

## BEGIN DISCLOSES THAT ISRAEL IS PROVIDING MILITARY AID TO CHRISTIANS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Aug. 8 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin today disclosed for the first time officially that Israel is providing military aid to the Christians in southern Lebanon. The Premier said if it were not for Israeli aid the Christians would long ago have been "wiped out" by the Palestinian terrorists. Begin's disclosure was made to 100 Jewish leaders from the U.S. and Canada participating in the 1977 Jerusalem Leadership Conference of the Israel Bond Organization.

"We help them militarily," Begin told the group who were assembled in the Knesset. "It should not be a secret. Public opinion in the United States and throughout the Christian world should know it. Without our military help the Christian minority would have been totally wiped out long ago." The Premier also said "when the barrage is opened on the Christian villages we train our fire on the origins of the hostile fire and then it quiets down."

Meanwhile, Lebanese Christian army officers said today that they were "encouraged" by Begin's statements when he visited the Golan Heights yesterday that Israel would never desert the Christians in south Lebanon. "We are sure now that Israel will stand by us when needed," the officers said. "It was good to hear such words said by Begin."

Meanwhile, the artillery and automatic weapons war between the Palestinian terrorists and the Christian villagers continues in southern Lebanon. The firing can be heard in Israel, especially during the night, when it intensifies. About 24 persons were reported killed or wounded last night.

The Bonds group arrived in Israel last night and Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, declared: "No change in the complexion of the government will alter the fact that Israel's beleaguered economy will remain an issue of dominant importance." Rothberg said the three-day conference will demonstrate "our resolve to help reduce Israel's dependence on foreign governments for financial aid."

## KATZ SAYS ISRAEL WILL GIVE VANCE FURTHER PROOF THAT 'ERETZ YISRAEL LEGALLY BELONGS TO AM YISRAEL'

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 (JTA)--Shmuel Katz, Premier Menachem Begin's advisor on information and the man widely considered the ideologue of the Begin administration, said that Israel would give U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance "more material" aiming to prove to him that "Eretz Yisrael legally belongs to Am Yisrael."

In a television interview in advance of the Vance visit, due to begin tomorrow, Katz also said the Israeli side would not want to talk substance with the Secretary, only procedure.

Regarding Eretz Yisrael, Katz noted what he termed "an advance" in the United States position. He said that a few days after President Carter had condemned Israel's legalization of the three West Bank settlements, Vance, at a news conference, had acknowledged that Jordan's legal rights over the West Bank were unclear.

Officials and observers here expressed immediate wonderment at Katz's construction of Vance's statement. They recalled that what Vance had in effect said was that if the rights of two parties--Jordan and the Palestinians--in the area were unclear, this gave no justification to a third party--Israel--to set up its settlements there.

Thus, said the officials and observers, if there was any "advance" in Vance's statement it was in the direction of the Palestinians, implicitly equating their claim to the area to that of Jordan.

## Officials To Meet With Vance

Meanwhile, the Cabinet received reports and assessments yesterday from Begin, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Ambassador Simcha Dinitz on Vance's swing through the Middle East. There was a brief discussion, but according to reports, no differences emerged among the ministers.

Begin announced that the team of ministers who would meet with Vance would comprise himself, Dayan, Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich, Interior Minister Yosef Burg and Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon. While Vance is in Israel he is to participate in two working sessions at the Premier's office and two with Dayan and his aides, attend a state banquet given by Begin and a reception hosted by Dayan.

## CARTER SAYS U.S. HAS RECEIVED REPORTS FROM PLO IT MAY BE WILLING TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S 'RIGHT TO EXIST'; PLO SPOKESMAN ISSUES A DENIAL

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (JTA)--President Carter, faced with a collapse of his Administration's Middle East peace mission, unexpectedly disclosed today that the United States has been receiving information from the Palestine Liberation Organization that it may be willing to recognize Israel's "right to exist."

Carter made the announcement in an impromptu news conference in Plains, Ga. Officials with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's party in Saudi Arabia also reported today receiving indirect messages from the PLO through the governments of Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

The President told reporters that the PLO's messages sent him say "they may adopt UN Resolution 242 which does recognize Israel's right to exist permanently and in peace with secure borders." He added, "We don't know yet what's going to happen until I get a complete report from Cy Vance." Vance is due in Israel tomorrow, the last scheduled stop on his current Mideast tour. However, he is expected to return to some of the Arab capitals he visited before leaving for Washington via a stop in London.

