

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## DAYAN IN ROME TO CONFER WITH TOP ITALIAN OFFICIALS AND THE POPE

Part Of Israel's Attempt To Improve Relations With The EEC And The Vatican  
By Edwin Eytan

ROME, Jan. 9 (JTA)--Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan arrived here this afternoon for a four-day official visit during which he will confer with Italian President Giovanni Leone and other top Italian officials. Dayan is also due to meet Pope Paul VI at Vatican City on Thursday. He will be the first Israeli Cabinet minister to meet the Pope officially since Golda Meir's visit to the Vatican in Jan. 1973.

Dayan, who is accompanied by his wife, Rachel, was greeted at Rome's military airport at Ciampino by Italian Foreign Minister Arnaldo Forlani. Extraordinary security measures were taken for his arrival, with heavily armed carabinieri lining the road into the city and an army helicopter hovering over the airport when his El Al plane landed.

Rome is the European capital with the largest Arab population, including thousands of militant pro-Libyan Arab students, and the authorities were taking no chances.

The Israeli minister's trip to Rome is part of Israel's current attempt to improve relations with the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Vatican. A senior Vatican source told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Dayan's forthcoming meeting with the Pope "will take place at a favorable time."

The official said the release by Israel of Msgr. Hilarion Capucci "has cleared the atmosphere." The source said the Vatican was also impressed by the exchange of visits between Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin.

### Vatican Interested In Three Issues

The Vatican reportedly intends to raise three main issues during Dayan's meeting with the Pope: the status of the holy places; the preservation of Jerusalem's character and the Palestinian issue. Israeli sources have made it clear that Dayan has "no intention to negotiate" with the Pope either on Jerusalem or on any other crucial matter.

The relations between the Vatican and Israel have sufficiently improved, however, for a working dialogue between the two. The Vatican has still not recognized Israel and the previous visits of Premier Moshe Sharett in 1952, Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban in 1969 and Premier Golda Meir in 1973, indicated a total lack of mutual understanding.

The Vatican's position has, however, "softened" sufficiently in recent months to enable a better understanding, diplomatic sources here said. The sources believe the Vatican will abstain from any unfriendly statements and will try to reach some agreement on free access to the Holy sites and a certain administrative autonomy for Catholic institutions and establishments in Jerusalem.

Relations with Italy have also improved in recent months, diplomatic sources here said. The

general improvement in the Middle East has affected the Italian government which traditionally adopts a militant pro-Arab attitude similar to that of France. Though it still relies on the Arabs for 70 percent of its oil imports, Italy is increasingly looking for new sources of supply and this development has also helped to somewhat improve Israeli-Italian relations.

Basically Italy still objects to increased Israeli exports to the nine-member Common Market area, especially citrus. But even in this field diplomats feel there is room for considerable improvement.

Dayan will visit Italian citrus groves in Sicily on Wednesday and will discuss trade improvements with Forlani and other aides. A moving moment will take place Thursday morning when, just before his meeting with the Pope, the Israeli minister will visit the Ardeatine Caves, where the Nazis shot 335 hostages, including a large number of Italian Jews. Dayan will return to Israel on Thursday.

## JNF TO CONTINUE WORK IN RAFAH SALIENT

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9 (JTA)--Moshe Rivlin, chairman of the Jewish National Fund, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency yesterday that the JNF would continue its ground-breaking work in the Rafah salient of northern Sinai in compliance with yesterday's Cabinet decision. He stressed that the land development agency does not make policy but simply carries out the instructions of the government.

The JNF and the World Zionist Organization's settlement department were reported by the media in recent days to be preparing ground for additional settlements in the Rafah salient and other parts of northern Sinai despite Premier Menachem Begin's peace plan which calls for returning Sinai to Egyptian sovereignty. The JNF is "not preparing the land for any new settlements," Rivlin declared. He said it was executing a government decision, made last Tuesday, to prepare additional land for agricultural purposes, not for the construction of new settlements.

He said yesterday's Cabinet decision was actually a clarification of Tuesday's decision. The Cabinet made it clear that no new settlements are presently under construction. It agreed, however, to strengthen existing settlements by increasing the land available for agriculture and to increase the civilian urban and rural population. Such work is underway at Pri'el and Talmi Yosef, near Sadot, where it was begun some months ago.

