

# JTA daily news bulletin

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Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency/165 West 46th Street/New York, New York 10036

Vol. XLV - 61st Year

Thursday, January 19, 1978

No. 13

## JERUSALEM TALKS BREAK OFF; SADAT RECALLS EGYPTIAN DELEGATION; ISRAEL, U.S. STUNNED

### HOPE PERSISTS, HOWEVER, THAT RECALL DOES NOT MEAN THE END OF THE TALKS

By David Landau, Yitzhak Shargil, Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Israelis and Americans attending the Jerusalem peace talks were stunned today by President Anwar Sadat's sudden recall of the Egyptian delegation. The Egyptians too seemed surprised. The recall was reported and confirmed here only two hours after the joint Israeli-Egyptian political committee held a 20-minute working session and agreed to reconvene at 11 a.m. tomorrow. The joint military committee meeting, due to resume in Cairo tomorrow, has been cancelled according to word from the Egyptian capital. (Late bulletin P. 2.)

Up to the last minute, both sides had indicated that progress was being made and that informal contacts between them had proved productive and would continue. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's spokesman, Hodding Carter, had just finished telling American correspondents that a common declaration of intentions by Israel and Egypt could be expected this Friday when the bombshell from Cairo was broadcast here.

An Egyptian airliner landed at Ben Gurion Airport this evening to pick up the Egyptian delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Mohammed Ibrahim Kaamel. Kaamel visited Premier Menachem Begin at the Prime Minister's residence shortly before his departure. Egyptian sources here said Sadat was angered by recent statements by Israeli leaders. According to Egypt's official Middle East News Agency, Sadat has called the Egyptian parliament into session for Saturday to explain his actions.

Zev Heffets, head of the Israel Government Press Office, told reporters tonight "I certainly hope it is not the end of the talks, but I am sure it is not the end of the negotiating process." Carter said he had no immediate explanation for the recall. He said he did not know if it would affect Vance's plans to go to Cairo Friday for a previously scheduled meeting with Sadat.

As the Egyptians departed, bag and baggage, from the Jerusalem Hilton Hotel, Vance told reporters: "The talks have not broken down. I've seen this happen many times in negotiations. The Egyptian delegation is going back home for consultations." Vance said he would be meeting with Begin tomorrow and would fly to Cairo as planned Friday to talk with Sadat.

### Angry Blast From Cairo

The announcement from Cairo was followed by an angry blast at Israel by the Egyptian Information Minister, Moneim el-Sawi. He said on a Cairo radio broadcast that Sadat decided to recall the Egyptian delegation because Israel was offering only "partial solutions which cannot lead to a permanent and just peace." He declared that Sadat had made it clear from the start that his peace initiative was based on full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and self-determination for the Palestinian people.

Sawi said that if the Jewish people were once dispersed from their land and spread all over

the world, that was no cause to subjugate the Palestinians and keep them under occupation. He also declared that the narrowness of Israel's borders was no justification for the creation of permanent tension along the borders under the pretext of self-defense.

Meanwhile, there were reports from Cairo tonight that the Israeli staff attached to the joint military committee was confined to its hotel.

### U.S. Had Presented Compromise Proposals

It was believed that the delegations were given the American compromise proposals at today's meeting and had adjourned to study them. Carter had told reporters that the U.S. "suggestions" concerned the first item on the political committee agenda, a "statement of principles" which, it was hoped, would emerge from the Jerusalem talks.

The American compromise was reportedly focussed on one of the two most serious obstacles--the Palestinian issue. Informed Egyptian sources had indicated that if that issue was resolved, the other major issue, Israeli settlements in Sinai, somehow would be settled. The U.S. plan was said to envision an interim period akin to Begin's offer of self-rule to the West Bank and Gaza Strip Arabs that would not exclude the possibility of eventual self-determination for them.

There was much speculation here as to what had prompted Sadat to call the Egyptian delegation home. The wide gulf between the Israeli and Egyptian positions on the Palestinians and the Sinai settlements had been there from the start of the talks and there had been hard-line statements on both sides.

Some analysts here offered the view that Sadat's move was a signal to Israel that he was prepared to break off negotiations altogether unless Israel was more forthcoming with concessions. They also noted that Sadat had also, by his move, shown Israel how easy it would be to break off negotiations if pushed too hard.