Meanwhile, as Carter was talking to reporters in Plains, there was a report from Beirut that a PLO spokesman denied that the terrorist organization was planning to change its stand on Resolution 242. "We are not ready to change our stand on 242 and we are not ready to recognize Israel," the spokesman said.

## Cites Opportunity For PLO

Carter told reporters in Plains the United States

would continue not to have direct contacts with the PLO until it agrees to Israel's existence. But "if the Palestinians recognize the applicability of UN Resolution 242 then it would open a new opportunity for us to start discussions with them," he said.

"The thing that has made the Palestinians reluctant" to accept 242 "is that at the time it was passed it only referred to the Palestinians as refugees," the President added. "If the Palestinians should say 'we recognize UN Resolution 242 in its entirety, but we think the Palestinians have additional status other than just refugees,' that would suit us okay."

Carter said that "we have not had any direct conversations" with the PLO, "but, of course, they are sending us messages through the Syrians, the Saudi Arabians, the Egyptians, the Jordanians. We have a means to contact them and to exchange ideas with them."

In Taif, Saudi Arabia's summer capital, where Vance met with King Khaled today, one U.S. official said "There's no reason to believe we would accept a change in the wording of Resolution 242." Another U.S. official said the PLO's reported willingness to accept the resolution would be "helpful."

#### Issue Seems Clear-Cut

The disclosure of the PLO's messages came the day after Jordan joined Syria in refusing to accept Egypt's idea of having a Mideast Foreign Ministers' "working group" meeting in the U.S. to prepare a Geneva conference. The U.S. and Israel had supported this idea but in view of the Syrian and Jordanian position, the Egyptian initiative together with the hopes of the U.S. to bring about the basis for a full settlement appeared doomed even before Vance reached Saudi Arabia.

The Vance team meets with the six-man group Premier Menachem Begin has chosen to discuss the proceedings for a Geneva conference tomorrow in Jerusalem. The issue between them seems clear-cut. Israel wants to go to a conference without the PLO and without preconditions so that the Arab and Israeli governments can discuss all issues between them face-to-face. The U.S. apparently is becoming agreeable to the Arab idea of being their middleman and negotiating with Israel on what the Israelis should accept.

#### AJ COMMITTEE RAPID REGISTRATION OF U.S. REPORTERS IN SAUDI ARABIA AS CHRISTIANS

NEW YORK, Aug. 8 (JTA)—The American Jewish Committee today called upon the Carter Administration "to clarify" news reports from Saudi Arabia that American Jewish reporters accompanying Secretary of State Cyrus Vance were presented on arrival to Saudi Arabia with hotel registration cards with "Christian" filled in as their religion.

In a statement issued here, Richard Maass, AJ Committee president, said: "The AJC calls upon the Administration—and especially the State Department—to clarify the almost unbelievable news reports that immigration applications of Jewish correspondents accompanying Secretary of State Vance in Saudi Arabia had been submitted with the word 'Christian' inserted."

"If this was simply a stupid oversight by an inexperienced minor official perhaps it can be forgiven with a reprimand. But if this is the policy of the Department we demand an immediate apology and a definite pledge that such a medieval play will never be repeated."

According to news reports, some of the reporters who arrived with Vance in Taif, the Saudi summer capital, were Jewish and at least three of them reportedly changed their cards at the hotel. An American official accompanying Vance was asked why all

the reporters were identified as Christians. He replied that immigration cards had to be filled out in advance to speed registration at the hotel in Taif. A counselor with the American Embassy in Taif said the cards were filled out in advance to save time "with no thought at all to anyone's religion."

#### CARTER SIGNS NEW ARMS TRANSFER LAW

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (JTA)—President Carter has signed into law legislation that for the first time authorizes Congress to prohibit a country that buys arms from the United States to transfer them to another country. Previously, the President had simply to notify Congress of his intention to permit transfers of American-made weapons to third countries.

Thus, should Saudi Arabia, for example, wish to transfer arms bought here to an Arab state bordering on Israel, both the President and Congress would have to approve of it to be lawful.

The provision is part of the International Security Assistance Act. It was first proposed in 1975 by Senators Gaylord Nelson (D. Wisc.) and Clifford Case (R. N.J.). President Ford vetoed the bill last year which contained the proposal.

