

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## BEGIN REJECTS ANY PROPOSAL FOR PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION. STATES VIEW AFTER CARTER ALLUDES TO THIS ISSUE AT MEETING WITH SADAT

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin spoke out strongly today against any proposal for Palestinian self-determination. He made his remarks in an impromptu meeting with newsmen at the Knesset only hours after Carter, following a 50-minute meeting with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt at Aswan this morning, alluded to Palestinian self-determination as one of the fundamental "principles" of a Middle East peace settlement. (See related story from Paris.)

"We do not beat about the bush," Begin declared. "The term self-determination means a Palestinian state and we will not agree to such a mortal danger to Israel. The PLO would take it over in no time and turn it into a Soviet base" for attacking Israel's hinterland and populated areas. "Soviet artillery would be supplied to an Arafat state (PLO chieftain Yasser Arafat) within a matter of days or weeks at most," Begin contended.

He expressed gratification that neither Sadat nor Carter had included the words "Palestinian state" in their remarks after the Aswan meeting. "If indeed the two Presidents did not use this term one should note this favorably," Begin said.

However, he declared flatly: "There cannot be any self-determination as the term is understood in international law and practice for the problem of the Palestinian Arabs. There is self-determination for the Arabs in the existence of 21 sovereign (Arab) states." Begin sought to reinforce his point by noting that "there are now several million Mexican Americans living in the United States and they don't ask for the creation of a Mexican state on the border of Mexico and the U.S."

### Carter's Principles For Peace

Carter, who read a prepared statement while standing next to Sadat at Aswan airport, said: "There must be a resolution of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects. The resolution of the Palestinian problem must recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and enable the Palestinians to participate in the determination of their own future."

Carter's other principles for a "true peace" in the Mideast were "normal relations among the parties" based on "more than just an end to belligerency" and "withdrawal by Israel from territories occupied in 1967 and agreement on secure, recognized borders for all parties" in accordance with United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338. Sadat told reporters after Carter spoke that "I am very happy to say our views were identical and we have agreed upon certain steps to keep the momentum of the peace process."

Begin said Carter had telephoned him from the Presidential plane after leaving Egypt to convey Sadat's expression of personal friendship toward him. "This is a mutual feeling," the Premier said. "We had found a language of com-

mon understanding, an element which can only help the process of negotiations."

Begin's absolute rejection of Palestinian self-determination and his invocation of the danger of a Soviet base and mortal peril to Israel, indicated that he was not likely to be shifted from his declared position. But Carter also seemed determined. He said in Aswan that "some flexibility is always needed to ensure successful negotiations and the resolution of conflicting views" and declared "There is no good reason why accommodation cannot be reached."

### Remarks Cause Concern

Although Carter has spoken on many previous occasions of the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinians and their right to self-determination--while saying he did not favor the idea of an independent Palestinian state--his remarks in Aswan today caused concern here.

Some observers recalled that the phrase "legitimate rights of the Palestinian people" was contained in the U.S.-Soviet joint statement on the Middle East issued last Oct. 1 which drew a barrage of angry criticism from Israel.

On the other hand, Carter's pledge to "play an active role in the work of the political committee"--the joint Israeli-Egyptian body that will begin negotiations in Jerusalem later this month--was welcomed as an indication that the U.S. would make efforts to bridge the gap between Israel's offer of "self-rule" for the West Bank and Gaza Strip Arabs and Egypt's demand that Israel accept, at least in principle, eventual Palestinian self-determination.

Begin insisted today that his proposals were widely regarded as "fair" and would provide "full autonomy in every walk of life" for the Palestinian Arabs and full security for Israel.

Carter flew to Paris today after meeting with Sadat for a 48-hour official visit with President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. The American President was in Saudi Arabia yesterday. A White House spokesman in his entourage said he and King Khalid had "a very good meeting" that lasted a half-hour. The President met afterwards with Crown Prince Fahd and "outlined the opportunities which he perceived for continued movement toward a comprehensive settlement" in the Middle East, the spokesman said.

There was no joint statement in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, and the Saudis neither endorsed nor criticized Sadat's peace initiative. However, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud said after Carter's departure yesterday that Khalid told the President he believed a just and lasting peace must include two conditions: complete Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in the Six-Day War, including Jerusalem, and the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, including self-determination and the return of the refugees.

### EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS SAY POSITIONS OF SADAT, CARTER ARE ALMOST IDENTICAL

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Egyptian officials in Aswan said today that President Carter's position is now "practically identical" with that of President Anwar Sadat as a result of their 50-minute talks this morning. The officials, contacted by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in Paris by telephone, said Carter's

new position is similar to that of Sadat on "most issues, including that of the Palestinians." The officials noted that Sadat was seen smiling and highly pleased after he saw Carter off this morning. The officials said the American stance will "strengthen President Sadat's position" against the more extreme Arab countries. The officials added that Jordan's King Hussein is expected to arrive in Egypt next week for talks with Sadat and that the Shah of Iran is also expected to meet with Sadat a few days later.

Carter arrived in Paris this afternoon for a 48-hour visit during which he is due to discuss the Middle East with President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. American spokesmen, asked to comment on the Egyptian declarations, said Carter now understands better Sadat's point of view.

They added that Carter and Sadat have agreed that "a definition of principles" would top the agenda of the Egyptian-Israeli talks to be held in Jerusalem beginning mid-January. The Americans said that a "definition of principles" is likely to bring other Arab nations into the talks.

Sadat has pressed in the past for the talks to start with such a "definition" while Israeli Premier Menachem Begin wants the negotiations to first deal with practical details. If the American position should turn out to be as American circles described it here today, it may mean an important turning point in Washington's stand.

#### Change In Carter's Approach

American officials reportedly told reporters aboard Carter's plane, "We have always believed there should be a definition of principles at the outset to make progress and preserve the diplomatic momentum."

The officials also explained that Carter's statement in Aswan mentioning "the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people" which must "enable them to participate in the determination of their own future" is different from previous Carter statements. The officials said that in the past, Carter had said the Palestinians should have "a voice." Now he called for their "participation" in any decision concerning their future status.

The officials said that Carter telephoned Begin from his plane and informed him of his talks with the Arab leaders with whom he had met during the past few days and promised the Israeli leader that he will send him a full report. Unconfirmed reports said Carter mentioned to Begin the possibility of visiting Jerusalem at an unspecified date.

Meanwhile, American officials remain in close contact with Middle East capitals as well as with the State Department and the White House in Washington. Forty American communications experts arrived here early this morning to set up direct lines from Paris to Washington, Cairo and Jerusalem.

Carter met for one hour with Giscard this afternoon. Tomorrow he is due to visit Omaha Beach in Normandy where American troops first landed during World War II. Rosalynn Carter has asked to meet France's Health Minister, Simone Veil, and the Jewish minister is due to take her on a tour of French hospitals Friday morning.

#### PLO OFFICIAL FATALLY SHOT

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Said Hammami, the Palestine Liberation Organization spokesman in Britain, was killed in his office this afternoon in what appears to be a growing feud inside the PLO leadership. Hammami, 36, married with two young children, was shot in the basement of the Arab League building in Mayfair, a major shopping dis-

trict. Four young men believed to be Arabs were seen running away and disappeared in the crowds of shoppers. The shooting came four days after a bomb-killed a Syrian diplomat and an embassy driver in their car in the same district.

Hammami, born in Jaffa, was regarded as a moderate within the PLO and had once hoped to represent the organization in Washington. His death comes at a time of growing disagreement among Palestinians about the PLO's attitude towards Egypt's peace initiative.

Although the PLO attended the Tripoli conference of rejectionist Arab states, Yasser Arafat, its leader, is believed to doubt the wisdom of this policy and to be trying to keep open his links with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. Hammami was known to be close to Arafat.

Even before the Sadat initiative, Hammami had been criticized by Palestinian students in Britain for participating in the conference in London last year attended by Uri Avneri, Gen. Matti Peled and other Israeli supporters of a Palestinian state.

Investigations into his death are being led by Commander James Nevill, head of the anti-terrorist squad, who is also investigating the death of the two Syrian officials on New Year's Eve. Tonight, a special watch was being kept at British airports by plainclothes and uniformed police officers.

