

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAELI DELEGATION IN CAIRO TO RESUME JOINT MILITARY TALKS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Jan. 31 (JTA)--The Israeli delegation, headed by Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, arrived in Cairo today for resumption of the joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee talks at 6 p.m. local time this evening. Weizman and his party were greeted warmly at the airport by the men they will be facing across the negotiating table--Minister of War Gen. Mohammed Gamassy and Gen. Taha Maghdoub, secretary of the Egyptian Defense Council.

Speaking to reporters at the airport, Weizman declined to discuss the substance of the renewed negotiations. He said simply, "We have come back to continue what we have started--to work for a peace settlement." He warned that the road to peace will not be easy and hoped both sides would make efforts to reach their mutual goal. Weizman, who was accompanied by his wife, Reuma, and his son, Shaul, as guests of Gamassy, said he felt he was among friends.

### Elements Of Second Round

Israel is not believed to have returned to Cairo with any new principles. It was learned, however, that the second round of military talks will concentrate on subjects on which some progress toward agreement had been made at the initial sessions earlier this month, leaving the most difficult matters to the final stages. The questions of buffer zones, demilitarization of Sinai and limited forces regions fall into the first category. The issue of Israeli settlements in northern Sinai pose a more serious obstacle and will be deferred for the time being. Weizman evaded questions on that subject when he arrived in Cairo today.

The Israeli defense chief will be seconded at the talks by Gen. Avraham Tamir, chief of planning at General Headquarters, Gen. Shlomo Gazit, chief of intelligence and Moshe Sassoun, representing the Foreign Ministry. He is expected to return to Israel in 2-3 days.

The joint military talks were launched on Jan. 12 but were suspended on Jan. 18 when President Anwar Sadat suddenly recalled the Egyptian delegation from the political committee talks in Jerusalem. The Cabinet decided last Sunday that the talks could be resumed in view of the abatement of anti-Israel attacks in the Egyptian press.

## EX-NAZI UNCOVERED IN MUNICH

VIENNA, Jan. 31 (JTA)--Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal said yesterday that his Jewish Documentation Center here has discovered a Nazi war criminal who had participated in shootings of Jews in Yugoslavia between 1941 and 1943. Wiesenthal said the man, Alexei Bojtschewski, who is of Byelorussian origin, now lives in Munich. The Documentation Center has relayed testimony of a Russian Orthodox priest who had been an eye-witness to the shootings to West German authorities. The Munich State Attorney General's office has started an investigation, Wiesenthal said. He added that he is

still trying to find other witnesses who are now living in Yugoslavia.

## SADAT INVITES EBAN TO EGYPT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31 (JTA)--Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban has received approval in principle from Premier Menachem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to respond favorably to an invitation from President Anwar Sadat to visit Egypt, it was learned today. No date for the visit was suggested by Begin or Dayan and Eban is biding his time.

Eban is a Labor MK but holds no government office. Nevertheless, a visit to Egypt by him, which would presumably include a meeting with Sadat, would have political significance since Eban is coordinating his activities closely with the government. He has just agreed to a request from Dayan to participate in the government's information program abroad.

Eban is one of several prominent Israelis who will go to the U.S. shortly to explain Israel's political positions. Others enlisted in that task by the Foreign Ministry include Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir, Energy Minister Eliezer Modai, Supreme Court Justice Meir Shamgar, Meir Rosenn, legal counselor to the Foreign Ministry, and Eliahu Ben-Elissar, director general of the Prime Minister's office.

## MERCHANT MARINE STRIKE IN SECOND WEEK

TEL AVIV, Jan. 31 (JTA)--More than 30 Israeli-flag ships, a substantial portion of the merchant marine, remain idle at home and abroad as efforts to end the two-week-old strike of officers and licensed seamen collapsed yesterday. A Haifa labor court refused to issue a back-to-work order to the officers and reversed an earlier order addressed to the seamen. The effect was to render the strike legal.

The court acted on grounds that the shipping companies refused to accept its arbitration proposal. It is now up to Histadrut to find a solution to the strike which it has refused to recognize until now. Israeli ship-owners, meanwhile, are chartering foreign vessels to pick up stranded cargo in an effort to reduce their losses. Some of the strike-bound Israeli ships have been offered for sale abroad.