Congress first gained a role in the process of selling arms when it adopted the Nelson Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1974. This requires the President to inform Congress of any proposed foreign military sale exceeding \$25 million. Congress has 30 days to consider the proposal and can veto it if both Houses agree.

#### POLICE SEARCHING FOR VANDALS WHO PAINTED SWASTIKAS ON GOLF COURSE

By Nancy Chanin

NEW YORK, Aug. 8 (JTA)—Police continue to search for vandals who struck the west course of the posh Westchester Country Club near Harrison, N.Y. last week, painting swastikas on a number of greens. Nine of the greens were damaged by oil and white paint and some trees were uprooted. It appeared that a kerosene-like substance was used to burn some trees, according to the Harrison police. "Stick people" up to six feet were also painted on the greens, similar to figures doodled on paper, according to John Traynor, superintendent of courses.

Lt. Albert Della Rocco of the Harrison police department attributed the damage to "criminal mischief." The vandalism did not seem to indicate anti-Semitic sentiments because "the club has Christians and Jews," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Della Rocco said although similar incidents of vandalism have occurred in the past, it was "never to this extent" and the recent damage was "very tragic." This was the first time that swastikas were painted, and "I don't know why," said Della Rocco.

However, Traynor told the JTA that there was nothing new or unusual about the appearance of swastikas. He said that vandalism, including swastikas, occurred in the past, usually prior to the Westchester Golf Classic, as was the case in this incident. The cost of labor for repairs was estimated at \$2000. The damage will not interfere with the playing of the 11th Westchester Golf Classic, Aug. 18-21, officials said.

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TEL AVIV (JTA)—Defense Minister Ezer Weizman has named Gen. Israel Tal (Res.), the developer of Israel's tank corps, to survey the organization of the Israeli army's land forces and recommend changes needed to meet the requirements of the 1980s.

## RELIGIOUS MEN LESS PRONE TO HEART ATTACKS THAN THE NON-RELIGIOUS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Aug. 8 (JTA)—Religious men are less likely to suffer from a heart attack than the non-religious, according to a study conducted at the Tel Hashomer Medical Center here. The finding will be revealed in a paper by Dr. Mitchell Sneider of the Bar Ilan University Computer Center which will be read to the fifth Israel Conference of the Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists opening tomorrow in Jerusalem.

The Tel Hashomer study, conducted by Prof. Henry Neufeld and Dr. Jack Medalie, was made of 10,000 Israeli males over 40 years old during the last five years. Sneider fed the information into the Bar Ilan computer and got the surprising results. The study also found in addition to age, obesity, blood pressure, high cholesterol, smoking and certain diseases, heart trouble was also influenced by blood type, country of origin, and love for one's wife.

## ANTI-CRIME COMMISSION APPOINTED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 (JTA)—An ad hoc commission appointed by Police Inspector General Haim Tavori will study the scope of crime in Israel and suggest ways and means to combat it. Interior Minister Yosef Burg said yesterday in a television interview he hoped the commission would conclude its work within two weeks to allow for a thorough working plan in the fight against crime.

The commission, headed by Michael Buchner, chief of the special operations unit at the Police General Headquarters, was the latest development in the current public clamor over organized and unorganized crime. The commission reportedly will enjoy a free hand in carrying out its work. It was stressed that it would also inquire outside of the police force in order to get a thorough look at the criminal system.

Burg said that once he receives the report of the commission he will decide whether to support the creation of a public committee to investigate organized crime. Such a committee should be headed by an independent non-political figure, "perhaps a judge," Burg said, implying he was against a parliamentary commission.

The apparent readiness of the Interior Ministry and the police to shift gears as far as anti-crime action is concerned, was the first practical result following the top level consultations last Friday between Burg and Tavori in Jerusalem. Tavori said in a radio interview yesterday he would transfer police officers from administrative work to anti-crime operations.

## JEWISH DEAF PLANT TREES

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 (JTA)—The "planter's prayer" was recited with a difference at the "Peace Forest" outside Jerusalem last week: it was recited in deaf and dumb language by two translators for the benefit of more than 4000 participants in the First World Conference of Jewish Deaf. The participants all planted trees in the forest after watching the prayer interpreted first into Hebrew sign language and then into English sign language. They were all guests of the Jewish National Fund for the day and visited development sites in the Jerusalem area.