#### THE U.S. AND THE PLO

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 (JTA)--The State Department grasped today an unconfirmed report from Cairo as a means to reiterate in stronger terms than before the United States policy toward the Palestine Liberation Organization. A Department spokesman said that he had "nothing to support" the report that a U.S. official was meeting with PLO representatives and moderate Palestinians in the Middle East.

Before responding to a question as to whether the report was true, State Department spokesman Tom Reston immediately said that "the United States will not talk with the PLO unless it accepts United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the right of all states in the area to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries."

The State Department did not previously speak of "all states" but usually included the phrase "Israel's right to exist in peace." The significance was seen in that the U.S. may be warning the PLO not to interfere in Arab states which may be seeking an accommodation with Israel.

Reston also said that in the course of diplomatic contacts, "we may have discussions with Palestinians who live in many parts of the world" and that "there is nothing secret regarding these contacts." He did not identify the Palestinians.

#### PREPARING FOR ISRAEL'S ANNIVERSARY

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (JTA)--The ties between Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael will be one of the major themes of Israel's 30th anniversary festivities, it was decided at a joint meeting of the Ministerial Ceremonies Committee and representatives of the World Zionist Organization.

Some of the events already approved are: a peace parade of delegations from diaspora Jewish communities; sending special teams from Israel to the diaspora; rallies of immigrants; an identification convention with the State of Israel of thousands of Jewish youths, to take place next summer; and the planting of trees for the Jewish Children's Forest.

**EFFECT OF PEACE ON OIL PROSPECTING**

By Yitzhak Shargil

**TÉL. AVIV, Jan. 4 (JTA)**--The representatives of foreign oil companies operating in the Israel-occupied zones of Sinai are meeting with Israeli officials here in an attempt to find out what will become of their holdings should all of Sinai be returned to Egypt as proposed in Premier Menachem Begin's peace plan.

The Neptune Co. and the Western Desert Co. have invested millions of dollars in oil drilling and prospecting in Sinai. Neptune recently brought in several new offshore wells in the Gulf of Suez which are estimated to contain four billion barrels of oil, sufficient to supply half of Israel's present oil consumption. Western Desert is prospecting for oil in the Bardawil Lagoon region in northern Sinai.

Senior directors of the two firms have met with Energy Minister Itzhak Mordechai and Israel Lior, head of the government's oil prospecting authority. Israel's position is that it has no legal obligation toward the two companies if the areas where they operate are taken over by Egypt. The companies were aware, when they entered into their contracts with Israel, that they would be investing in a region with an uncertain political future. The oil executives acknowledge this but say they assumed Israel would undertake some form of moral obligation.

The Egyptians for their part, have no obligations to allow the companies to continue their activities in Sinai. Egypt, in fact, has contracts with other foreign oil firms which, presumably, might take over operations in all of Sinai should the peninsula revert to Egyptian rule.

**FINED FOR MASQUERADING AS HITLER**

By Jon Fedler

**BONN, Jan. 4 (JTA)**--A 45-year-old farmer from the south German town of Muensingen has been fined \$140 for masquerading as Hitler during a carnival procession. The farmer, Max Papst, who bears a striking resemblance to Hitler, wore an old police uniform and a helmet, with swastikas on his sleeves. He was accompanied in a jeep by two similarly-dressed colleagues who were fined the same amount.

The judge argued that though most of the public viewers had regarded the incident as "a joke," some had been shocked and insulted and had regarded the act as "in bad taste." The judge also objected to a banner on the jeep proclaiming "He (Hitler) was never as valuable as today." The judge commented that in a time of relatively high unemployment, this could be understood as a "call for a strong man, a new Hitler." The three men have appealed against the verdict.

**CREATION OF NEW VOCATIONAL SCHOOL WILL HIGHLIGHT 56TH ORT CONFERENCE**

**NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (JTA)**--The creation of a new ORT vocational program in New York for young Americans will be reported to the 56th annual national conference of the American ORT to be held Jan. 20-22, it was announced by Harold Friedman, national president. More than 600 delegates are scheduled to attend.

The theme of the conference, he said, will be "Israel's 30th Anniversary and 30 Year of ORT in Israel." Of ORT's 80,000 students, more than 50,000 are in Israel, Friedman noted, and there are 86 ORT schools in 33 Israeli communities. "Today, one out of five workers in Israel's labor force received ORT training," he said. "It is accurate to say that ORT graduates now comprise the major portion of Israel's skilled workers."

