

## CABINET DECIDES TO 'EQUALIZE' SERVICES FOR WEST BANK, GAZA RESIDENTS; STRESSES THIS IS NOT A STEP TOWARDS THEIR ANNEXATION

By David Landau

**JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA)**--The Cabinet today announced a new policy of "equalization of services" for inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but stressed that this did not mean a step towards their annexation or a change in their legal status.

The aim is to provide the West Bankers and Gazans with the same level of government services, including health and welfare, as that provided for the citizens of Israel proper. The Cabinet Defense Committee has been charged with the detailed implementation of the new policy.

While emphasizing that the decision is "humanitarian, not political," Cabinet Secretary Arye Naor noted that the parties comprising Premier Menachem Begin's coalition are pledged to support the total integration of the West Bank and Gaza into Israel, "when the time is right". Begin has indicated that this will not be undertaken as long as diplomatic negotiations with the Arabs are still a possibility. Naor said it was wrong to speak of "annexation" because "it is impossible for Israel to annex (these areas) since you cannot annex what belongs to you".

One concrete example of the effect of today's decision, Naor said, would be that the pace of hospital building in the West Bank and Gaza would be brought into line with that of Israel proper. Similarly, child labor, now tolerated in the West Bank and Gaza, would be forbidden. Naor could not come up with other examples, explaining that it would all become clearer once the Defense Committee had worked out the specifics. Naor could he say how much the "equalization" would cost the Israeli taxpayer.

### Seeking To Improve Coexistence

The West Bankers and Gazans would not be asked to pay for the improved services, he said, because their relatively low tax rates were set by Jordanian and Egyptian law, respectively, and the government was avoiding any change in the legal situation.

For the same reason, the government would not be able to apply Israel's free and compulsory schooling system on the two areas, so the gap in educational facilities would remain for the present. Asked specifically if the new policy was to be seen as a step towards eventual annexation, Naor said that would be "interpretation". He did not, however, discourage such interpretation.

Other coalition sources confirmed that the new policy should be viewed against the background of the Begin government's avowed determination to keep the West Bank and Gaza under Israeli rule in any eventual settlement. "That is the overall purpose," one coalition Knesseter said. "We are seeking out ways of improving our coexistence with the West Bank and Gaza Arabs as a way of achieving that purpose."

Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, meanwhile, announced that he had decided to release 100 Arab prisoners, some convicted criminals and some held for security offenses, as a gesture for the Moslem

month of Ramadan which begins tomorrow.

## FRANCE SELLING SAUDIA MILLIONS OF \$ IN ARMS AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

By Edwin Eytan

**PARIS, Aug. 14 (JTA)**--France has agreed to sell Saudi Arabia "hundreds of millions of dollars" worth of airplanes, sophisticated electronic material and other military hardware, according to the French-based Arab newspaper, "Al Nahar".

The Lebanese weekly, now published in Paris, reports in its forthcoming issue that France and Saudi Arabia have concluded an agreement which could turn out to be France's largest arms contract ever to have been signed. It provides, writes "Al Nahar" for the sale of a whole series of Mirage planes, models C-3S, F-4 and F-3S, electronic radar equipment, tanks and artillery.

The paper provides no details as to the quantities of material to be sold and French officials were not prepared to comment on the deal, or even acknowledge its existence. The Arabic paper also announced that Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko will arrive in Cairo on Sept. 1 in order to renew Soviet-Egyptian contacts after the "failure of the Vance mission". Gromyko last met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy in Moscow in June.

"Al Nahar" says the Soviet Union has stepped up its diplomatic activity in the Middle East. The Soviet Ambassador in Beirut, Alexander Soldatov, writes "Al Nahar", last week met on three different occasions with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat and gave assurances that it will not attend a Geneva conference without the active participation of the PLO. "Al Nahar" adds that a Palestinian delegation is due to visit Moscow next month after Gromyko's return from Cairo.

### France Mum On Palestinian Clause

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the French Mission to the United Nations in New York has said he has no information regarding a report by CBS diplomatic correspondent Marvin Kalb that his government is leading a move for a new Security Council resolution on the Mideast to include a reference to a Palestinian homeland. Kalb had reported that the proposed draft would add a clause to Resolution 242 calling for Palestinian rights. The resolution now refers only to the Palestinians as refugees. France holds the presidency of the 15-nation Security Council this month.