## BEGIN'S PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE TISHA B'AV WITH HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY IS CRITICIZED BY HAUSNER

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 (JTA)—Premier Menachem Begin's suggestion that Holocaust Remembrance Day should from now on be incorporated into the Tisha

B'Av observances drew fire from Gideon Hausner of the Independent Liberal Party who charged it was an attempt to confuse two tragedies in Jewish history.

Hausner, the chairman of the Yad Vashem Memorial Authority, said Begin's proposal would lead to the disappearance of the remembrance of both the Holocaust and the heroism of the ghetto fighters and partisans. Hausner explained that Tisha B'Av falls during the summer school recess when there is no opportunity to teach school children about the Holocaust and hold memorial services in which they can participate. The present Holocaust Remembrance Day falls right after the Passover recess.

Begin responded that Tisha B'Av has traditionally been the day on which the Jewish people marked other major tragedies in their history, despite the fact that it was the day of destruction of the Second Temple.

"The sages had done so because they realized that there was a limit to the number of mourning dates our people could observe," Begin said. He suggested that the incorporation of one remembrance day into the other would emphasize the destruction of the Jewish people both in ancient and modern times. "This would make Tisha B'Av a special day for all Jewish people," Begin said. He reported that both Israeli Chief Rabbis, Ovadia Yosef and Shlomo Goren, as well as Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik of Boston, approved of his idea.

## MINE-PROOF BOOTS DISPLAYED

TEL AVIV, Aug. 8 (JTA)—The Israeli army today displayed boots cleated with foam rubber which enables a soldier to step on mines without setting them off. The boots were shown by their inventor, Brigadier General David Laskoff, who at 74 is the oldest soldier in the Israeli army. Laskoff is known as a prolific inventor of military devices.

Also revealed during Engineering Corps Day ceremonies was a larger version of the boot, called "sapper mattresses," which can be placed one next to the other to form a bridge for infantrymen.

Gen. Aryeh Golan, commander of the Engineering Corps, told reporters that his branch of the army has been emphasizing the development of means and the training of men to break through deep enemy defense networks. Among other devices shown were mobile fortresses, which look like overturned carts or large barrels, to protect soldiers from direct hits by artillery shells.

## GUR WARNS OF DEFENSE BUDGET CUTS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 8 (JTA)—Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur has warned that the scheduled cut of IL 1.4 billion in the Israel defense budget would hamper both the army's development and deployment. In a weekend interview in Maariv, Gur declared that the "significant" cut would mean cuts in plans to purchase new weapons systems, training outlays, in the number of reservists called for active service, in food budgets and in incentives to soldiers to remain in service beyond the mandatory three years for all conscripts.

He said there was a possibility of having to cut the budget of the army broadcasting station, Israel's only around-the-clock broadcast service which functions even when Kol Israel is on strike, which happens frequently. Gur said he felt the original budget had been too small.

## JACKSON/VANIK MEASURE FAILED TO PUT DENT IN U.S.-SOVIET TRADE DESPITE USSR STANCE ON JEWISH EMIGRATION

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (JTA)—Despite the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the 1975 Trade Act and other restrictions making the Soviet Union ineligible for U.S. governmental credits, Soviet-American trade has vastly increased while Jewish emigration is continuing at a rate of slightly more than 1000 a month.

Two State Department reports issued independently in recent days "primarily for government use" summarize the state of U.S.-Soviet economic relations and the Soviet Jewish emigration situation. The Soviet Union denounced the trade agreement signed in 1972 and the emigration rate plummeted in 1974 when legislation linking U.S. credits to emigration practices was being overwhelmingly approved by Congress with the Ford Administration's endorsement.

Nevertheless, "over the past five years, the U.S. and the Soviet Union have steadily expanded their economic relationship," the Department's report, "Gist," said. Two-way trade totaled only \$220 million in 1971 but stood at \$2.5 billion in 1976, a ten-fold increase.

Last year, the trade balance was strongly in favor of the U.S., exports being roughly \$2.3 billion, about 65 percent in agricultural products, and imports about \$220 million. Principal non-agricultural products were machine and transport equipment at \$605 million. The main U.S. imports were platinum group metals, petroleum products, and chrome ore. U.S. firms are engaged in some major projects, the "two most important" being an exchange of fertilizer and construction of a truck factory.