A spokesman for the seamen's union said yesterday that they were ready to begin negotiations immediately on retroactive pay increases. The ship-owners insist on a comprehensive agreement covering the current year as well. One shipping official observed, "With 12 strikes a year no country can run a merchant marine."

## SYRIA BUYS \$240 MILLION-WORTH OF GUIDED MISSILES FROM FRENCH-GERMAN CONSORTIUM

By Jon Fedler

BONN, Jan. 31 (JTA)--A German-French consortium has sold Syria guided missiles worth \$240 million, breaching Germany's stated policy of not selling weapons to "areas of conflict." The sale came on the heels of an unexpected letter by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt to Premier Menachem Begin, calling on Israel to recognize Palestinian self-determination and evacuate all occupied territories. It is likely to place a further damper on German-Israeli relations, according to diplomatic sources.

The deal, which assists Syria's current buildup

of (mainly Soviet) weapons, was closed recently by Euromissile, a Paris-based joint subsidiary of German aircraft manufacturer, Messerschmitt, Boelkow, Blohm (MBB) and France's Aérospatiale, according to the daily "Sueddeutsche Zeitung."

The shipment includes a light anti-tank missile, the "Milan," a heavy anti-tank rocket for long distances, the "HOT" and the "Cormoran" air-to-sea missile. Credit guarantees for MBB's share of the order (about \$100 million) will be provided by three leading German banks, according to the report.

The deal was clinched on the basis of an unexpected Syrian offer to pay for the weapons immediately if the delivery could be speeded up. Some sources believe Saudi Arabia supplied the cash in order to counter Moscow's influence in Damascus. According to the sources, Syria anticipated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's peace initiative toward Israel and wanted to build up its arsenal as quickly as possible "to strengthen the Syrian option based on military strength."

"Objective Western observers in Damascus" see the buildup as aimed not at launching a military strike against Israel, but rather as a "policy of deterrence" as practiced by NATO vis-à-vis the Warsaw pact. The "Sueddeutsche Zeitung" reported.

#### Rationale Of Government

Officially, Bonn government policy bars arms exports to areas of conflict. But the Franco-German combine reportedly sold "Milan" rockets to South Africa in 1975 and "Leopard" tanks manufactured in Italy under German license are said to have found their way to Libya. The official line of the government is to place the burden of these deals on Germany's overseas partners.

Defense Minister Georg Leber said in a 1975 interview that while the joint arms development contracts stipulated that Paris must consult Bonn before selling arms to areas of conflict, "You must realize, however, that France is in a different position than ourselves." He stressed, in that connection, that France is more dependent on its arms industry than West Germany for a balance of payments surplus. "However, we have to go along with certain things when we develop arms jointly because it is too expensive to do it alone and the other partner must naturally be allowed a certain amount of freedom."

MBB would not confirm or deny the reports. It said in an official statement that MBB did not deliver finished weapons but only parts and these were sent exclusively to France for assembly by its partner, Aérospatiale. "The sole exporter is generally Euromissile, but in some cases also the French government." MBB claimed that it "adheres strictly to the German laws" but conceded that Euromissile exports under French law could "in some cases" cause a conflict with German law.

Government sources said missile exports to France were legal, provided the necessary government export permit was obtained, but once the items were in France, there was no ban on the re-export of the items to third countries.

#### GOVERNMENT DEFEATS NO CONFIDENCE MOTION BY VOTE OF 67 TO 38

JERUSALEM, Jan. 31 (JTA)--Premier Menachem Begin's government coalition easily defeated a Labor Alignment motion of no confidence yesterday by a vote of 67 to 38 in the Knesset. Labor received only the support of Sheli, the Civil Rights Movement, Poalei Agudat Yisrael and

the Communists in its motion attacking the way the government had presented the proposed 1978-79 budget.

The budget was approved last week on first reading after it was cut by IL 3 billion to IL 179 billion. Labor Alignment MK Adiel Amori; who presented the no confidence motion, said there was no information on how the government planned to cut the IL 3 billion. He said the Finance Ministry's price forecasts were inaccurate and the budget would lead to export difficulties this summer.

Amori, who is considered the Labor Alignment's economic expert, said he believes that Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich allowed his economic philosophy to overcome his economic wisdom. Ehrlich, himself, did not reply. Instead, the government answer came from Moshe Nissim, a newly-appointed Minister-Without-Portfolio, who said the motion was "much ado about nothing" since the budget had already been approved on first reading. He hinted that it was merely Labor's way of demonstrating its presence.