## SCHINDLER PLEDGES TO BEGIN THAT U.S. JEWS WOULD CONDUCT PUBLIC CAMPAIGN AGAINST ADMINISTRATION'S PLO STAND

By David Landau

**JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA)**--Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, was reported today to have pledged to Premier Menachem Begin that organized Jewry in the United States would mobilize a public fight against the Carter Administration's readiness to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization if the PLO agrees to accept United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

Haaretz said today that this was the main outcome of a meeting this weekend between Begin and Schindler, who had been asked to come here on short

notice following President Carter's statements on the PLO last week and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's visit to the area. There was no immediate comment from Schindler who has been keeping a low profile so far on this visit.

#### Rabin Raps Begin's Foreign Policy Stance

Meanwhile, the Knesset was expected to be called back from its summer recess this week following a demand by the opposition Labor Alignment to discuss what it called the "failure of the government's foreign policy." Labor is expected to argue that Begin should have expressed Israel's willingness to make territorial compromises, during Vance's two-day visit here last week, because the failure to do so has put Israel in a position of political isolation and jeopardized the reconvening of the Geneva conference this year.

The press this weekend featured a number of articles questioning Begin's handling of the talks with Vance and particularly his comments afterwards that they had been "excellent talks... great achievements for peace". A number of commentators writing both from Israel and Washington said that the new American position would mean a confrontation between the U.S. and Israel if the PLO decided to accept Resolution 242. They said it was therefore specious to claim, as Begin does, that there is no confrontation with the United States.

In an interview with Davar last Friday, former Premier Yitzhak Rabin said he had not anticipated any differences between the U.S. and Israel during the Vance trip. "But we are now in the process of sharpening the differences between us, and a widening of the areas of disagreement," Rabin said. He repeated his charge that during Begin's Washington trip last month the Premier created "a short-time harmony" at the expense of "a long-term danger".

Rabin asserted that since his own visit as Premier to Washington in March, an internal struggle has gone on between Israel's friends in the U.S. and the Carter Administration, and as a result an opportunity was created for bringing about a change in Carter's positions. Rabin did not claim that Carter would actually have reversed his stand, but it had been possible to persuade him to shelve those positions which Israel considered hostile — just as the Nixon Administration had been persuaded to shelve the "Rogers Plan" without actually reversing it outright.

"Carter's public position with regard to these stands was becoming increasingly tenuous," Rabin said. "Opposition was building up. But the harmony between Begin and Carter was achieved at the price of this struggle." Rabin said that Begin, by his policy of leaving all substantive issues to Geneva and not seeking prior coordination with Washington, had in effect "given legitimacy" to these American positions.

If the Haaretz story regarding Schindler is correct, observers pointed out, it would mean that Begin himself has been persuaded of the need to fight within U.S. public and policymaking forums to change the Administration's stands on some key issues.

#### Dayan: Negotiations In Effect Begun

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan told weekend television that peace negotiations had "in effect begun". He noted the Arab states' agreement in principle to seek signed contractual peace agreements and also their willingness to go to Geneva without preconditions. Both of these, he said, were signs of progress. At the same time the gaps were huge and the Vance visit had not narrowed them, he admitted. Dayan termed Egypt's

position "the most intransigent imaginable". Sadat had demanded full Israeli withdrawal, a PLO state on the West Bank and Gaza and PLO representation at Geneva, Dayan said.

The Foreign Minister said he believed Vance had not really expected substantial narrowing of gaps on his mission this time, and for this reason he had not pressed Israel. Dayan implicitly confirmed earlier reports that he has been authorized by the Cabinet to enter into substantive negotiations when he meets with Vance in New York in September as part of the round of proximity talks to be held there. But officials here still insist that the main bulk of the substantive negotiations must take place at Geneva, not New York, and with the Arabs, not the U.S.

#### VANCE BRIEFS CARTER

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14 (JTA)—Secretary of State Cyrus Vance met with President Carter this afternoon to brief him on his 10-day Mideast trip and his visit in London last Thursday, after concluding his Mideast trip, where he discussed the situation in southern Africa with British officials. On his return to Washington last night, Vance would not characterize his Mideast trip as either a success or a failure but noted that it was a useful mission.