### Begin Meets With Egyptian Editors

Begin tried to explain to eight leading Egyptian editors this morning why Israel cannot give up its settlements in the occupied territories and why it cannot accept the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank. Begin received his guests in the Cabinet room of the Knesset. They included Mussa Sabri, editor of Akhbar El Yom, the largest Cairo daily; Ali Hamdi Gamal, editor of the semi-official Al Ahram; and Ms. Tamadour Tewfik, director general of Egyptian television.

Begin also sought to clarify the reason why he used the occasion of a dinner he gave last night for the delegates to the joint political committee to remonstrate with Kaamel. He told the journalists that he felt he had to respond to certain points in Kaamel's opening speech before the political committee yesterday in which the Egyptian diplomat said there could be no "real peace" unless Palestinian aspirations were satisfied and Israel withdrew from all occupied Arab territory including Arab Jerusalem.

But Begin's sharp words at the dinner where Kaamel and Vance were the guests of honor, aston-

ished many Israelis and Americans present and clearly embarrassed the Egyptians. Among other things, he referred to Kaamel, 50, as "a young man" who did not know that "self-determination" had been misused in Europe and was one of the causes of World War II.

He reiterated an oft-used Israeli argument that the Palestinians did not need a state of their own because their national identity was taken care of by the existence of 21 Arab states. He said that as far as he was concerned, there could be no peace if Israel was forced to return to the "aggression-provoking lines" of 1967.

Kaamel responded by saying that he had thought the dinner was to be a purely social occasion and was disappointed that Begin made a political speech. He said he could only reiterate that the elements necessary for peace were those he had enumerated in his opening speech to the political committee.

At his meeting with the Egyptian editors this morning, Begin did not change his arguments but softened his words. He received the journalists warmly and asked for a relaxation of tensions on both sides. He said he made the same appeal to the Israeli media.

Begin insisted that no Israeli government could take a decision to dismantle Jewish settlements, not only because of personal attachments but because the national consensus in Israel would not permit it. He noted that he was under attack by some opposition members of the Knesset for giving away too much and repeated that if Israel's offers on Sinai were rejected, it might have to review its entire peace plan.

The Premier rejected Egypt's demand for self-determination for the Palestinians. "Self-determination means an independent Palestinian state which, in turn, means permanent bloodshed as 19 years of experience has shown," he said. Begin cited several national minorities that have never achieved self-determination. He mentioned the Walloons in Belgium and the Kurds in Iraq. Israel has frequently denounced Iraq for oppressing the Kurds. He told the Egyptians that "Egypt herself had never suggested autonomy for the Gaza Strip."

#### U.S. MUM ON RECALL MOVE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (JTA)--The White House and the State Department had no comment today on President Anwar Sadat's sudden recall of his Foreign Minister Mohammed Ibrahim Kaamel from the Jerusalem talks and his summons to convene the Egyptian parliament Saturday.

The State Department referred all questions to Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in Jerusalem, as it has done for the past few days. White House Deputy Press Secretary Rex Granum said he had no response to Sadat's move nor did he have any reaction to Premier Menachem Begin's sharp words at a dinner in Jerusalem for the delegates to the political committee talks last night.

Asked if President Carter has been in telephone contact with either Sadat or Begin, the spokesman replied, "All you can say is that there is no comment from the White House at this time." It is understood, however, that the White House is engaged in assessing the circumstances developing from Sadat's action and is receiving reports from the U.S. Ambassador in Cairo and from Vance in Jerusalem.

#### Schindler: Not A Cause For Despair

Commenting on Sadat's recall action, Rabbi

Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, who had met with the Egyptian leader last week in Aswan, said in New York, that it "is dismaying but must be understood in the light of the tough negotiations in which Egypt and Israel are engaged and which inevitably must bring with them ups and downs."

"As I see it, it is not a cause for despair. Just as President Sadat's meeting with Prime Minister Begin gave rise to unjustified euphoria, so we must not permit the latest development to cast us into unwarranted gloom."

#### SPECIAL LATE BULLETIN

#### CARTER INTERVENES IN RECALL CRISIS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Radio Cairo announced tonight that at President Carter's intervention, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt has agreed that the joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee talks in Cairo will not be cancelled but will be resumed Saturday. They were originally to have reconvened tomorrow.