Sources in the WZO's settlement department told the JTA that Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon had given a "wide interpretation" to Tuesday's Cabinet decision which he viewed as a green light to establish more settlements in northern Sinai. It was Sharon's erroneous interpretation that required yesterday's clarification, the sources said.

## HERUT CENTRAL COMMITTEE VOTES 306-207 TO NOMINATE LANDAU FOR CABINET SEAT

Vote Seen As Setback For Begin  
By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 9 (JTA)--The Herut Central Committee voted 306-207 last night to nominate Chaim Landau, Premier Menachem Begin's personal choice, for a seat in the Cabinet, probably as Minister Without Portfolio. He was challenged by Shmuel Katz, an outspoken opponent of Begin's

peace plan. The Premier told his Herut colleagues during the stormy debate that preceded the balloting that he regarded a vote for Landau as a vote of confidence in his leadership and policies.

Begin received the vote of confidence, but by a 60-40 percent margin which was seen as a setback, if not a rebuke, to the leader whose decisions until now were adopted by unanimous acclaim. The vote also indicated the magnitude of the dissent within Herut over Begin's proposals to return Sinai to Egypt and offer self-rule to the Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Premier's peace plan was approved by a vote of 168-13 in a ballot taken after the nomination of Landau. But by then hundreds had left the hall and fewer than 200 Herut members bothered to participate.

#### Visibly Shaken By Events

Begin, who was visibly shaken by the evening's events, had appealed emotionally for support from the faction he has ruled for decades with an iron hand: For hours he listened to speakers, many of whom attacked his peace plan and expressed concern for the future of settlements in the administered territories. When he finally took the podium, Begin found it necessary to remind Herut that he was the leader of the party and the government.

"I am the Prime Minister and I want Landau at this juncture and I do not now want Shmuel Katz," he declared. He said he did not understand why Katz wants to join the government because the peace plan he opposed "is the policy of this government and this government will carry it out."

Begin hinted that he might resign from the party if the vote went against Landau. "I ask you to give me your confidence... If I do not get it tonight I shall draw the necessary conclusions," he said.

#### Basin For Flap Over Katz

Katz, one of Begin's old Irgun comrades in arms, had served as the Premier's special advisor on information and propaganda until he resigned last Friday in protest against the peace plan. Until then he had been one of Begin's staunchest supporters. Following Likud's election victory last May, Katz was sent to Washington as a personal emissary of the Prime Minister to explain Begin's positions to leaders of the Carter Administration and Congress and to allay the fears of many American-Jewish leaders that Begin's hard line would be an obstacle to peace.

Katz, who hoped to be in charge of Israeli propaganda efforts abroad, ran into resistance from Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan when he attempted to set up an information network independent of the Foreign Ministry. Katz complained that the Ministry refused to issue diplomatic passports to his people.

The Ministry countered that whoever holds a diplomatic passport must operate under the control of Israeli diplomatic missions abroad. But Katz attempted to go over the head of the Ministry when he circulated propaganda guidelines to Israeli missions abroad instructing them on what line to take on the issue of territories, the Palestinians and other matters. He issued similar guidelines to the Israeli news media, which the latter angrily rejected. Begin remained neutral in Katz's dispute with Dayan. That dispute was given as the official reason for Katz's resignation.

#### Labor Leaders Support Begin Plan

Meanwhile, Shimon Peres, leader of the Labor

Party, expressed support last night for the government's plan to strengthen settlements in Sinai. "The government must be supported in its attempt to strengthen our settlements and against any move to get us to fall back to the 1967 border," he told a meeting of the party in Tel Aviv. Similarly, former Premier Yitzhak Rabin said a complete withdrawal from Sinai would harm Israel's defense capability.

#### PREPARATIONS IN HIGH GEAR FOR POLITICAL, MILITARY COMMITTEE TALKS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 9 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said today that the joint Israeli-Egyptian political committee may be without an agreed agenda when it convenes for its first session in Jerusalem next Monday. In that case, the committee's first task will be to prepare one. Dayan told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport prior to his departure for his four-day official visit to Italy.