#### BEGIN SAYS ASSAD'S REJECTION OF PROXIMITY TALKS PROVES ARABS NOT WILLING TO SIGN PEACE TREATIES

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Aug. 14 (JTA)—Premier Menachem Begin declared last night that the rejection by Syrian President Hafez Assad of the idea of "proximity" talks in New York between Israeli, Arab and American foreign ministers belies the Arabs' reported willingness to sign peace treaties with Israel. The idea was proposed in Alexandria two weeks ago to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat but was later withdrawn by Sadat when Assad flatly rejected it.

Begin, speaking at a meeting here of the Italian branch of Herut Hatzor, the world organization of the Herut movement, added that Assad's opposition made all declarations by Arab leaders of their willingness to make peace with Israel unfounded. Assad told reporters in Damascus last Friday, "There will be no direct or indirect meetings between Arab foreign ministers and Israeli officials. To be more specific, there will not be any such contacts between the Syrian foreign minister and Israeli officials."

Begin reiterated that Vance had told him, in their meetings during Vance's two-day stay in Israel, that it was up to the parties to the Geneva conference, of which Israel is one, to decide whether the Palestinian Liberation Organization should participate in a renewed Geneva conference. Begin insisted that Vance had not demanded that Israel should agree to PLO participation and that if Vance had made such a request, "we would have replied with a firm, no."

Begin also assailed Arab unwillingness to meet with the Israelis and asked how they could sign any peace treaties without such meetings. He said, "we have never heard of anyone signing a peace treaty by proxy" and added that at issue was a test of Arab sincerity "and we shall put them to it in front of the entire world."

#### EBAN: ISRAEL NEEDS JEWISH UNITY FOR ISRAEL TO MAINTAIN MIDEAST BALANCE

CHICAGO, Aug. 14 (JTA)—Former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban, citing the "partnership role" of B'nai B'rith in the birth and infancy of Israel, last night made an impassioned appeal for

"the union and solidarity of the Jewish people in the preservation" of his country.

Speaking to some 800 persons at a public session of the B'nai B'rith International Board of Governors meeting at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel, Eban declared that "Israel, alone, cannot maintain a balance in the Middle East; Israel, with the support of all the Jewish people, can."

Eban called on the United States to help maintain stability in the Mideast by continuing its special relationship with the Jewish State. This relationship, he said, has served to counterbalance the tremendous resources of the Arabs, and "while it has not secured peace, it has helped to avoid war." But, he cautioned, peace will not come by "documentary dictation." It can "only evolve" step by step.

Eban, who is touring the United States as a special emissary of Premier Menachem Begin, warned against returning to the pre-1967 boundaries. "You do not achieve peace by reconstructing the very same conditions that produced a war," he stated. He charged that the media, especially the New York Times, with inaccurately reporting a divisiveness between Jerusalem and Washington—"There is no divisiveness"—and urged Israel's friends to "maintain reticence" so as to permit "true negotiations" to take place.

#### COMMITTEE PROPOSES MINISTERS GET RID OF PRIVATE BUSINESS HOLDINGS TO AVOID POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA)—A public committee recommended today to the government a series of measures to avoid a conflict of interest between ministers and their private business activities. The committee, headed by Supreme Court Justice Shlomo Asher, was appointed by the government to look into the possible conflict of interests of ministers and deputy ministers who are also owners of business enterprises.

If adopted, the recommendations may force some of the ministers, especially Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon and Commerce and Industry Minister Yigael Hurwitz to get rid of assets which are worth many millions of pounds. Sharon owns a large farm in the south and Hurwitz owns a large dairy plant. Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich's family owns an optical lens plant while Defense Minister Ezer Weizman has sold his stocks in a private firm.

Ehrlich said he would accept any government decision, "provided it would be reasonable," and this government usually adopts reasonable decisions. "Sharon and Hurwitz have not yet reacted to the committee's recommendations."

#### Three Possible Steps Suggested

Essentially, the committee recommends three possible ways for a minister or a deputy minister to avoid a conflict of interest: selling the rights in the assets to a person outside of the minister's family; selling the rights to members of the family, on condition that that member has worked with the firm for at least a year; and leasing the rights for a determined period to a person who is not a member of the family, and is not associated with the person in question.

These three choices, particularly the third one, seem to pave the way for allowing all business owners who serve as ministers to continue their term in the government, without having to give up projects which have been built through the years.