The crisis precipitated by Sadat's sudden recall of the Egyptian delegation to the political committee in Jerusalem was eased further when Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Ibrahim Kaamel rejected the idea that the talks have been broken off and said he was returning to Cairo only to report to Sadat. He said Sadat would decide the next move.

Kaamel made his statement to reporters after visiting Premier Menachem Begin at his home briefly tonight to say goodbye. The first contingent of the Egyptian delegation was due to leave at 3 a.m. local time. The plane was to return later to pick up the others. Meanwhile, it was learned that Secretary of State Cyrus Vance telephoned Sadat earlier from East Jerusalem urging him to cancel his recall order. But Sadat declined.

#### ARRESTED ON ESPIONAGE CHARGE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 19 (JTA)--Hans Lebrecht, a veteran member of Rakah (Communist Party) and a correspondent for several Communist newspapers in Europe, including East Germany, was arrested here yesterday on the charge of espionage. His arrest came shortly before he was due to leave for Jerusalem to cover the Israeli-Egyptian political committee talks.

Lebrecht, 50, had been a correspondent of the Israeli Communist newspaper Kol Ha'am and when it closed down due to financial difficulties he became the correspondent of Zu'Ha'derech, the Communist weekly publication. He was also a correspondent for L'Humanite, the newspaper of the French Communist Party, and Unita, the Italian Communist Party newspaper. He had also visited East Germany and the Soviet Union several times.

His arrest was revealed in today's edition of L'Humanite, which is demanding his release. Meir Wilner, head of Rakah, asked Interior Minister Yosef Burg to clarify the reason for Lebrecht's arrest. Burg told him the arrest was made by members of the security services and that the charge is violation of Israel's security.

Meanwhile, it was learned that Pascali Panitatis, a Cypriot who is a correspondent for a Communist newspaper there, was arrested last night in his hotel room in Tel Aviv on suspicion of espionage. There was no immediate indication of whether the two cases are connected.

## JEWS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES TO DEMAND REPARATIONS IN ANY MIDEAST SETTLEMENT

Form New U.S. Group To Push For Demand

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Jews from Arab countries made it clear today that they will demand reparations from the countries of their birth in any Middle East settlement. "No final peace in the Middle East can be achieved without taking into account the rights of the hundreds of thousands of Jews from Arab countries who now constitute 41 percent of the population of Israel and 12 percent of all the Jews in the world," Mordechai Ben Porat, co-chairman of the World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries (WOJAC), declared.

Ben Porat spoke at a press conference in the office of the American Jewish Committee where the formation of the American section of WOJAC was announced. Members of the new group's steering committee participated in the conference.

Dr. Heskell M. Haddad, a clinical professor of ophthalmology at New York Medical College, who was born in Iraq, said the American section will represent the some 50,000 Jews in the United States from Arab countries, would fight for reparations for them and would seek to educate the American public and government about the just claims of these Jews.

Ben Porat, who was also born in Iraq, has been in the U.S. for the past four months as a member of Israel's United Nations delegation. He said during that time he spoke of the problem of Jewish refugees from Arab countries on 160 occasions throughout the U.S.

He said that while everyone knows about Arab refugees, people seem surprised when he tells them that Jews from Arab countries were also refugees and they, too, had to live in refugee camps when they first came to Israel. Those camps, he noted, were not officially called refugee camps but transition camps.

### Other Refugee Camps

He said he believes part of the problem was also neglect of the issue by the Israeli government and the Jewish establishment. But now both Israel and the Carter Administration have promised to include the Jewish refugee problem as part of the negotiations on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 242 which calls for a settlement of the refugee problem, he said.

Ben Porat's words were echoed by Mrs. Aviva Mutchnik, a graduate student at the University of Michigan, who said that when she came to Israel as a child of three from Iraq her family also had to live in refugee camps. She said that she has been in the U.S. for 10 years and was shocked by the ignorance of the plight of Jewish refugees here. "The settlement in the Middle East ought to include us, us who grew up in refugee camps, us who suffered," she said.

Dr. Paul M. Raccach, head of the physics department of the University of Illinois, who was born in Tunisia, said one of the most tragic results of the Mideast conflict is the destruction of thousands of years of Jewish culture in the Arab countries. He also noted that Arab refugees had only to move some 30 miles to people with the same language, the same culture and even the same geography. But Jewish refugees not only lost all their possessions but also lost their culture, suffered culture shock and were forced to abandon their old ways. "Our culture has been fossilized," he said.