#### JOURNALIST ACCUSED OF CONTACT WITH ENEMY AGENTS RELEASED ON IL 100,000 BAIL

TEL AVIV, Jan. 31 (JTA)--Hans Lebrecht, an Israeli journalist accused of having contacts with enemy agents, was released from jail yesterday on IL 100,000 bail by order of a Tel Aviv magistrate. His Cypriot colleague, Pascali Panitatis, charged with espionage, remained in prison pending the completion of judicial procedures. Both men were remanded in custody on Jan. 25. No trial date was set.

Lebrecht, a member of Israel's Rakah (Communist) Party is a correspondent for Communist newspapers in Israel and abroad. He was accused of transmitting classified information to Palestinian terrorists through Panitatis. Panitatis, also a Communist Party member, allegedly had contacts with terrorist groups in Lebanon and transferred classified material to them by way of three Palestine Liberation Organization representatives in Cyprus. He was also charged with providing terrorist groups with photographs of possible civilian targets in Israel.

The magistrate who ordered bail said the evidence against Lebrecht was flimsy but that there was little doubt that Panitatis came to Israel in the service of terrorist organizations with which he maintained contact in Cyprus.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Press Association in Israel has engaged a prominent Tel Aviv attorney, Dr. Yehoshua Rottenstreich, to follow the case to determine whether any procedures or precedents growing out of it could affect the news gathering duties of other correspondents working in Israel. Rottenstreich has declined any fee for his service.

#### PLAYS OF JEWISH INTEREST BEGIN FIRST SEASON IN LONDON'S WEST END

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Jan. 31 (JTA)--The first season of plays of Jewish interest in London's West End has opened with a one-act comedy by Wolf Mankowitz amid well-deserved praise from the national press. Set in Cork during the Irish troubles of 1921, "The Irish Hebrew Lesson" relates how a Russian-born Jew shelters a young Irish rebel from the British Black and Tans and how the wall of suspicion and fear between them is transformed into sympathy and friendship.

The five Jewish plays are part of a lunch-time series staged at the "Almost Free" theater high-

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lighting the life of various social and ethnic minorities. The Ben Uri Theater Group, which is collaborating in the season, hopes that the experience will enable it to become an independent professional theater of Jewish interest.

The last play in the season, due to end in April, is "Samson and Delilah," also by Mankowitz. The other three plays all deal with modern Jewish themes. One of them, "The Interview," by Alan Sillitoe, dramatizes the plight of Ida Nudel, a Jewish "refusnik" in Moscow.

The Ben Uri Theater Group is part of the Ben Uri Arts Society, established in 1915 in London's East End to promote art and culture among the Jewish community. The Society is entirely self-financing but Martin Landau, the producer and lecturer in fine arts who recently became its executive director, hopes that it will eventually win the support of various official and government bodies. He also hopes to build up the young membership of the Society.

### STATE DEPARTMENT GRAPPLING WITH CARTER'S PHRASE OF 'ALL ASPECTS OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION'

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 (JTA)--The State Department today postponed its response to a request for a definition of President Carter's phrase, "all aspects of the Palestinian question," that he said at his press conference yesterday was a matter to be dealt with in the Middle East negotiations. An Israeli source said the phrase referred to the Palestinian refugees but had no connection for political questions and such factors as a Palestinian entity.

At the State Department, however, where the Jewish Telegraphic Agency found officials "wrestling" with an "explanation" of the phrase, it was said that it could embrace refugees and political problems including "self-determination" by the Palestinian Arabs. Such meaning would create further questions that, for the time being, are held in abeyance by the lapse in the political talks in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, at the White House, Deputy Presidential News Secretary Rex Granum said President Carter and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt would spend a "relatively quiet" weekend at Camp David. Granum cautioned against anticipation of a "major announcement." He said "We anticipate there will not be major news each day." Both Presidents are expected to return to Washington Sunday afternoon. President and Mrs. Sadat will arrive in Washington Friday.

Assistant Secretary of State Alfred L. Atherton, who has been meeting with Israelis and Egyptians in their respective capitals, is due here tomorrow for the Carter-Sadat talks. Whether he will return to the Middle East after the Camp David conference has not been decided, the State Department said.