He said Israel has already submitted its proposed agenda the first item of which is the settlements in Sinai. He said the proposed agenda of the Egyptians contains some points that are acceptable and others that are not. He said the political committee may have two Israeli and two Egyptian plans to consider when it meets and he hoped an agenda would be agreed on beforehand.

Dayan said the Egyptians are well aware of Israel's position that the settlements in Sinai should remain there under Israeli protection and administration after a peace treaty is signed. The political committee will be chaired on a rotating basis by Dayan and Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ibrahim Kaamel. Dayan will be in Italy for several days. He is expected to meet the Pope Thursday.

#### Schedule For Military Committee

Meanwhile, preparations have been completed for the joint military committee meetings to begin in Cairo Wednesday afternoon. The Israeli delegation, headed by Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, will leave for Cairo Wednesday morning. The talks will take place at the Al Tahara Palace, a former residence of the late King Farouk.

It was learned that one session will be held Wednesday, two on Thursday and another, if needed, on Friday. But the Israeli delegation is expected to return to Israel Thursday night for the weekend. The talks will be resumed Monday, January 16, when the political committee convenes in Jerusalem. Maariv reported today that the scope of the military committee's deliberations has been expanded to discuss the future of the Sinai settlements in addition to purely military and defense problems.

The Israeli delegation to Cairo will include a representative of the Foreign Ministry, Moshe Sassoon, a senior officer of the military Judge Advocate's Office and a spokesman, David Kulick. The Israeli negotiating position got its final touches yesterday at a meeting between Weizman and Premier Menachem Begin. The meeting was attended by Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur and Gen. Abraham Tamir who was a member of the three-man Israeli negotiating team at last month's Cairo conference.

#### IL 182 B BUDGET PRESENTED TO KNESSET

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9 (JTA)--Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich presented an IL 182 billion budget for fiscal 1978-79 to the Knesset today. It is IL 40 billion above the 1977-78 budget. Ehrlich said it was only a "framework" budget and he

hoped the Knesset Finance Committee would pare it down. But opposition critics predicted that the budget would actually reach IL 186 billion because of the decline of the Pound relative to the U.S. dollar.

Ehrlich noted that a large portion of the budget is allocated for military purchases and to service the national debt. The latter amounts to one-third of the total. Treasury officials said that after this record allocation, the proportion of the budget assigned to the national debt would shrink in future years.

The new budget is based on an estimated price increase of 32 percent and on the assumption that wages will not exceed the rising cost-of-living index. Private consumption is expected to rise by only one percent in the new fiscal year. But critics accused Ehrlich of misleading the public.

MK Adi Amori of the Labor Alignment observed that the budget is based on an exchange rate of IL 16.5-\$1, whereas the Treasury "knows mighty well that the exchange rate of the dollar will reach IL 18.5 this year." This, he said, would produce a budget IL 4 billion higher than the one presented. Other opposition MKs disputed Ehrlich's contention that prices would rise by no more than 32 percent.

#### U.S. IS PREPARED TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN HELPING TO SOLVE THE ISSUE OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 (JTA)--The United States took the position today that it is prepared to take an active part in solving the Israeli settlements issue but believes Egypt and Israel will resolve the matter themselves at their forthcoming discussions in Jerusalem.

This outline of the American role was sketched by the State Department's chief spokesman, Assistant Secretary of State Hodding Carter, who announced that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will spend only "a few days" with the Foreign Ministers of Egypt and Israel at their meetings beginning Jan. 16.

His remarks were in response to a question related to the Israeli Cabinet decision yesterday not to build new settlements in Sinai but to strengthen and expand existing ones. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat told 15 U.S. Congressmen visiting him that he will not tolerate any Israeli presence in Sinai under a Middle East agreement and asked for the Congressmen's support. He said Israel has not "really responded to my initiative."

Nothing "obvious disagreement" between Israel and Egypt regarding settlements, Carter said that when Vance is in Jerusalem "at that time, if useful, we will present our views on this general issue." He was therefore "reluctant to comment now," Carter said.

Reminded that the U.S. in the past had referred to Israeli settlements as "illegal and obstacles to peace," Carter replied that he was "not backing away from our general position on settlements" but "quite frankly, we think this issue can be resolved in discussions" and "we believe Egypt and Israel can" resolve it.