#### BEGIN INVITED TO RUMANIA

TEL AVIV, Aug. 14 (JTA)—Premier Menachem Begin said he has accepted an official invitation to visit Rumania and indications are that he may be going to Bucharest by the end of this month. An official announcement on the exact date of the visit is due to be announced shortly in Bucharest and Jerusalem simultaneously. Begin's visit will be the second time an Israeli Premier has gone to Rumania. Premier Golda Meir was there in 1972.

The current invitation is a renewal of the one that had been extended to Yitzhak Rabin when he was Premier. That visit, however, never materialized. Israeli political circles attribute a great deal of importance to Begin's upcoming visit in view of Rumania's position among the Third World countries and her position in the Arab world. Rumania is the only Communist bloc country which did not break diplomatic relations with Israel and was among the first of the countries to congratulate Begin after he took office.

Meanwhile Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky said that Begin has a standing open invitation to visit Vienna. There are also ongoing negotiations for Begin to visit Paris toward the end of this year.

#### MORE GOING TO ISRAEL FROM BRITAIN

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Aug. 14 (JTA)—A sharp rise in immigration to Israel from Britain is revealed in the latest statistics published by the Jewish Agency's Aliya and Absorption Department in London.

In the first seven months of this year, 435 people went to settle in Israel, compared with 277 in the same period of last year, a rise of 65 percent. The increase would have been even higher if it had included the 150 people going on aliya this month, the most for August since 1970. Moshe Yotvat, the Aliya department's director, has no simple explanation for this significant increase, which coincides with the end of his own two-year tour of duty here.

He noted, however, that there has been a "complete change of atmosphere" towards aliya in the organized Jewish community. In a briefing in Israel before his appointment he had been warned that Aliya was "a dirty word" in Britain. Now, however, the aliya department was dealing with 3,000 to 4,000 serious inquiries a year.

The new atmosphere was also reflected in the community's establishment of an umbrella organization, the National Aliya and Volunteer Council, which will have responsibility for all aspects of promoting aliya from Britain. The new body, headed by Eric Moonan, MP and MP Trevor Chinn, grew out of a "Solidarity for Israel" conference last year. The Board of Deputies of British Jews, the community's representative council, is associated with it, as are many other organizations.

Among the 112 immigrants in July there is a wide range of professions and occupations. Teachers, of whom there were 12, were the main group. Individuals included an oil rig steward, a telex operator, a physiotherapist and a college executive. Most were also in what Yotvat called good age groups—between 18 and 49. There were 39 under 18 and only 11 aged over 50.

This was Yotvat's first civilian job since retiring from the Israel army as a Brigade Commander. He is to be replaced here next month by Hannan Haniel, a lawyer, who previously served as an aliya emissary in the United States.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—President Ephraim Katzir strongly appealed for the release of Prisoners of Zion in the Soviet Union.

**PROXY BRIDES ARRIVE FROM SYRIA**

By Brian Lipsitz and Nancy Chanin

NEW YORK, Aug. 14 (JTA)--While the nervous grooms-to-be waited for their future Syrian Jewish brides at JFK International Airport, the Air-France flight from Damascus taxied to a stop on schedule shortly after 8 p.m. last Thursday night. Soon the 13 Syrian women set foot in America after a long and tiring flight and 12 of them were introduced to the men of Brooklyn's Syrian Jewish community whom they had married by proxy July 19 in Damascus.

A 13th woman, a widow with three children, was released at the last moment to be re-united with her brother "in a humanitarian gesture" by the Syrians, said Rep. Stephen Solarz, (D.NY). Solarz, who represents the more than 25,000 Syrian Jews who live in Brooklyn, has been in the forefront of efforts to obtain the right to emigrate for Syrian Jews who wish to leave. Then all the Syrian Jewish men and women were shuttled through private corridors from the airport's customs area into a brightly lit room where they faced the television cameras and the press.

An air of excitement filled the room as relatives and friends crowded around, eager to welcome the smiling women into their homes, where they will stay until they decide to officially get married here.

Since Israel's War of Independence in 1948, Jews have been unable to leave Syria. In recent years, many Jewish men in their 20s and early 30s have reportedly fled Syria, leaving about 500 Jewish women with little prospect of getting married there. "I'd like to express our profound gratitude to President Hafez Assad. We see this as a very significant breakthrough," Solarz said.

**Hope For Future Emigration**

Rabbi Abraham Hecht of Shadre Zion Synagogue, a leader in the effort for the release of young Jewish women from Syria, welcomed the brides with a short, Arabic saying and expressed the hope that more Jews who desire to leave Syria, including relatives of the arriving women, will be allowed to do so.