### RABBI SAYS JEWISH FAMILY BREAKDOWN REACHES CATASTROPHIC PROPORTIONS

HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, N.J., Jan. 31 (JTA)--The head of the Rabbinical Council of America expressed grave concern over the widespread breakdown of the Jewish family which, he said, has reached catastrophic proportions. "This is the most formidable threat to Jewish survival facing us today," declared Rabbi Walter S. Wurzbürger, president of the Orthodox rabbinical organization.

Wurzbürger made his remarks at the Council's

special three-day Torah convocation which opened yesterday at the Sheraton Heights Inn here. He cited statistics of a recently-concluded national survey of the Rabbinical Court of America (Beth Din) which indicated that alarming numbers of Jewish marriages are being dissolved and in some areas of the country is approaching the "shocking" rate of four out of 10 marriages.

"This weakening of marital bonds," he said, "is also surprisingly manifest among young Orthodox couples, though admittedly in lesser numbers." What is "particularly alarming," Wurzbürger emphasized, "is the complacency and lack of response among Orthodox Jewish leaders to this demoralizing danger. A conspiracy of silence envelops the issue with the illusory hope that it will dissipate by itself. It behooves us to confront the problem boldly and to acknowledge it as a threat to the vibrancy and durability which has always characterized Jewish family life."

### Growing Divorce Rate Among Orthodox Jews

Wurzbürger noted that "until a decade ago divorce was such an unusual occurrence among Orthodox Jews that it was considered something of a scandal." But now, he noted, the general rising tide of divorce in this country has also affected the Orthodox Jewish community. "Dissolution of marriages, with accompanying rancor and pain are not infrequent experiences. This is a shocking development," he declared.

Wurzbürger pointed out that the "relative isolation in the past of the Orthodox Jewish community has been considerably weakened in recent years. With Orthodox Jews assuming important roles to an ever larger extent in the economic and industrial life of the secular community they are exposed to values alien to traditional ways."

The pattern in some Orthodox circles during the early years of marriage of young wives taking jobs away from home while their husbands continue their Talmudic studies is also acknowledged as a contributory factor," he said. "Those developments have weakened the fabric of the traditional Jewish family and have contributed to the alarming increase of divorce among Orthodox Jewish couples."

NEW YORK (JTA)--Israel Defense Minister Ezer Weizman has been replaced by Ambassador Chaim Herzog as the principal speaker at the Israel Bond Organization banquet the evening of Feb. 4 at the Waldorf-Astoria. Weizman cancelled his engagement because he was recalled to head the Israeli delegation to the military talks with Egypt.

UNITED NATIONS (JTA)--A collection of speeches by Israeli Ambassador Chaim Herzog, made at the UN and elsewhere in the United States in the last three years, will be published in a few weeks by Random House in New York. The new book is titled "Who Stands Accused?" -- the opening line used by Herzog in his famous speech in the Security Council debate on Israel's rescue operation at Entebbe, Uganda, on July 4, 1976. Herzog said he has donated in advance all the royalties from the book for Israel's Defense Fund.

MEXICO CITY (JTA)--Tevia Maizel, chairman of the culture department of the Ashkenazic Kehillah Nidche Israel, has become the first Jew named to the Mexican Academy of Sociology. He received his diploma from former Mexican President Miguel Aleman, a friend of his. Maizel read a paper on the world population explosion at the ceremony.

## ILLINOIS HIGH COURT REJECTS SUIT TO HALT MARCH BY AMERICAN NAZIS

CHICAGO, Jan. 31 (JTA)--The Illinois State Supreme Court yesterday for the second time in three days ruled that American Nazis have the constitutional right to march wearing swastikas through Skokie, a suburb of Chicago heavily populated by Jews, including some 7000 Holocaust survivors.

The court's action yesterday rejected a suit filed by a group known as the Survivors of the Holocaust which had argued that the psychological and emotional scars caused by imprisonment in Nazi death camps would force the survivors to try to halt the Nazis, possibly by violent means. The court in dismissing a suit last Friday filed by the Village of Skokie said that residents could ignore the march if they found it offensive.

Reacting to the court's ruling of last Friday, Rep. Joshua Eilberg (D. Pa.) said today in Washington that the decision showed "a callous disregard for the fact that the Nazi Party flatly calls for genocide against the Jewish people." He observed that "freedom of speech is very much a part of the Jewish tradition but this is not a question of protecting freedom of speech. It is a case of abusing it. The Nazis make no attempt to disguise the fact that they seek to abuse the U.S. Constitution in order to carry out their program of hatred, bigotry and violence." Eilberg added: "It is entirely appropriate for the community in Skokie to pursue every Constitutional remedy at its disposal to prevent the Nazis from marching."