Focusing on the new vocational program in New York, called the Division of Technology and

Business Administration of the Branson ORT Training Center, Friedman said it was opened last fall to "respond to the changing training needs of Americans who were caught in the vise of technological unemployment." It is the first Jewish vocational school designed to respond to these new needs and opened with 47 full-time and five part-time students. By the end of its first year it is expected that it will have doubled its enrollment.

Although American ORT, established in 1922, created schools for refugees from Hitler and, later, DPs from the Holocaust, the new school with its emphasis on vocational training for Americans in this community, Friedman pointed out, "is quite different. It is now giving 13 courses in its division of business administration and five in its electronics division. Open to men and women, it is keyed not to new arrivals in this country, but primarily to the job requirements of the young adults of the New York community who are the new economically 'displaced persons.'"

**AHARON TZVI PROPESS DEAD AT 73**

**TÉL. AVIV, Jan. 4 (JTA)**--Aharon Tzvi Propess, 73, one of Zeev Jabotinsky's disciples and first member of Betar, died here this evening of a heart attack. Propess was engaged in recent years in organizing the international choir meetings in Israel, especially the Jewish choir festival, the Zimriya, which he founded. He also initiated and organized the Israeli music and drama festivals, which were held mainly in Caesarea's ancient amphitheater which he helped to renovate and reconstruct. Funeral services will be held tomorrow.

**RECORD TOTAL OF \$331.54 MILLION PRODUCED BY ISRAEL BONDS IN 1977**

**NEW YORK, Jan. 4 (JTA)**--The 1977 cash receipts of the Israel Bond Organization amounted to a record figure of \$331,540,000, it was announced by Sam Rothberg, general chairman and Michael Arnon, president. The proceeds for last year showed an increase of more than \$20 million over 1976. In each of the last three years Israel Bond receipts reached a higher figure than the previous year. Total sales since the launching of the first Israel Bond issue in the United States in 1951 amounted to \$3.85 billion, of which Israel has already repaid more than \$1.7 billion in redemptions.

Declaring that the 1977 total was the largest in the history of the Israel Bond Organization with the exception of the year of the Yom Kippur War (1973), Rothberg said it was "indicative of a high degree of solidarity with the people of Israel and a recognition of the decisive impact of Israel Bonds on Israel's economic progress and hopes for peace."

Arnon observed that a substantial portion of the increased 1977 results was due to wider participation of institutional purchasers including banks, pension funds, labor unions, and commercial, educational, and religious organizations. The general business community accounted for more than 25 percent of the Israel Bond receipts last year, he said.

**JERUSALEM (JTA)**--Chaim Herzog may leave his post as Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations this summer, it is learned here. The envoy, now in Israel on a brief private visit, refused to talk to reporters about his future plans until after he has seen Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. One man tipped within Foreign Ministry circles as his possible successor is the Ambassador to Bonn, Yohanan Meroz, a former private secretary of Golda Meir when she served as Foreign Minister.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****BEVIN'S CABINET PAPERS PUBLISHED**

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 4 (JTA)--A month before announcing publicly in 1947 that Britain would put the question of Palestine in the hands of the United Nations, Ernest Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, told Cabinet colleagues that he favored a Palestinian state predominantly under Arab control and opposed the creation of an independent Jewish State. Bevin's preferences were revealed in Cabinet papers published this week under the rule which removes them from the secret list after 30 years.

Bevin's anti-Zionist policies are spelled out in a memorandum dated Jan. 16, 1947, saying that the partition of Palestine would be a "desperate remedy." He favored self-governing Jewish cantons in a mainly Arab-ruled Palestine.

However, Bevin's anti-Zionist stance was bitterly criticized by Arthur Creech-Jones, the Colonial Secretary, as "a gross betrayal of the Jews." He asserted that the Jews would "accept no solution which denies their claim for statehood."

Creech-Jones was no doubt referring to the Labor Party's traditional support for Zionist aspirations, re-stated only a year before at the party's national conference which proposed that Arabs should be encouraged to leave Palestine as Jewish immigrants moved in.

