charges of racism and latent anti-Semitism have passed back and forth between the two communities in an effort to explain the current

tensions. But the Hasid and the young Black man were arguing over the truth of the flier taped to the window of "Kelly Candy Store," see things otherwise.

Probing The Root Of The Problem

To 17-year-old Earl Arrington, the Hasidim are "alright neighbors." He didn't feel the current tense situation was caused by the Goldman murder. He said he was uncertain about the roots of the problem, but suspected it has something to do with the influx of Blacks and the lack of jobs.

Yisroel Akiva Bernstein, a young Hasid, said there is a bigger perspective to the problem which he believes is caused by the failure of Blacks and Jews to "follow God-given laws." He chided Blacks for not following the universal seven Noachic laws, and criticized the Jews for not living up to their responsibility of leading a more moral life, as an example for all.

Vinson Jones, a burly Black man with specks of gray in his beard, came out of the candy store where he works and joined the conversation. "I haven't found them (the Hasidim) to be bad neighbors," Jones said, but added that the flier describing Jewish assaults on Blacks tells the whole story of the current tensions. Jones resents what he sees as a violent Jewish reaction to the Goldman killing. Although upset with the senseless killing, to Jones it was just another killing and he doesn't understand why the Jewish community is making such a "big stink" over it.

Jones senses an air of Jewish animosity towards Blacks and recalled a recent incident where Jews complained of loud music being played by Blacks at an outdoor barbeque. He said he did not think it was fair that the Blacks were being harassed by the Jews, particularly since three Hispanic youths were charged with the Goldman killing.

The City Human Rights Commission is attempting to mediate in Crown Heights, Michael Hernandez, its executive director, told the JTA. However, efforts to meet separately with the parties have yet to yield results.

REFORM, CONSERVATIVE RABBIS URGE BEGIN NOT TO CHANGE LAW OF RETURN

NEW YORK, July 26 (JTA)—A six-member delegation of Reform and Conservative rabbis and laymen who met with Israeli Premier Menachem Begin here Sunday urged him not to change the Law of Return rejecting conversions by non-Orthodox rabbis.

According to Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Assembly, one of the participants at the meeting, Begin said it was his personal conviction that the law should be changed to require conversions only according to halacha and his attitude was not just a party or a coalition commitment. Begin reportedly said if he could get enough support in the Knesset for a change he will introduce the necessary amendment.

Kelman said the one-hour meeting was "very cordial" and "reciprocally enlightening, not just a protocol meeting." In addition to Kelman, the other members of the delegation were Rabbi Eli Plichik, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reform rabbinical organization; Rabbi Joseph Glazer, executive vice-president of the CCAR; Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the Conservative rabbinical organization; Milton Perlmuter, a leading Reform layman; and Dr. Max M. Kampelman, a leading Conservative layman.

All were invited by Begin to come to Israel to fur-

ther discuss this problem. Kelman said afterwards that they plan to go to Israel next month.

The delegation presented Begin with a statement affirming support for Israel but stressed that "any unilateral attempt" to change the 1970 agreement giving full rights to all persons converted to Judaism by rabbis of their communities "will not only be disruptive to harmony, but harmful to prospects for aliya." The statement stressed that "The strength of the State of Israel is rooted in a united world Jewry. World Jewry is not a religious monolith."

Urge Recognition For Conservative Rabbis

In a related development, representatives of the World Council of Synagogues, the international organization of Conservative Judaism, met separately with Begin last Sunday and expressed their concern about reports of concessions made by Begin to the Orthodox religious party which they explained appear to threaten the status of the Conservative movement in Israel.

Dr. Gerson D. Cohen, chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America and honorary president and rabbi of the World Council of Synagogues, who served as spokesman for the delegation, assured Begin that Conservative Judaism has always been grounded on halacha and has been a major force in Zionism and subsequently in the support of the Jewish State.

Begin reportedly responded that he was aware of all that the Conservative movement was doing for Israel and indicated that the delegation's request had merit.

The delegation, headed by David Zucker, president of the World Council, told him that the failure of the Orthodox religious community to recognize 26 Conservative member congregations in Israel, or to grant equality to the Conservative rabbinat, which today has some 100 representatives living in Israel with their families, was a major impediment in the way of further immigration.

SHEPHERD Z. BAUM DEAD AT 73

NEW YORK, July 26 (JTA)—A funeral service was held Sunday for Rabbi Shepherd Z. Baum, veteran Zionist leader, a national vice-president of Bnai Zion, and since 1934 chief supervisor of kosher law enforcement of New York State, who died last Thursday of fatal injuries sustained in an automobile accident. He was 73 years old.

Baum played leading roles in Zionism, communal and civic life in New York, particularly in behalf of the Bnai Zion program for aid to the State of Israel, the furtherance of Hebrew education and the promotion of America-Israel friendship. Baum was president of the Hebrew Welfare Agency, Jewish Community Center and Upstate Region of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations as well as serving in high capacities in the United Jewish Appeal and Israel Bonds. During World War II he served as chaplain in the United States Army stationed in Brazil.

Born in Memphis, Tenn., he was ordained as rabbi in 1923 at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University and in 1930 graduated as a lawyer with an LLB Degree at Albany Law School.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Premier Menachem Begin intends to bring in legislation widening the responsibilities of the Presidency in the nation's affairs. The Premier termed the present legal situation "very faulty" as it "severely limited" the President's role.