#### To Push For Resolution Of Palestinian Issue

Carter indicated that Vance may visit Cairo where the Israeli and Egyptian Defense Ministers are to meet but his presence there will be to confer with Egyptian political leaders. He does not expect Vance to go to Saudi Arabia. Vance will leave for Jerusalem Jan. 14.

Privately, a usually reliable State Department source made it clear that Vance is not going to Jerusalem as an "observer" but to push for a resolution of the Palestinian issue as outlined by President Carter Friday on his way home to Washington from his overseas journeys.

The Voice of America amplified this view saying, "It would not be surprising if Vance were to urge consideration" in Jerusalem of President Carter's formula. But the broadcast tactfully cautioned "It must be remembered, however, that the American views are being presented strictly as suggestions."

Nevertheless, there were indications that the U.S. was preparing to take a tough stand at the talks in Jerusalem. One major source put it this way: "When we get our position on the table in Jerusalem this is going to cause a lot of friction with the Israelis." So far, the U.S. has been careful to steer an even course, showing support for Sadat who is under fire from Arab rejectionists and for Israeli Premier Menachem Begin who is in trouble with many of his Herut supporters over his peace plan.

#### GLEZER RELEASED FROM SENTENCE IN EXILE

NEW YORK, Jan. 9 (JTA)--Ilya Glezer, a Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience, has been released from his sentence in exile and told to re-apply to emigrate, it was reported today by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Presently residing in Moscow, Glezer, a biologist from Kharkov, was sentenced to three years in prison and three years in exile in August 1972 on grounds of disseminating "anti-Soviet propaganda."

Exactly one month after he and his mother applied for exit visas in January 1972, Glezer was arrested and charged with "anti-Soviet propaganda, slander and other crimes." In particular, he was jailed for having written a letter to President Nikolai Podgorny substantiating the existence of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union.

His two-day trial was held behind closed doors with his mother and relatives barred from the courtroom. Throughout his ordeal, and even in appeals from prison, Glezer maintained that his only "crime" was his fervent desire to live in Israel.

#### EMILE POLLAK DEAD AT 63

PARIS, Jan. 9 (JTA)--Emile Pollak, one of France's best known lawyers, died in Marseilles last Friday night of lung cancer. He was 63 years old. Pollak was one of the most prominent defense lawyers in France in the post-World War II period. He was also famous as a staunch opponent of the death penalty.

#### EXPORTS UP, IMPORTS DOWN

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9 (JTA)--Israelis were pleased to learn that their exports are up and imports are down but Israel's gross national product increased by only one percent last year. According to figures just released, Israel's exports of goods and services rose by 11 percent in 1977. Imports were down by about three percent overall but military imports dropped 25 percent. The GNP rose at a rate of one percent for the third consecutive year. In 1971 and 1972 the annual rate of increase was 11 percent.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin and his wife, Aliza, have accepted membership in Neot Sinai, a moshav in the Rafah salient sponsored by the militant Betar movement. Begin had visited the area in September and said he would like to retire there.

**ROSE HALPRIN DEAD AT 82**

NEW YORK, Jan. 9 (JTA)--Funeral services will be held here tomorrow for Rose Halprin, a world leader of the Zionist movement and the Jewish community and twice president of Hadassah, who died yesterday at the age of 82 at Mount Sinai Hospital.

After the funeral here her body will be flown to Israel where she will receive a state funeral. Her body will lay in state at Hadassah Medical Center in Ein-Karem and then be taken to the courtyard of the Jewish Agency building in Jerusalem where the official state funeral will take place. She will be buried on the Mount of Olives near the burial site of Henrietta Szold, the founder of Hadassah.

In 1946, Mrs. Halprin was elected to the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Palestine. In 1947, when the Jewish Agency-American Section was authorized to represent the Jewish case for Palestine before the United Nations in New York, Mrs. Halprin participated actively in national and international negotiations leading to the establishment of the State of Israel.

**Active In Many Organizations**

She served on the Executive of the Jewish Agency for more than 20 years and was designated acting-chairman of its American Section in 1955, and chairman in 1960, a position she held until 1968. Mrs. Halprin was also chairman of the Education and Culture Department of the Jewish Agency for the American Section.