## SPECIAL TO JTA NJCRCAC IMPLICITLY ENDORSES SKOKIE JEWISH EFFORT TO PREVENT NAZI MARCH

NEW YORK, Jan. 31 (JTA)--The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRCAC), at its annual Plenary Session last week in Tucson, Arizona, gave implicit endorsement to the legal efforts of the Jews of Skokie, Ill., to prevent the American Nazis from conducting a march in that community.

The Plenary Session, by consensus, instructed the executive committee of NJCRCAC to incorporate in its Joint Program Plan for 1978-79 a policy statement which will reassert the commitment of the Jewish community to the freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment. At the same time, it will take the view that Jewish communities have the right and the responsibility to pursue Constitutional and lawful remedies to specific situations which threaten their rights as U.S. citizens and community peace and order.

The Joint Program Plan is used as a policy and program guide by NJCRCAC's nine national and 102 local community relations agencies. There was no record vote on the proposal. A spokesman for NJCRCAC said that the substance of the directive was binding on the executive committee but that drafters would have latitude in language.

The action was taken on the recommendation of a caucus group after extended debate had indicated a split on more precise terminology. Sol Goldstein of Skokie, a Holocaust survivor and leader of the Jewish move there to prohibit the march, concurred in the Plenary Session action. He participated in the plenary as a member of the delegation of the Public Affairs Committee of the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago, which backed the suits. The attorney for the Skokie Jewish plaintiffs, Jerome Torsen, also participated and concurred.

## Dilemma Faced By Jews

The debate and caucus last Wednesday morning followed a major speech by NJCRCAC chairman, Theodore R. Mann; the previous night. Outlining the dilemma faced by Jews in approaching the question, he said that two powerful elements of the Jewish psyche were at loggerheads: the ancient tradition of protecting dissidents--citing Amos, Hosea and Isaiah as outstanding personalities in that tradition--and, on the other hand, the more recent and still burning memory of the Holocaust.

He said there have been hundreds of Nazi incidents in the 15 years since NJCRCAC took its stand on prior restraint. The situation in Skokie, however, differed from the rest because, with its large population of Holocaust survivors, it has a high potential for anguish and violence, Mann said. Because the situation there was unique, he said, "we ought to be reluctant to draw broad general conclusions from it."

He said it is an insult to suggest that Jews who are fighting the Nazi march are abandoning the belief in free speech that is inherent in the Jewish tradition. "They are simply crying out to all of us, 'Don't let this become the kind of society in which we must choose between supine betrayal of the memory of our loved ones on the one hand or violence on the other. Give us an alternative.' What we are trying to resolve together is whether there are any alternatives."

## WEBSTER ACKNOWLEDGES MEMBERSHIP IN FOUR GROUPS THAT ARE TERMED BIASED

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 (JTA)--U.S. Circuit Court Judge William H. Webster, nominated by President Carter for a 10-year term as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, acknowledged yesterday that he was affiliated with four St. Louis clubs alleged to engage in discriminatory practices. But, he pointed out, none of them has "charter restrictions on membership at all."

Testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee at the first session of hearings on his nomination, Webster said he would continue his membership in the clubs and "monitor them." He said he had previously proposed resolutions against discrimination in the clubs. "I am sensitive to the problem and you have made me very aware of it," Webster told Sen. Edward Kennedy (D. Mass.) who had asked the 52-year-old jurist to be "more elaborate" on membership in the four clubs. While the factor of membership of Blacks emerged at the hearings, there was no mention of Jews.

Webster said he belonged to the Society of Veiled Prophets which he described as founded a century ago by St. Louis businessmen to promote events that would attract people to the city; the Noonday Club, a luncheon group; the University Club; and the St. Louis Country Club.

In a brief interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Sen. Thomas Eagleton (D. Mo.), a member of the Judiciary Committee whose wife read a statement in support of Webster on behalf of the Senator and herself, said he knows of Jewish members in the Noonday and University Clubs and in the Society of Veiled Prophets but was "not sure" about the St. Louis Country Club.

BRUSSELS (JTA)--The 33rd anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp was commemorated here Monday by the Union of Jewish Deportees and Resistance Fighters.