A smiling, vibrant Tira Souid, chosen as the spokeswoman for the brides, said "due to your tireless efforts, we are here." She also thanked Assad. Speaking in Arabic, she said, "I was happy to meet my groom and hope the others (who remain in Syria) have the same fortune."

Morris Mann, one of the grooms, said "We have a similar heritage and tradition and I am hopeful it will work out." The men, who sent marriage proposals to Syria, said they selected their brides on the basis of information about the women provided by Steven Shalom, a leader of their Brooklyn community, who had traveled to Syria to meet with the Jewish community.

Solarz thanked President Carter for discussing the plight of the Syrian women, when Carter met with Assad in Geneva in May. Solarz said, "I would like Jimmy Carter to serve as the best man at the first wedding."

**BLUMBERG SEES NEED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO HAVE A GREATER VOICE IN DETERMINING THE FUTURE OF JUDAISM**

CHICAGO, Aug. 14 (JTA)--Young people should be given a greater voice in determining the future of Judaism, David M. Blumberg, the president of B'nai B'rith told a press conference here last Friday on the eve of the annual summer meeting of the organization's Board of Governors. He said that young Jews are looking for "realism in their religion." They want Judaism to be reflected in all parts of their lives—their home, their business, their daily relations with others—and not merely in their synagogues and on the Jewish holidays, he said.

"Their concern for their commitment to the future of Judaism is real and it is strong," Blumberg said. "We see it every day in our Hillel programs."

In a discussion that touched on a variety of topics, Blumberg said also that B'nai B'rith "remains heavily in favor" of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment in regard to U.S. relations with other nations. "The most favored nation trade status must be contingent on the status of human rights, just as defense must be," he said.

Blumberg added that the U.S. "must continue to keep pressure on the Soviet Union both in respect to the rights of citizens to emigrate and to the right of Jews to live as Jews."

B'nai B'rith strongly endorses President Carter's hard stance on the practice of human rights in all nations, Blumberg added.

On other issues, the B'nai B'rith president commented that passage of the proposal to amend Israel's Law of Return would, in his view, "be tremendously disruptive." He added that he did not think the amendment would be approved by the Knesset.

**Urges That Nazis Be Ignored**

Asked about the recent attempts by a small group of American Nazis to march in nearby Skokie, Ill., where some 7000 survivors of the Holocaust now reside, Blumberg said that he would advise the Jewish community there to ignore the Nazis, "difficult as that might be for them. Any counter-march, demonstration or confrontation would only increase the attention on the Nazis and this is what they want, this is what they live for." Instead, Blumberg said, he would propose a strong program to educate the public on the inherent dangers that the Nazi movement holds for the country.

**A MOST WANTED TERRORIST KILLED**

TEL AVIV, Aug. 14 (JTA)--A terrorist wanted by Israeli authorities since 1969 was shot and killed by the Israeli army after a brief gun battle on Mt. Hebron near Halhoul last Friday. The dead man, Ismail Hammed, 27, known as Waffa, was responsible for the shellings of Jerusalem with Katyusha rockets and the planting of mines, one of which caused the death of four Israeli soldiers in April 1971.

He is also believed responsible for the recent bombs planted on buses, one of which exploded this year in Kiryat Gat injuring 20 people. Authorities said Hammed, who was alone, had with him hand grenades and a Kaloshnikov assault rifle. There were no Israeli casualties in the brief battle.

**YOUNG LEADERSHIP OF JEWISH LEGION VETERANS TO BE FOUNDED**

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14 (JTA)--A Dor Hemshech, the young leadership group of Jewish Legion veterans of World War I is to be founded next week. The aim of this organization, according to a spokesman, is to continue the program of the "historical values of the courage and valor that prevailed 60 years ago, when the Jewish Legion was organized." The Jewish corps in World War I were the first identified military formation in the new Jewish yishuv in Eretz Yisrael.

From the ranks of this military formation later came the leaders of the Hagannah, Palmach, and the Israel Defense Force. For example, the late Yaacov Dory, first Chief of Staff, and the late Eliyahu Golomb, head of the Hagannah, both received their military training as members of the Jewish Legion. The inauguration ceremony of the Dor Hemshech will take place Aug. 23, at Moshav Avichail near Netanya.