She served as president of Hadassah from 1932-34. From 1934 to 1939 she lived with her family in Jerusalem, during which period she served as liaison between Hadassah in the United States and in Palestine. A member of the Building Committee of the hospital on Mount Scopus, Mrs. Halprin was present at its opening in 1939.

She served as national president again from 1947-52 and in that capacity dealt with the situation after the War of Independence in 1948 when access to Scopus was cut off. It was during her presidency that the decision was made to open the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School in temporary quarters.

Mrs. Halprin was honorary chairman of the World Jewish Congress-American Section, a member of the Zionist General Council of the World Zionist Organization (Actions Committee), a member of the Board of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and a lifetime member of the Board of the United Jewish Appeal. In 1976, she received the Bublik Award from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In March 1977, she received the honorary degree of Doctor of Jewish Literature from the Horace M. Kallen Center for Jewish Studies.

Mrs. Halprin was born in 1895, in New York City, to Philip and Rebecca (Isaacson) Luria. She attended the Teacher's Institute, Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 1912-14, and Hunter College 1914-16, 1920-30; and Columbia University 1930-31. She was taught Hebrew as a child and spoke it fluently. She also spoke Yiddish, French, and German. She was much sought after as a speaker and as a contributor to publications devoted to analyzing the problems of the Zionist movement, and dealing with Jewish life. She was considered one of the foremost authorities on current Jewish and Zionist problems. She was married to Samuel Halprin, an importer and lifelong Zionist, who died in 1974.

**'A Passionate Fighter'**

Bernice S. Tannenbaum, president of Hadassah, in paying tribute to Mrs. Halprin, said:

"This was a woman obsessed by ideas and able to transmit these ideas to others. This was a passionate fighter who believed in the principles by which she lived--she fought for justice--she fought for Jews--she fought for Palestine--she fought for Israel. There was never a day in her entire life when she was free from the haunting needs of Jews.

"Her intellect was keen, her analytical brilliance self-evident, her ability to synthesize concepts and facts, to slough off the unessential and find the core meaning, were awe-inspiring.... She was impatient with those who had no vision. She, who could see the stars, had no patience for those who could see only what was before their eyes.... In a sense, we could call her the quintessential leader who lived through all the momentous events of this century."

Only last week, Mrs. Tannenbaum recalled, she was still at her desk planning an aliya conference which she was to chair Thursday (Jan. 12) as part of the annual national mid-winter conference of Hadassah which opened here today.

**Shaped Many Events**

John Kayston, JTA executive vice-president, issued the following statement: "The JTA Board of Directors and staff are deeply saddened by and mourn the passing of our dear friend and colleague Rose Halprin. As a member of the JTA Board and its executive and editorial committees for the past 15 years, she made invaluable contributions to the JTA world-wide news network. She was not a passive observer of news events but an active participant in shaping many of them. But at all times she demanded non-partisanship, objectivity, integrity and professionalism in reporting the news. Her boldness, imagination, inexhaustible vitality and unstinting aid will be sorely missed by all of us."

**ISRAELI EMBASSY A TERRORIST TARGET**

BRUSSELS, Jan. 9 (JTA)--A makeshift rocket launcher filled with explosive charges directed at the Israel Embassy here was discovered yesterday by Belgian police. The malfunctioning of the device prevented an explosion. Israeli sources here said the launcher, which consisted of two tubes 16 inches long and four inches in diameter linked by electric wires to a battery, was aimed at the Embassy building from a wall across the road.

(In Israel, security circles suggested that the terrorist attempt was made by the notorious Wadia Haddad gang which has been behind many of the terrorist activities in Europe. They discounted this attempt as having been made by the Palestine Liberation Organization, noting that the PLO has been refraining from terrorist acts outside Israel.)

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--Prof. Sara Groll, chairman of the Hebrew University's Egyptology department, is looking forward to visiting the sites in Egypt that have figured prominently in her academic work. She believes that with Israel and Egypt now working toward a peace settlement she may soon be able to fulfill that desire. Groll also expects increased contacts with American and European Egyptologists who have been wary of any links with their Israeli counterparts in the past for fear of offending the Egyptian authorities. "For many years we had the feeling of being outcasts but I believe that now this will change," she said.