**Basis For Pro-Arab Position**

The pro-Arab position of Bevin and others was based on their perceptions of Britain's national interest. A memorandum submitted by Bevin, together with Emanuel Shinwell, Minister of Fuel, acknowledged Britain's growing dependence on Middle East oil and emphasized the risks to Britain in offending the Arabs and in encouraging Jewish settlement and a Jewish State.

The hostility of the Arabs, the Bevin-Shinwell memorandum said, could lead to the removal of British influence from the entire Moslem area lying between Greece and India. "This would not only have strategic consequences. It would also jeopardize the security of our interest and the increasingly important oil production in the Middle East."

The importance of Palestine for Britain's security was stressed by Field Marshall Montgomery, the Army Chief of Staff, and his Naval and RAF colleagues. They told Prime Minister Clement Attlee that Palestine was "of special importance." In war, "Egypt would be our key position in the Middle East and it was necessary that we should hold Palestine as a screen for the defense of Egypt," they said.

While the defense chiefs foresaw Britain retaining positions in Palestine whatever political solution was arrived at in the country, Bevin and Creech-Jones soberly concluded that it was "impossible to arrive at a peaceful settlement in Palestine on any basis whatsoever."

It would be "humiliating" for Britain simply to withdraw leaving no settlement behind them, they said. However, they feared there would be a breakdown of discipline among British troops "if provocation by the Jewish terrorists continues." These discussions on Palestine took place against the background of an economic crisis in Britain itself which contributed to the eventual decision to withdraw.

**SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH GUSH LEADER**

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Yedidya Atlas, a spokesman for the Gush Emunim, who has

been visiting many Jewish communities in the United States and Canada, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Gush members hope that Premier Menachem Begin of Israel will "abide by his principles" regarding West Bank settlements.

"We are worried in the sense that the situation is very very serious and very critical. We pray that God will give him strength to make the proper decisions," Atlas said, adding: "We don't want this to be the jumping off point for another state within a state."

He stated that the Gush Emunim will demonstrate its position and "we hope it is still Begin's position that Judea and Samaria are integral parts of Israel. It is the heartland of the land of Israel and we cannot give up the heartland of Israel. No one would expect us to give up Tel Aviv or Haifa or Jerusalem, and Judea and Samaria are no less important to the people of Israel than these cities. In fact, Judea and Samaria are historically more important than Tel Aviv or Haifa."

**Basis For Local Autonomy**

Atlas said that historically, the Jews are the Palestinians but "we understand the plight of those people who are now living under military rule and we do not think that it is a bad idea to have local municipal autonomy."

He said "There is no reason why they cannot run their own electric company, water system, public transportation, or why they cannot even have their own local police force. If someone beats up his wife, there is no reason to call in the army.... However, it has to be understood that this is local municipal autonomy in the sense that they will run their own affairs but we are very much against this being the first step into the developing of a state. There is room for only one national home and one national entity on this land."

Atlas is part of a Gush Emunim mission now visiting the United States and Canada headed by Zvi Slonim and Hanan Porat aimed at informing Jewish communities of the Gush position. Atlas said "We have been very gratified with the results... whether people agreed with us or not, they have been interested in finding out what we feel."

**YIDDISH DAILY MARKS 60TH YEAR**

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 4 (JTA)--Di Presse, Argentina's only Yiddish daily newspaper, is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Mark Turkow and Simchas Lande are co-chairmen of a special committee organizing the celebration. The newspaper was founded Jan. 1, 1918 as a journalists and workers cooperative oriented toward the Bundists. It is now a strongly pro-Israel newspaper and has a weekly supplement in Spanish called Nueva Presencia.

SOFIA (JTA)--Two Bulgarian Jews have received awards for contributing to the country's cultural and political life. Haim Benadov, 70, a journalist, was awarded the Order of September 9 by the State Council for his literary and journalistic activities. The country's President and First Secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Teodor Jivkov sent a letter of congratulations. Emil Jack Eshoya, 50, awarded the Red Flag for Past Labor, is a well-known sports figure and has also served as a lecturer in Bulgarian military academies.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Interior Minister Yosef Burg has denied a new appeal by Meyer Lansky to enter Israel on a tourist visa.