The diplomatic missions in Washington and Moscow have established trade offices and a joint U.S.-Soviet commercial commission has been meeting regularly, the last time being in June. At least 55 American firms have entered into science and technology cooperation agreements and 25 firms have received permission to open offices in Moscow.

### Emigration Figures Cited

From 1948 through 1970, about 8600 Jews emigrated to Israel. From 1000 in 1970, the number leaped to 14,000 in 1971 and then to 31,500 in 1972, and 33,500 in 1973. In 1974, it was limited to 20,000 and in 1975 held to 13,000. Last year, the total was 14,000 and the rate was "about the same" while this "Gist" report was prepared.

"Roughly half of those now receiving exit visas for Israel end up going somewhere else, mainly to the United States," Gist said. "The number of Soviet exit visas for the U.S. issued to Jews has remained relatively stable, ranging from about 500 in 1973 to 650 in 1976."

To assist in the resettlement in Israel and elsewhere of Soviet Jewish emigres, the report said, the U.S. has allocated \$176.5 million over the past five years, "most of it earmarked for Israel." The program is administered by the State Department under the 1972 Foreign Relations Authorization Act which "authorizes the Secretary of State to assist Israel or other suitable countries in the resettlement of Jewish or other similar refugees from the USSR."

The report added: "The U.S. has supported many programs in Israel for Soviet emigrants, including enroute care and maintenance, construction and acquisition of absorption centers, main-

tenance costs of the centers, construction of medical facilities, apartment construction and rental, university scholarships and vocational training," the report said. "Since 1974, we have also provided grants to a number of voluntary agencies in the resettlement of Soviet emigrants to the U.S."

## EFFORTS TO FIGHT DRUG ABUSE IN ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Aug. 8 (JTA)—The International Anti-Drug Abuse Foundation (IADAF) has decided to devote its resources and efforts during the next two years to fighting the increasing problem of drug abuse in Israel. According to Mrs. Aviva Najar, an Israeli child psychologist who was one of the founders of IADAF in 1973 and who is a member of the organization's advisory board, the decision to concentrate on drug problems in Israel came after representatives of IADAF participated last year in a conference in Israel in which Israeli officials disclosed that "Israel is facing severe drug abuse problems, especially among young people."

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Mrs. Najar said that she and other members of IADAF are presently engaged in a fund-raising campaign. The initial goal, she said, is to raise \$1 million for establishing drug abuse centers in Jerusalem, Jaffa and Acre. A major fund-raising dinner will be held in December in the Pierre Hotel in New York, she said.

Mrs. Najar said that IADAF will recruit American drug experts for its activities in Israel and will hold seminars on methods of treating and rehabilitating persons addicted to narcotics "and other habit-forming substances." According to Mrs. Najar, officials of Israel's Health Ministry welcomed the decision of IADAF to assist Israel in its drug problems and promised to cooperate and assist the organization.

## SOVIET ART EXHIBIT COUNTERED BY WORKS OF SOVIET JEWISH ARTISTS

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 8 (JTA)—In response to the opening of an official Soviet art exhibit at the De Young Museum, the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry opened a counter-exhibit composed of works by Jewish artists who fled persecution in the USSR for their "unofficial" art work.

Representing the outdoor "Soviet Underground Art Exhibit" is Aleck Rapoport, a newly arrived Jewish artist from Leningrad. Some of his works are shown in the counter-exhibit, which is directly outside the main entrance of the De Young Museum. After studying the catalog of the official exhibit inside, Rapoport observed:

"Kandinsky and Malevitch, two of the artists shown in the official collection, are forbidden to show their art in the USSR. They are denounced in Soviet press as 'enemies of the people.' The works of Drevin and Udaltsova, which appear in the De Young exhibit, cannot be found anywhere in the Soviet Union. Pavel Filonov, whose works appear in the official Soviet exhibit, was deprived of food coupons during the war for his 'modernism' and died of hunger. It is impossible to see any of Filonov's works in the Soviet Union. Nalbandian, the courtier artist of Stalin, Krushchev and Brezhnev, won many awards from the heads of the Soviet apparatus, while in contrast, Falk and Tatlin died of starvation under official censorship."

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich has asked the British government to lift its ban on the sale of Israel Bonds in Britain.