Dr. Aziz Gourg, an Iraqi-born Long Island physician, also pointed out that Jews had a long history in the Arab countries pre-dating Islam by centuries. Yet, he said, they were forced out of the Arab countries without any possessions. Haddad said Jews from Arab countries also want a return of their religious and cultural possessions that are being kept in the Arab countries.

### Explaining The Social Gap

Asked about the social gap between Jews from Arab countries and others that now exists in Israel, Ben Porat said it exists but the situation is improving. He noted that critics point out that 16 percent of Sephardi-Jews go to college, but 10 years ago it was only 6 percent. He said the biggest hope for the future is that intermarriage between Jews from Arab countries and European countries has risen to 21 percent.

Haddad said that the problem started when the Arab countries expelled Jews, sending some 650,000 Jews into Israel and thereby doubled its population in hopes of ruining Israel's economy. He said these people have not stood still but have worked hard to gradually get themselves out of poverty.

Raccach stressed that the Jewish refugees accepted the fact that they had left their homelands and tried to make a new life in contrast to the Arab refugees. "They did not throw bombs, they did not kill people, they just tried to survive," he said. He stated that he is grateful that he was given the opportunity in the U.S. to pursue his career in physics. But he stressed that he and other Jews from Arab countries did not think anyone owed them anything that anyone had to give them something. They knew that they had to work hard if they wanted to make a new life, he said.

Ben Porat rejected a suggestion that WOJAC was formed as a gambit to offset Arab demands for Palestinian refugees. But he said if a settlement would be reached in which the Arabs would grant Israel recognition and security and full peace, WOJAC would be satisfied. But Haddad said that Israel cannot reject the rights of Jews from Arab countries who live abroad, including some 650,000 in France. He said no matter what is decided between Israel and the Arab countries, Jews abroad will press their claim for reparations just as Jews from Germany did.

### 1000 ATTEND RECEPTION FOR KLUTZNICK

BUCHAREST, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Philip Klutznick, president of the World Jewish Congress, visited Rumania last week and met President Nicolae Ceausescu. He also conferred with Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen and other Jewish leaders on Jewish life and the relationship between world Jewry and Israel and the Rumanian Jewish community. More than 1000 Jews attended a reception for Klutznick Friday evening at the Choral Synagogue. Rosen emphasized that this was Klutznick's first visit in his capacity as WJC president to a Jewish community outside the U.S.

Klutznick expressed his admiration and respect for Rumania and Ceausescu who had played an important role in the current peace process in the Middle East. The Federation of Jewish communities gave a reception attended by the ambassadors of the U.S. and Israel, the representative of Rumania's Department of Religious Affairs and religious leaders headed by Patriarch Justin of the Rumanian-Orthodox Church, bishops of the Roman Catholic Church and the Evangelic Church.

## CHRISTIAN, JEWISH SCHOLARS SAY ECUMENISM HAS NOT REACHED PARISH LEVEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (JTA)--Although relationships between Christians and Jews have improved measurably in the past decade, the new ecumenism has been confined largely to the top level of the religious communities, and, in particular, has not reached the masses of Christians at the parish level, a group of Christian and Jewish theologians and scholars declared here.

They presented their analyses at a symposium, co-sponsored by the American Jewish Committee and the National Conference of Christians and Jews, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jules Isaac, the noted French-Jewish historian, whose monumental study, "Jesus and Israel," demonstrated that certain themes in Christian teaching throughout the centuries had been responsible for creating a tradition of "contempt" towards Jews and Judaism.

Serving jointly as hosts of the meeting were Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, AJCommittee's national director of interreligious affairs, and Donald McEvoy, the NCCJ's senior vice-president for national programs. The symposium panel included Mme. Claire Huchet Bishop, a friend and disciple of Isaac, who was largely responsible for the publication of Isaac's work in the United States, and who edited the English translations.

### A Promise Of Solidarity

Tanenbaum made particular reference to an historic meeting between Prof. Isaac and Pope John XXIII in 1960 which, he said, "helped lead ultimately to the Vatican Declaration on Non-Christian Religions."

"Prof. Isaac and Pope John are among the spiritual fathers of the effort to confront and uproot anti-Semitism in Catholic and other Christian teachings today," he said. "In their dramatic meeting, they symbolized the promise and the possibility of Christian and Jewish friendship, solidarity, and mutual caring."

All members of the symposium panel agreed that Isaac, in his detailed analysis of the accusations against Jews that had been used as the rationale for anti-Semitism over the centuries, had set the stage for much of the progress that has been made in Christian-Jewish relationships in recent years.

### Masses Have Not Been Reached

Mrs. Bishop, who is Catholic, and author of the book "How Catholics Look At Jews," deplored the fact that "though a number of Christians the world over have undergone successfully what could be called 'deprogramming' regarding the Jews, the masses have not been reached." She expressed the belief that "logical arguments need to be augmented by some sort of emotional appeal."

"When more Christians have become convinced in their hearts," she said, "then the much-needed theology of Jewish-Christian relations will develop." Mrs. Bishop also pointed out that "anti-Zionism today is but the accepted word for anti-Semitism, whether people are aware of it or not," and declared that "the very existence of Israel" is a constant reminder of Jules Isaac's statement that "the unassimilable element in Israel is essentially of a religious nature, neither generic nor ethnic."

### RABBI GOING TO CAIRO

STAMFORD, Conn., Jan. 18 (JTA)--A local Orthodox rabbi will lead a group of about 30 Jews and Christians from this area to Egypt on a peace

mission. Rabbi Joseph H. Ehrenkrantz, spiritual leader of Congregation Agudath Shalom, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency his group hopes to meet Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and tell him that "Americans, Jews and non-Jews, support the avenue of peace and not of war."

Ehrenkrantz said the mission was suggested to him by Ahmed Esmat Meguid, Egypt's Ambassador to the United Nations, when he met with him at the Egyptian UN Mission in New York. Meguid invited him to New York after he called the Ambassador to praise him for Sadat's trip to Jerusalem and for his attitude at the UN while under attack from other Arab delegates.

The rabbi said the group will spend four days in Cairo and then go to Jerusalem for five days. The delegation hopes to meet with governmental leaders in both places. Ehrenkrantz told the JTA he has not yet formulated all he plans to say to Sadat. He refused to reveal the exact date of his departure for "security" reasons.

Several American and Canadian rabbis who normally lead tours to Israel have announced plans of adding Egypt to the itinerary. But Ehrenkrantz said his mission is not a tour in that sense although there will, of course, be some sightseeing.

### FEDERATION TO GRANT \$1.175 MILLION TO JEWISH SCHOOLS IN 1977/78

NEW YORK, Jan. 18 (JTA)--The Program Development Fund for Jewish Education (PDF) of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies has allocated \$1,175,000 for grants to schools in support of Jewish education in Greater New York in 1977/78, it was announced by Sanford Solender, executive vice-president. In the furtherance of this program, the PDF has received a \$450,000 contribution from Joseph Gruss, a prominent businessman and philanthropist, enabling Federation to achieve this new level of funding for Jewish schools.

By the end of this year, monies distributed to Jewish schools through the PDF since its inception in 1972 will total more than \$4,330,000, including more than \$2 million contributed by Gruss, Solender reported. The PDF was initiated with the aid of a \$1 million contribution by Gruss, which was then matched by other contributors. Gruss's current gift also requires the raising of matching funds from the community by Federation.

This year, more than 2500 students in 161 yeshivot and day schools, and 700 students in 109 supplementary schools received PDF scholarships totaling \$745,000. One hundred and seven yeshivot and day schools received building renovation grants totaling \$255,000 to repair health and safety hazards. In addition, \$175,000 in grants for quality education programs will be distributed. "The dramatic increase in this year's level of funding is evidence of Federation's growing commitment to the future of Jewish education," said Solomon Litt, PDF chairman.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Rabbi Joseph P. Sternstein, Zionist Organization of America president, reported "considerable confusion" among U.S. Jews on Yamit's future and called for clarification from Israel. Addressing journalists, he said the U.S. Jewish community is "totally confused and that while all are aware of the delicate nature of the present negotiations, this does not require that confusion be concomitant." He added, "It is hard to believe that the Israel government expects Americans to go on aliya to Israel and then to go live in Yamit and become Egyptian citizens."